



Go Local On a Better Environment

MINUTES AND ACTIONS OF CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 23 May 2017

Attendees: Judith Barratt, Dave Kenny, Bob Busby, Margaret Skinner, Vickie Abel, Jim McMaster, Maggie Hawkes, Chris Burden,

Apologies for absence:, Richard Denney, Malcolm Moye, Annette Fairweather (EGRA), Isabella Pietrzak, Nick Haskins.

1. Minutes of 25 April 2017 Approved – matters arising were discussed and noted below.

2. Parks, trees and green spaces:

2a) Christchurch Meadows:

- **slow flowing Danall** – Discussed the state of the Danall, which remains blocked by logs and vegetation. Too much for Globe but perhaps a task that could be suggested to RBC for Probationers? **keep in view**

- **Events on the Meadow: Readipop Festival** 15-16 July. The new **Reading-on-Thames Festival** from 9-17 September will include several events in Christchurch Meadow.

2b) Balmore Walk - replacement of National Cycle Route metal millennium milepost cast iron sign damaged in Feb 2016 by RBC machinery during hedge cutting. Pedro (RBC Parks) is now actively seeking funding for the replacement sign. **Keep in view.**

- **Bark damage** on an ash tree near the Peppard Rd entrance was noted, bark has been ripped off with tooth marks visible. Large dog suspected. Tree will hopefully recover if no further damage is done.

- **Balmore Lodge Woodland Management Co Ltd** wants to remove a large branch from a veteran oak on FP 33 near the Balmore Park entrance. It is within Balmore Walk but on their privately owned land. This is the oldest tree in Balmore Walk. Richard has contacted the landowners to express concern and give advice. (Correspondence circulated at the meeting and now available on request). **Keep in View.**

2c) Litter in stream near Richfield Avenue and through Rivermead site. Maggie had recently carried out a litter pick and removed several bags of litter. Some remained which needs the long-reach litter picker and grappling hook to reach. **Dave and Maggie to arrange.**

2d) Large oak tree on boundary of Elizabeth House with Westfield Rec. Unauthorised parking on the grass at the base of this veteran oak, compacting the root area, causing the tree to suffer. This is being compounded by garden waste being heaped around the base of the tree. Chris reported that the RBC Housing officer is now on leave but he is continuing to chase. Depending on the response GLOBE could possibly have a task to clear the vegetation and green waste from around the tree. **Review next meeting**

2e) Planters in central Caversham The planters are looking good at the moment after their re-staining and with the shrubs in flower. Chris suggested refreshing the online photos to promote this. There is only limited room for summer bedding but agreed that we try some dwarf verbena this year. **Dave to arrange.**

2f) Felling of trees in Chazey Wood - concerns that the Mapledurham Estate has been felling trees and carrying out major clearance work in Chazey Wood with heavy machinery during the nesting season. This had been reported this to Natural England and the Forestry Commission but unclear what if any action had been taken. The works seems to have stopped for the moment. **Keep in view.**

3. Planning matters

3a) Outline application from Gladman Developments for 245 dwellings on farmland between Peppard Rd & Kiln Rd. SODC planning application ref P16/S3630/O The land is in South Oxon (Eye & Dunsden Parish) but with major consequences for Emmer Green & Caversham. See <http://www.cagedunsden.org> representing five south Oxfordshire parishes & EGRA, CADRA, GLOBE & CPVA. Reading and all of the surrounding South Oxon parishes have objected. **Update: SODC has advised that it will be Refusing the application**, principally on lack of primary school places. **Closed**

3b) 1 Albert Road, former Arthur Clark home. Malcolm had reported a lot of fallen leaves on corner of Albert Rd recently that had initially caused concern. On investigation it seems that that these were ivy leaves where this had been severed on several of the retained trees on the site. The retained trees all appear to be OK. **Keep in View**

c) GLL, Rivermead Leisure Complex. Work on the extension to house a new 25m swimming pool has now commenced with earthworks in progress and barriers around the site. Nick held a meeting on 8 May with RBC (Ben Stanesby) to discuss additional tree planting on Thames Prom to help screen the new building and following consultation with Friends of Caversham Court and Reading Tree Wardens has provided RBC with a detailed map showing the locations of 9 new trees needed to fill gaps. **Keep in View.**

d) Draft local plan for Reading Borough – RBC consultation. The draft of this long term strategic plan is now out for consultation and can be viewed at <http://www.reading.gov.uk/newlocalplan> or at Caversham Library. The meeting briefly reviewed the proposals for Caversham & Emmer Green. About 700 new homes are proposed north of the river by 2036 (5% of the new homes in the borough). Only a handful of new development sites are proposed, notably the University Rowing Club (Abbotsmead Place); part of Reading Golf Club (Kidmore End Rd) and some infill sites off Henley Road. The meeting expressed concern about three proposed “Park and Ride” schemes on countryside just outside the borough i.e. South of Henley Road/Caversham Park Rd; north of the Tower Close (off Peppard Rd) and north of the borough boundary at Upper Woodcote Road. These sites are all in South Oxfordshire and at this stage are just aspirations from RBC but any urbanisation of our rural boundary would be hugely controversial. The meeting proposed we liaise with CADRA over possible response. Dave to contact CADRA. **Keep in view.**

e) Hydro scheme at Caversham Weir - RBC planning application 151715 has now been approved. It includes an amended plan for the generator hut and a fish pass which follows the course of the dry channel on View Island. The hydro group plan a community share offer and hope to start construction in early 2018.

4. Finance Matters

- a) Judith had spoken to Waitrose about GLOBE being included in their monthly Community Matters green token scheme and would follow this up by sending in the application form. **Review next meeting**
- b) Nick is in discussion with Reading Voluntary Action about possible sources of funding to cover insurance for groups including GLOBE, now that RBC community grants have ended. **Review next meeting.**

5. Environmental Issues

- a) Now that EVAs have ceased residents should report any issues through the **Love Clean Reading App** or at www.fixmystreet.com **Keep in view & Review next meeting**
- b) **RAYS** (Reading Adopt Your Street). As of 23 May there were 68 volunteers signed up across Reading of which 30 are in the Caversham area. Coordinator Ricky Josey is working on a map to show all the areas being covered. More information call 0118 937 3534 or email rays@reading.gov.uk. Richard is in contact with Ricky about GLOBE targeting specific streets that need attention in our area. **Review next meeting**
- c) Richard is in contact with RBC and the “Community Payback” organiser about getting effort from people who have community service as part of their court sentence to help with litter clearance. Judith reported that they had been cutting back vegetation from footpaths in Caversham Park Village recently, though there were issues with getting the arisings removed. The meeting suggested: Could they be tasked to help to clear the large logs and vegetation from the Danall? **Richard to raise with the RBC**

6. AOB

- a) The unsafe old wooden fence in Westfield Rec next to the path has been reported to RBC by Richard.
- b) **Laundry fence in Christchurch Meadow** . Richard had reported to RBC Parks the new security fence apparently erected within Parks land at the side of the laundry near the George Street entrance. Andy Gillespie has acknowledged and would investigate. **Awaiting response from RBC.**
- c) **RBC consultation on shared cycleway / footpath** on the towpath south of the river between Kennet Mouth and the Roebuck. Noted that this consultation was due to end on 25 May.

Next meeting: short AGM on Tuesday 27 June 2017 at 7.15 pm to be followed by the June monthly GLOBE meeting. Refreshments available from 7 pm.