



MINUTES & ACTIONS OF CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 24 JULY 2018

Attendees: Judith Barratt (Chair), Dave Kenny, Richard Denney, Dean Ezra, Bob Busby, Vicky Abel, Chris Burden, Nick Haskins (Chair NRSNF), Caroline Johnson, Tim Castle, Sigi Teer, Bob Wheeler.

Apologies: Wendy Terry, Frances Hamley, Isabella Pietrzak

ACHIEVEMENTS, UPDATES, PRIORITIES & NEW ITEMS:

Minutes of most recent monthly meeting held on 22 May 2018 Approved – matters arising were discussed/noted below, with additional items added as discussed in this current meeting.

- Poor Air Quality** – 4 Repeat AQ test tubes were installed for 2 weeks at start of July in the same 4 locations to get further evidence of air pollution levels – lab results awaited. Nick has obtained the RBC monitoring information (previously not known to GLOBE) showing 8 locations in central Caversham: 3 exceed legal limit, 2 are borderline. Our alarming statistics show far higher levels of nitrogen dioxide, so this deserves investigation. **Discuss at next meeting**
- Reprinting of GLOBE business cards** These are to be obtained from Vistaprint. **Judith to action.**
- Planters on Church Street.** Watering has been needed in the dry weather. 7 volunteers sanded and applied preservative to many of the planter boxes on 22 July. Bob has been investigating how to renovate some that are showing rot and will need part or full reconstruction. **Bob progressing**
- Waitrose Car park & southern end of Archway Rd** long-term litter and detritus issues are again present and the litter bin in the alley is often overflowing despite previous undertakings by Waitrose that the area would be cleaned regularly. Dave has raised this again. **Review next meeting**
- Planning Application number **180552**. Heights Primary School extension and fencing of part of Westfield Rec. Modified plans now approved **CLOSED**
- Planning Application number **171108 Construction** of public transport, pedestrian and cycle bridge and viaduct on land between Thames Valley Business Park and Napier Road Reading. This was rejected by Wokingham Council although the Reading Borough component had been approved by RBC. Likely to be raised again by RBC with revised plans. **Keep in view**
- Outline application for 245 dwellings** on farmland by Emmer Green. The Appeal Inquiry against refusal of planning permission is set to resume on 29 August. Supporters of objections are encouraged to attend. There are concerns that SODC is now reconsidering several potential housing sites close to Emmer Green/Caversham border without proper consultation. **Keep in view.**
- Environment Agency Flood Relief Proposals** –Environment Agency consultation had been taking place on detailed proposals that would destroy the current Caversham riverside as we know it. Some GLOBE supporters who attended the consultation exhibition and discussed with EA officials and have studied the detail are horrified to see the ill-considered proposed destruction of wildlife habitats, felling of trees, building of massive embankments, concrete walls and metal gates all for the off chance of potential flooding and ignoring many technical difficulties associated with the consequences of attempts at holding back flood water from a relatively small area. Residents have been urged to submit objections. The introduction paragraph of GLOBE's objections submitted is as follows: *Caversham GLOBE strongly objects to these proposals which would see the removal of numerous trees and hedges and the building of ugly reinforced concrete walls, these would intrude into our green spaces along the river corridor. The entire River Thames corridor through Reading is designated for protection under the adopted Local Plan and we believe that these proposals would result in unacceptable environmental damage to our parks and green spaces. We believe that the environmental damage caused by permanent reinforced concrete walls and the potential loss of so*

many trees and hedging is unacceptable and would be far in excess of any transitory flooding risk.
The full comments are available on request. **Keep in view**

9. Planning Application **181056**. Redevelopment of former Crowne Plaza Hotel car park and construction of new 132-bed hotel (Use Class C1), with associated access, car parking and landscaping. This was thought to be an unacceptable intrusion on the riverside views, resulting in increased traffic, lack of car parking and questionable flooding effects. It was noted that the Environment Agency and Thames Water had submitted objections. **Keep in view.**
10. Planning Application **181100**. Installation of two Venturi-Enhanced Hydroelectric Turbines, a controls kiosk and a new fish pass. The proposed site at Caversham Weir is within the River Thames, located within Flood Zone 3b This is a revision of previous application about which GLOBE had been consulted and to which we have no objections. We are still pursuing the offer of a site visit to look at the location of the proposed fish pass and concerns re trees and habitat. **Keep in view**
11. **Reading Golf Course** - the club is reported to be trying to sell to developers for housing. Concerns were raised over potential loss of this important area of green space. RBC has put a temporary TPO on trees within the Reading boundary but a large part of the site is in South Oxon. **Keep in View**
12. **The Caversham GLOBE AGM** was held on 26 June. The annual accounts and annual reports for 2017 were received and approved. Key members of the group, as required in our constitution, were confirmed as: Dave Kenny, Judith Barratt, Richard Denney, Dean Ezra, Bob Busby. **CLOSED**
13. **Sources of Grants and Donations to ensure GLOBE group's future and funding of projects.** Bob continues to follow up leads with local businesses in return for some publicity. Dean has updated the Globe web site with new revolving boxes where we can promote traders and local businesses who help sponsor us, along the lines of a similar scheme run by Tilehurst Globe. **Review progress next meeting**
14. **Reading Festival litter in central Caversham over August Bank Holiday weekend.** Agreed that GLOBE would schedule afternoon litter picking from Weds 22 to Tuesday 28 from 4 pm as required. **Richard to send out email requesting participants and Dave will co-ordinate.**
15. **BBC site Caversham Park** –The BBC are due to vacate the site at the end of this year, concerns were raised about possible development proposals. These could involve loss of protected landscape, as well as green areas bordering Lowfield Road that are currently used for cricket and other recreational activities. RBC has put a blanket TPO on trees at the site. **Keep in view**

ITEMS WITH NO CHANGE SINCE LAST MEETING

16. **Felling of Poplars by laundry site.** Only 2 now remain, it is thought that these may have nesting birds and may be felled after the nesting season. **Keep in view until replacements are planted.**
17. **Christchurch Meadows – logs in the Danall** – RBC asked to remove heavy logs. **Keep in view**
18. **Bucks Eyot** - Vegetation damage and felling of willows on the island nearest to Caversham bridge by boaters. All three Eyots are owned by RBC but only the other two covered by TPO. **Raised with RBC, no response.**
19. **Baltimore Walk** - Some cutting back of the vegetation around the milepost and clearance around saplings was needed. **Globe working party to be arranged**
20. **Graffiti on several Comms boxes**, including Lower Henley Road. **Dave to tackle with Globe cleaning kit & other volunteers**
21. **Residents please report** any issues through the **Love Clean Reading App** go to <http://loveclean.reading.gov.uk/help> or at www.fixmystreet.com
22. **RAYS** (Reading Adopt Your Street). 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.
23. **Plogging Group** (Picking Litter While Jogging) Nick was working on setting up a group in Reading to include the Thames Prom area

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 28 August 7 pm Church House, Church Street, Caversham