

MINUTES AND ACTIONS OF CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 24 October 2017

Attendees: Judith Barratt, Dave Kenny, Richard Denney, Chris Burden, Margaret Skinner, Jean Newbery, Nick Haskins, Bob Busby, Wendy Terry, Francis Hamley, Jo Ramsay.

Apologies for absence: Vickie Abel, Margaret Wall, Isabella Pietrzak, Maggie Hawkes .

1. Minutes of 26 September 2017 Approved with minor changes – matters arising were discussed/noted below, with additional items added as discussed in current meeting.

2. PARKS, TREES AND GREEN SPACES:

2a) Christchurch Meadows – 3 items remain unresolved with RBC. No progress on resolving these in past 4 month's, though we email RBC regularly and ask for information. Also raising with ward councillor R. Davies.

- **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.

- **Laundry fence in Christchurch Meadow** the new security fence appears to have been erected within public land at the side of the laundry near the George Street entrance. Also, some Heras fencing sections have been dumped there. Also that the George Street gate hasn't been fixed and doesn't close properly.

- **Felling of Poplars & hedge by laundry site.** All but 4 of the poplars around the laundry have been removed. RBC is to ensure the whole length of hedge would be reinstated.

2b) Balmore Walk

- **Replacement of National Cycle Route metal millennium milepost.** Cast iron Sustrans sign damaged in Feb 2016 by RBC machinery. Cost is approx £800 for the replacement. **Awaiting update From RBC Parks**

- **Conservation Grass on the Balmore slope** - this has still not been cut, though the top field has been. (cutting at Hills Meadow has also not been completed). **Awaiting update From RBC Parks**

2c) Flambards, Lower Henley Road/Star Road corner GLOBE intends to replace 3 trees that were removed from the frontage of this Southern Housing Group property. The land is thought to be RBC Highways property. **Richard to inform local manager of S.H.G. based in Theale about our plan.**

2d) Bucks Eyot – Nick reported that more vegetation has been damaged in addition to the willows that appeared to have been illegally felled on the island nearest to Caversham bridge. This is RBC land and TPOs should be put on the remaining trees. **Awaiting response from RBC**

2e) Planters Church Street –winter bedding will be completed and the oiling of some planters will also be done. Spice Oven restaurant is funding some work. It was suggested that we ask CADRA and RBC about allocating some section 106 funding from developers for replacement planters. **Richard/Dave**

2f) Proposed hydro scheme and fish pass at Caversham Weir - possible item for agenda in November meeting, with a visit from a specialist speaker. **Keep in view**

2g) Ground investigations for possible future flood alleviation scheme. Some small drilling rigs will be appearing over next 6 weeks in the floodplain as part of this Environment Agency funded investigation. No specific flood alleviation scheme is being considered; this work is an initial assessment of substrata.

2h)) Tree work near the war memorial Caversham riverside – Some diseased prunus have been removed by RBC. CADRA is planting a 50th anniversary commemorative copper beech tree.

Continued/2

3. Planning matters

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

3b) 171023 at Mapledurham Playing Fields – for new primary school. No reported progress **Keep in view**

3c) 171108 Proposed River Kennet bridge and new road into town centre - Construction of a segregated fast-track public transport, pedestrian and cycle bridge and viaduct. 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 – public meetings are being planned by local action group with RBC. Keep in view.**

3d) 171006 Extension of the Riverside dentists (20 Bridge St) onto the adjacent triangle of land at the junction of Bridge St and Church Rd. GLOBE has submitted comments. **Keep in view**

3e) Proposed Gypsy and Traveller site for Cow Lane. Reading Borough Council has been consulting on provision for gypsies and travellers in Reading, as part of its Local Plan process. **Keep in view**

4. Finance Matters £80 spent on winter bedding plants

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

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. **Keep in view**

5c) Caversham Lakes, off Henley Road near Lowfield Road - litter pick at this nearby location arranged. 3 GLOBE activists cleared 8 sacks of other people's litter. Thank you! **CLOSED**

5d) Thames Parks Litter Pick Saturday 14 October – 5 GLOBE activists and 12 Greenpeace supporters worked at View Island, Hill's Meadow and Christchurch Meadow to collect 19 sacks of other people's litter as well as 93 glass bottles. Thank you! **CLOSED**

5e) Air Quality in Caversham – Some discussion took place about local emission levels and pollution hot spots. The last RBC Air Quality Status report on their website is dated June 2016 (44 page document). We should raise the matter with with Ward Councillor R. Davies. GLOBE also to invest in a testing kit to erect in central Caversham for up to date reading. **Review next meeting**

5f) Green Composting – A scheme is being investigated by RBC. **Keep in view**

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) Wire fence damaged at Lower Henley Road - builders cut the fence during some building work for ease of access from the highway. However, this fence has not been reinstated. **Report to RBC Housing**

Next meeting: Tuesday 28 November 2017 at 7.15 pm - Refreshments available from 7 pm.