



**Go Local On a Better Environment**

## **MINUTES AND ACTIONS OF CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 22 August 2017**

**Attendees:**, Richard Denney, Vickie Abel, Chris Burden, Margaret Skinner, Jean Newbery, Nick Haskins, Dean Ezra, Caroline Langdon, Maggie Hawkes.

**Apologies for absence:** Judith Barratt, Dave Kenny, Jim McMaster, Malcolm Moye, Isabella Pietrzak

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

**2. Parks, trees and green spaces:**

**2a) Christchurch Meadows – next 3 ongoing items remain unresolved 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. Also that the George Street gate hasn't been fixed. Andy Gillespie, Parks Manager said he was investigating and would report back to us. **Awaiting update.**

- **16 mature Poplars by laundry site.** RBC has decided that almost all are dangerous, so felling has taken 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.**

**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.** Installation of barriers and some ground work now completed by RBC. **CLOSED** However, the nearby wooden fence along the boundary of Westfield Rec, that has collapsed in places, is still awaiting attention though it had long ago been reported to RBC via lovecleanreading, so Richard will do a second report. **Keep in view**

**2d) Richard Neville Court, Nelson Road** Caroline reported her concerns (also raised at NAG) about how shared frontages had been badly cared for by RBC, with damaged trees/shrubs and borders poorly maintained. She had been in contact with RBC to try and resolve.

**2e) Flambards Lower Henley Road/Star Road corner** Jean queried whether GLOBE could revive the issue of 3 lost trees on this frontage being replaced i/c/w Southern Housing, with whom GLOBE had been attempting (unsuccessfully) last year to get agreement. **Richard to raise with Southern Housing again**

**2f) Bucks Eyot** – Nick reported that some willows have been felled on the island and there are related problems with anti-social behaviour in the area, which are being followed up. There are no TPOs on these trees, which are on RBC land. Can TPOs be put on the remaining trees? **Raise with RBC**

### **3. Planning matters**

**3a) Rivermead Leisure Complex – swimming pool extension.** Proposed landscaping with trees on northern elevation promised on completion of building work. **Keep in View.**

**3b) 170775 at 90 Oakley Road - erection of two 2 bedroom flats in former garden.** Planning permission refused. **CLOSED**

**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: 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.**

Construction of a segregated fast-track public transport, pedestrian and cycle bridge and viaduct.

[http://planning.reading.gov.uk/fastweb\\_PL/detail.asp?](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. **GLOBE objected – keep in view.**

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

Four GLOBE supporters attended the SODC Planning Committee meeting at Didcot, South Oxfordshire where this application was considered. A decision was made that planning permission be REFUSED. **CLOSED**

**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 submitted comments. **Keep in view**

**4. Finance Matters**

a) We have spent £50 on a replacement hard drive for the GLOBE laptop. Thanks to Dean for fixing this.

**5. Environmental Issues**

a) **IMPORTANT REQUEST.** Now that there are no RBC Neighbourhood Officers doing visual street audits of residents should report any issues through the **Love Clean Reading App** go to

<http://loveclean.reading.gov.uk/help> or at [www.fixmystreet.com](http://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](mailto:rays@reading.gov.uk). **Keep in view**

c) **Caversham Lakes** - we said that we would do a litter pick at this location. **TO BE ARRANGED**

**6. AOB**

a) **Publicising GLOBE's aims & activities** via wider community liaison e.g. with Caversham Traders Association to promote more vibrant GLOBE image and increase support e.g. more financial support, more activists and awareness/participation among general public and/or with other groups to make a difference in Caversham. This could be done by using technology and social media for more effective communication and to build relationships. **Dean and Nick are to discuss further.**

**Next meeting: Tuesday 26 September 2017 at 7.15 pm - Refreshments available from 7 pm.**