

MINUTES & ACTIONS, CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 22 January 2019

Attendees: Judith Barratt (chair), Dave Kenny, Richard Denney, Dean Ezra, Bob Busby, Nick Haskins (Chair NRSNF), Caroline Johnson, Isabella Pietrzak, Steve Goodchild, Abi Johnson, Sigi Teer

Apologies: Vickie Abel, Jean Newbery, Chris Burden, Wendy Terry, Frances Hamley, Margaret Skinner.
Councillor Adele Barnett-Ward

ACHIEVEMENTS, UPDATES, PRIORITIES & NEW ITEMS:

Minutes of last monthly meeting held on 27 November 2018 were approved – matters arising were discussed/noted below, with additional items added as discussed in this current meeting.

1. Poor Air Quality

This is priority matter and has been raised with the RBC. GLOBE with other local groups and RBC Councillors in north Reading need to develop a joint approach for remedial action underpinned with funding and commitment from RBC. Measures previously noted included: RBC installing more official pollution monitors in Caversham; more tree planting at roadsides (e.g. to replace bollards), a 20mph zone in Caversham, stopping lorries using the A4074, anti-idling policy, kerbside planter boxes, green walls. It was noted that the poor air quality in Caversham may well worsen once Cow Lane/Richfield Avenue road/bridge works are completed, causing increased in traffic and queueing at junctions.

PRIORITY ACTION NEEDED! Discuss at next meeting

- 2. Planters on Church Street.** Bob's ongoing project to repair/maintain the planters wooden frameworks continues but the high costs of replacement parts and the voluntary sources of production means that this is a long-term project. The (hardwood) timber sizes needed for various repairs are **Width: 135 mm (5 5/16") Thickness: 63.5 mm (2 1/2") Lengths: Short: 832 mm (32 3/4") Long: 1735 mm (68 5/16")**. If anyone has sources willing to supply or donate any of these sizes of hardwood, please contact Bob Busby. **Keep under review**
- 3. Finance matters. Sources of Grants and Donations to ensure GLOBE group's future and funding of projects.** Steve Goodchild had spoken to Damian Farmer of Farmer & Dyer Estate Agents who are willing to consider a financial sponsorship of a specific GLOBE project. This is to be decided. GLOBE has also received news that the PTFA of The Heights Primary School wishes to make a donation for our work in the area; awaiting final confirmation. Further sources of financial support are still needed. **Action ongoing**
- 4. Christchurch Meadows.** RBC Parks have done some clearance of the Danall. Dean reported that a 20 year old yew tree and some others nearby were cut down, even though they provided some screening of the nearby laundry fence. Isabella described the fly-tipping and litter along the same boundary and rampant brambles needing cutting back. Resolved that we would clear this and replant parts of the hedge on Monday 28 January. Dave and Steve to arrange. **Review next meeting**
- 5. Planning application new item 180499 St Martin's Precinct developments**
Comments had been submitted about height of buildings and the need to include trees and planters on the Church Street frontage as part of the scheme. **Review next meeting**
- 6. 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.**
Scheme now withdrawn and item closed. **CLOSED**
- 7. Planning Application number 181471 Rear of 27 to 43 Blenheim Road 5 x 2 storey dwellings**
Withdrawn **CLOSED**

8. **Environment Agency Flood Defence proposals for major** works close to the River Thames, including c. 4km of flood walls & embankments along the north bank of the River Thames, extending from Promenade Road in the west to Nire Road/Ruskin in the east; flood wall on the south bank along the Thames Path from Waterman Place (Caversham Bridge) in the west to Reading Bridge in the east. Various issues discussed by attendees. A site visit with the EA was attended by some GLOBE supporters with Tree Wardens representative. Much dissatisfaction with the EA over this, particularly that they did not tell us about changes they had made to the plans thus wasting a lot of time in discussing details which had already been changed. A lack of detailed information coming from the EA in answer to questions raised is also of concern. Subsequent work by surveyors and engineers doing on site investigations has given cause for more concerns. There are also concerns about the high-level decision-making process for this Reading Scheme as well as questioning the need for heavy engineered scheme rather than natural alternatives. Consequently, GLOBE had initiated a meeting of residents and riverside businesses that took place on 16 January in the Weller Centre Amersham Road and it was resolved that a campaign be formed with the aim of challenging the proposals, the consultation process and related issues. This is at early stage but further meetings of this emerging campaign are planned for February. **Report at next meeting**
9. **Appeal against refusal of outline planning application for 245 dwellings on South Oxfordshire farmland by Emmer Green.** See www.cagedunsden.org "Mrs Justice Lang has decided in the strongest terms that Gladman do not have a case to answer at the High Court. Gladman have however been granted a brief private 'Oral hearing' on 26 March in order to plead their case for a full court hearing." **Keep in view**
10. **Proposed Development on the SSE site opposite Christchurch Bridge.** GLOBE had been invited to discussions with the developers and some consultants about this massive building proposals for 7 & 11 storey blocks of apartments. Since then a public consultation on revised plans is expected in February. **Review next meeting**

ITEMS TO NOTE BUT WITH NO CHANGE SINCE LAST MEETING

11. Local Sites under threat of development – keep in view. The former **BBC Caversham Park** site. **Reading Golf Course** - the club is trying to sell to developers for housing and plans to relocate to Caversham Heath Golf Club. TPOs now in force across the whole site. Concerns were raised over potential loss of this important area of green space a large part of which is in South Oxon. A campaign "Keep Emmer Green" has been active against this. Also **Caversham Lawn Tennis Club** (Queensborough Drive) wants to relocate to a green-field site within the AONB next to Caversham Heath Golf Club. **Keep in view**
12. **Residents please report** any issues through the **Love Clean Reading App** go to <http://loveclean.reading.gov.uk/help> or at www.fixmystreet.com
13. **_Planning Application number 181151 Abbotsmead Place Erection of a two-storey building to provide 2x1-bed flats (Class C3) with associated works including car/cycle parking, landscaping and refuse storage.** No change since last meeting **keep in view**
14. **Reprinting of GLOBE business cards** These have been obtained. **CLOSED.**

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 26 February 2019 at 7 pm Church House, Church Street, Caversham