

## **MINUTES AND ACTIONS OF CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 28 November 2017**

**Attendees:** Dave Kenny, Richard Denney, Chris Burden, Isabella Pietrzak, Bob Busby, Nick Haskins, Michael Beaven (Representing Reading Sustainability Centre – See notes below))

**Apologies for absence:** Judith Barratt, Vickie Abel, Margaret Skinner, Jean Newbery, Malcolm Moye, Ricky Josey (RBC RAYS project).

Prior to the usual monthly GLOBE business we welcomed **guest speaker Michael Beaven to present and discuss information about the proposed fish pass on View Island near Caversham Weir.** This natural brush fish pass is intended to be constructed between View Island and the Mill Stream as a consequence of the building of the hydro power generation scheme for which planning permission has been given by RBC and the necessary licences from the Environment Agency received. Fish pass specialists have surveyed the site, designs have been drawn up, construction materials specified and cost quotes obtained. [Possibly reduced costs if volunteers help]. It's envisaged that the fish pass will run through the trees using existing topography to allow fish and eels to travel more easily; also providing areas for spawning, for wild plants to grow and habitats for a range of fauna. After looking at some detailed plans, asking questions and providing comments, it was agreed that the GLOBE group supports this ambitious project and would work with those involved as and when volunteers are needed. **Thanks to Michael Beaven for his presentation.** (See item 2g below)

---

**1. Minutes of 24 October 2017** Approved with a few minor changes – matters arising were discussed/noted below, with additional items added as discussed at current meeting.

### **2. PARKS, TREES AND GREEN SPACES:**

**2a) Christchurch Meadows** – site meeting with RBC Parks Manager Andy Gillespie is due in December –  
- **Slow flowing partly blocked Danall** – The deteriorating state of the Danall as an urban watercourse.

- **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.

- **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. **Sustrans/RBC are liaising on this about replacement or repair**

- **Conservation Grass on the Balmore slope** - this has still not been cut, though the top field was done. Now unlikely to be cut this winter. **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 informed local manager of S.H.G. based in Theale about our plan but got no response.

**Richard to try approach via residents to get their support – review next meeting**

**2d) Bucks Eyot** – Vegetation damage and some apparently illegally felled willows on the island nearest to Caversham bridge. This is RBC land. TPOs were asked for on the remaining trees. **No response from RBC**

**2e) Planters Church Street** –winter bedding was completed and the oiling of some planters was done near Church Street/Church Road corner. The Spice Oven restaurant has donated £100 to GLOBE. It was suggested that we ask CADRA and RBC about allocating some section 106 funding from developers for replacement planters and costs of future care. **Richard/Dave**

**2f) Proposed hydro scheme and fish pass at Caversham Weir** - Following presentation and discussion earlier in the evening (see notes above in page 1 re Michael Beaven) it was decided that GLOBE supporters

who have an interest in this matter should hold a site visit to look at exact location, visual impact and likely affect on nearby trees, so that we can give our detailed feedback. **Site meeting to be arranged**

**2g) Wire fence damaged on green bank on Lower Henley Road** - builders cut the fence during some building work for ease of access However, this fence has not been reinstated. **Report to RBC Housing**

### **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.** Further RBC meeting of site trustees due 9 January 2018 to consider responses to public consultation. **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 – a public meeting by local action group with RBC is due on 1 December. **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**

**3f) Outline planning application for 2 semi detached houses at eastern end of Mill Green 171996** This is a on a green section of private land known as “The Orchard” next to the Thames. CADRA and GLOBE will object. It is thought that the Environment Agency will not allow it so close to the Thames. **Keep in view**

**3g) Outline application from Gladman Developments for 245 dwellings on farmland between Peppard Rd & Kiln Rd** As expected, Gladman Developments have submitted their appeal following SODC's and OCC's refusal of planning permission for 245 houses in Eye & Dunsden parish (next to Emmer Green). The appeal will be held in public at **Henley Town Hall from 1st to 4th May, 2018.** GLOBE supports this campaign against this development, as do some other local groups and parishes, see <https://www.cagedunsden.org/> CAGE have yet to decide at what level they will become involved in the appeal, but if it decides to be legally represented a fund-raising campaign may be required. **Keep in view**

**4. Finance Matters** £100 was donated by The Spice Oven restaurant for maintaining the nearby planters.

### **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) 193 streets and green areas are being covered by 100+ volunteers. More people north of the Thames 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). Richard will publicise further via EGRA and some Facebook posts with some photos and comments to hopefully encourage others. **Keep in view**

**5c) Air Quality in Caversham** – GLOBE has invested in one testing kit and given £15 to Friends of the Earth campaign for this. Richard will install on an agreed lamp post on Church Road/St Anne's Road junction for 2 weeks, then send it to labs for analysis. Results will be due mid January 2018. **Review next meeting**

**5d) Great British Spring Clean** – a “Keep Britain Tidy” campaign from 2 – 4 March 2018 see

<http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/great-british-spring-clean/about> for more information. GLOBE will be organising some clean ups

**6. 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 and Emmer Green. 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 23 January 2018 - Refreshments will be available from 7 pm.**