



Go Local On a Better Environment

MINUTES AND ACTIONS OF CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 25 July 2017

Attendees: Judith Barratt, Richard Denney, Dave Kenny, Margaret Skinner, Vickie Abel, Jean Newbery, Jim McMaster, Malcolm Moye, Lin Godfrey, Chris Burden, Dean Ezra, Phil Bagge,

Apologies for absence: Nick Haskins, Annette Fairweather (EGRA).

1. Minutes of 27 June 2017 Approved – matters arising were discussed and noted below.

2. Parks, trees and green spaces:

2a) Christchurch Meadows – next 3 ongoing items that the group is attempting to get resolved with RBC are shown below. No change on these since last month's meeting.

- **Slow flowing Danall** – Discussed the state of the Danall, which remains blocked in places by logs and vegetation. (We did ask RBC whether this type of task could be done by “community pay back” people but no reply was received, so it's unlikely.) **Discuss blockages, slow flow, etc again with RBC Parks**

- **Laundry fence in Christchurch Meadow** . We had reported to RBC Parks that this new security fence appears to have been erected within public land at the side of the laundry near the George Street entrance. Also that some Heras fencing sections have been dumped there. Andy Gillespie, Parks Manager said he was investigating and would report back to us. **Awaiting update.**

- **16 mature Poplars by laundry site.** During high winds some large boughs fell from some of these trees, one of which damaged the laundry's new security fence. RBC has decided that almost all are dangerous, so felling is taking place. Replacement species suggested by GLOBE – Italian Alder (*Alnus Cordata*). We also asked that the commitment to reinstate the hedge should be done. Andy Gillespie, Parks Manager said he was investigating and would report back to us. **Awaiting update.**

- **new item (for information) RBC Parks** have informed us a company called District Enforcement (DE), will be putting up signs at all RBC moorings sites in August to inform boaters of the arrangements and collection of mooring fees according to RBC existing mooring policy. DE will also be dealing with boaters who do not comply, by fines or court enforcement process.

2b) Balmore Walk - No change on this item since last month's meeting. Replacement of National Cycle Route metal millennium milepost cast iron sign damaged in Feb 2016 by RBC machinery during hedge cutting. RBC Parks is investigating funding (approx £800) for casting and erecting the replacement sign. We also suggested re-siting it away from the hedge. We have asked Andy Gillespie, Parks Manager for an update on this. **Awaiting update.**

2c) Large oak tree on boundary of Elizabeth House with Westfield Rec. Unauthorised parking on the grass by this veteran oak, compacting the root area, causing the tree to suffer. Installation of barriers and some ground work should be completed in the next few weeks by RBC. **Review next meeting**

3. Planning matters

3a) Rivermead Leisure Complex – swimming pool extension. Discussed concerns re earthworks and possible exposure of former waste tip. Nick and Bob are to follow up outside the meeting. **Keep in View.**

3b) 170775 at 90 Oakley Road - erection of two 2 bedroom flats in former garden. Noted that this is an “in-fill” proposal, several trees have been felled and no remedial planting appears to be shown on the plans. Comments submitted and outcome of planning application awaited. **Keep in view**

3c) 171023 at Mapledurham Playing Fields – erection of new primary school. The deadline for the planning application has now closed but RBC, as Trustees, are holding a “final consultation” on 2 options: One is from the Education Funding Agency to lease a small part of the NW corner of MPF for the new school and provide £1.36m to improve MPF facilities, the other is from the Mapledurham Playing Fields Foundation to lease all of the ground and raise funds to improve facilities and manage the ground, without loss of open space (but they would build floodlit artificial five-a-side-pitches). See <https://consult.reading.gov.uk/css/mapledurham-playing-fields-consultation-2/> or visit Caversham Library to view the proposals. The consultation is open to all residents of Reading and Mapledurham parish. Closing date for responses 25 September 2017. **Keep in view**

3d) 171108 Proposed River Kennet bridge and new road into town centre - see link for Reading B.C. (NB see application from Wokingham DC for the eastern section ref 172048 on their website).

