

## **MINUTES AND ACTIONS OF CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 26 September 2017**

**Attendees:** Judith Barratt, Dave Kenny, Richard Denney, Isabella Pietrzak, Chris Burden, Margaret Skinner, Jean Newbery, Nick Haskins, Maggie Hawkes.

**Apologies for absence:** Vickie Abel, Sue Curd, Caroline Langdon

**1. Minutes of 22 Aug. 2017** Approved with one minor change – matters arising were discussed/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 in past 3 month's meeting.**

- **Slow flowing partly blocked Danall** – The deteriorating state of the Danall as an urban watercourse is now causing serious concerns as it remains blocked in places by logs and vegetation. Action needed by RBC Parks. **Discuss again with RBC Parks.**

- **Laundry fence in Christchurch Meadow** Nothing has changed in three months since we 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 and doesn't close properly. Andy Gillespie, Parks Manager said he was investigating and would report back in August but did not. **Awaiting update from RBC Parks.**

- **Felling of Poplars & hedge by laundry site.** All but 4 of the poplars around the laundry have been removed after one fell and damaged the laundry fence. Removal of the others and replacement of the felled trees is awaited. We also asked RBC to ensure the hedge would be reinstated. Andy Gillespie, Parks Manager said he was investigating and would report back in August but did not. **Awaiting update.**

### **2b) Balmore Walk**

- **Replacement of National Cycle Route metal millennium milepost. No change on this item since 4 months ago** 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 a date when a replacement will be erected. **Awaiting update From RBC Parks**

- **Conservation Grass on the Balmore slope** - this has yet to be cut, though the top field has been. **Raise with RBC Parks.** - **Conservation cutting at Hills Meadow** has also not been completed.

**2c) Westfield Rec.** Wooden fence along the boundary of Westfield Rec had collapsed in places and has now been removed by RBC. **CLOSED**

**2d) Flambards, Lower Henley Road/Star Road corner** GLOBE had been attempting (unsuccessfully so far) to get agreement from Southern Housing to replace 3 trees that were removed from their frontage. This has been raised again but no response yet on a decision to proceed. **Keep in view**

**2e) Bucks Eyot** – Nick reported that some willows appear to have been illegally felled on the island nearest to Caversham bridge and that 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? Discussed at NAG and with RBC **Nick is pursuing this item – review next meeting**

**2f) Planters Church Street** –winter bedding will be planted in next few weeks. Oiling of some planters should also be done, Nick has suggested some Osmo products that should be long lasting. We have been contacted by the new operator of the Spice Oven about some ideas, to be discussed. **Work to be arranged**

### **3. Planning matters**

**3a) Rivermead Leisure Complex – swimming pool extension.** Landscaping will include new trees to screen the northern elevation and planting to fill gaps on the prom. **Keep in View.**

**3b) 171023 at Mapledurham Playing Fields – erection of new primary school.** The deadline for the planning application and residents' consultation period has now closed. **Keep in view**

**3c) 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?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. **GLOBE objected – keep in view.**

**3d) 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. GLOBE has submitted comments. **Keep in view**

**3e) Proposed Gypsy and Traveller site for Cow Lane.** Reading Borough Council is currently consulting on provision for gypsies and travellers in Reading, as part of its Local Plan process. A Gypsy and Traveller Provision Consultation Document was on RBC website for consultation ([www.reading.gov.uk/gypsy-traveller-provision-consultation](http://www.reading.gov.uk/gypsy-traveller-provision-consultation)) and available in the Library. **Keep in view**

**4. Finance Matters** None to report

#### **5. Environmental Issues**

**5a) IMPORTANT REQUEST.** 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)

**5b) 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**

**5c) Caversham Lakes, off Henley Road near Lowfield Road** - litter pick at this nearby location arranged, – Maggie, Richard and Dave arranged to do it soon. **Review next meeting**

**5d) Thames Parks Litter Pick Saturday 14 October** – meet Hill's Meadow near the Recycling bins 10 am to do View Island, Hill's Meadow and Christchurch Meadow. We will be joined by Berkshire Greenpeace Supporters. Richard to do admin needed and arrange supply of equipment etc. **Review next meeting**

**5e) Air Quality in Caversham** – Some discussion took place about local emission levels and hot spots. This needs investigating by someone. . The last RBC Air Quality Status report on their website is dated June 2016 (44 page document). Friends of the Earth are also carrying out monitoring. **Review next meeting**

**5f) Noted that the recent NAG meeting** thanked GLOBE people for helping clear litter in Caversham during and after the Reading Festival in August.

**5g) Green Composting scheme** – Nick mentioned briefly that this is being investigated

#### **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.**

**b) Jim McMaster has moved to Marlow** – the meeting recorded the group's gratitude to Jim for his commitment and time on GLOBE activities to the benefit of the community during his time in Caversham.

**c) Proposed Hydro Scheme at Caversham Weir** - planning permission was obtained for this in May 2017. Chris reported that likely choice of technology is beginning to change away from an Archimedes Screw 'AS' system and towards a Venturi system, which would mean a tube lying beneath the water surface ie more or less invisible, making less noise and is totally fish-friendly. It would not need the conspicuous building construction required by the original scheme.

**Next meeting: Tuesday 24 October 2017 at 7.15 pm - Refreshments available from 7 pm.**