Construction of a segregated fast-track public transport, pedestrian and cycle bridge and viaduct, comprising concrete bridge structure with a river span of 59.5m and a land span of 316m, supported by concrete columns, steel beams and reinforced soil embankment, together with new footpath links and existing footpath alterations, replacement supermarket car parking provision, junction improvements and landscaping. Noted that these plans are detailed and complex, containing statements such as “..The East Reading Mass Rapid Transit Scheme will form part of a longer term MRT network for the Thames Valley and well as being capable of operating as a stand alone MRT route.The scheme will also link to a planned Third Thames Crossing and a Park and Ride facility north of the River Thames Also ...The proposed Thames Valley Park Park & Ride (TVP P&R) scheme (Wokingham planning ref: 161596) approved in November 2016 includes provision of 277 car parking spaces.served by the TVP commuter bus service only.....between 7am and 7pm Monday to Friday served by ten buses per hour during peak periods and four buses per hour during off peak periods. No services will operate at the TVP P&R at the weekend.

http://planning.reading.gov.uk/fastweb_PL/detail.asp?

[AltRef=171108&ApplicationNumber=171108&AddressPrefix=&Postcode=&Submit=Search](http://planning.reading.gov.uk/fastweb_PL/detail.asp?AltRef=171108&ApplicationNumber=171108&AddressPrefix=&Postcode=&Submit=Search)

This development would change the current riverside ambience, lose mature trees, lower part of Kings Meadow for flood compensation, result in light pollution, noise and habitat destruction, to which the group objects. With only 277 P & R spaces it appears that the scheme is not worth the money, hardly viable and will do very little to reduce traffic congestion in east Reading. **Richard to submit objection.**

3e) P16/S3630/O Outline application for 245 dwellings on farmland between Peppard Rd & Kiln Rd

Contrary to its earlier decision SODC have now decided to recommend acceptance of this application to build houses in the beautiful landscape of the Chilterns adjoining Emmer Green. This follows pressure from Gladman Developments which has threatened defeat at an appeal hearing. **The application is now likely to go to a SODC planning committee meeting in Didcot on 6 September.** We need as many people as possible to attend the planning committee meeting; CAGE hopes to provide buses. See <http://www.cagedunsden.org> representing 7 South Oxon parishes plus EGRA, CADRA, GLOBE & CPVA.

3f) 171006 Extension of the Riverside dentists (20 Bridge St) onto the triangle of land currently used for advertising hoardings at the junction of Bridge St and Church Rd. Concerns over loss of all 5 tall trees behind the advertising hoardings as well as the impact of the proposed extension on the St Peter's conservation area and lack of soft landscaping. **Dave to submit comments.**

4. Finance Matters

a) Dave informed the meeting that The Conservations Volunteers Berkshire office has kindly agreed to contribute £200 towards our costs of £271 for Caversham GLOBE group's public liability insurance.

5. Environmental Issues

a) **Reminder** - residents should report any issues through the **Love Clean Reading App** or at www.fixmystreet.com

b) **RAYS** (Reading Adopt Your Street) More volunteers are needed especially where litter hotspots occur. Ring for information on 0118 937 3534 or email rays@reading.gov.uk. **Keep in view**

c) **Reading Festival 24 to 28 August – potential litter problems.** Learning from previous years we aim to support RBC litter cleansing in central Caversham and adjoining areas. **From Thursday 24 to Monday 28 GLOBE volunteers to meet at 3 pm** to do an hours litter picking. Meet by Alto Lounge and if you need a litter picker and hi-viz vest plus sacks please let Richard know phone/text 07768 958407

6. AOB

Readipop Festival – Discussion re the noise issues and the difficulties some residents had about reporting problems by telephone this year

Caversham Lakes the main permissive path gate at Caversham Lakes has been locked and there is a lot of litter nearby. It appears that problems have occurred so access has been restricted by CWA Fisheries Ltd which manages part of the site. One smaller gate remains open near to the Henley Rd traffic lights. Access to paths leading to the bird hide is under separate management and is still open, although the hide was derelict and full of rubbish when visited by Dave in late July.

Next meeting: Tuesday 22 August 2017 at 7.15 pm - Refreshments available from 7 pm.