



## **MINUTES & ACTIONS, CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 26 February 2019**

**Attendees:** Richard Denney (chair), Dave Kenny, Dean Ezra, Bob Busby, Nick Haskins (Chair NRSNF), Caroline Johnson, Vickie Abel, Jean Newbery, Len Smith, Steve Goodchild, Abi Johnson, Margaret Skinner, Michael Norcross, Vicky Baker, Helen Sheldrake, Tim Castle, Marielle Mouyon, Sarah Thorpe, Will Alliston.

**Apologies:** Sigi Teer, Councillor Adele Barnett-Ward.

### **ACHIEVEMENTS, UPDATES, PRIORITIES & NEW ITEMS:**

**Minutes of last monthly meeting held on 22 January 2019** were approved – matters arising were discussed/noted below, with additional items added as discussed in this current meeting.

#### **1. Poor Air Quality in central Caversham – item first raised in January 2018**

The 7 suggested GLOBE solutions for reducing poor air quality are: RBC installing more official pollution monitors in Caversham; more tree planting at roadsides (e.g. to replace bollards especially on Church Road); a 20mph zone in Caversham; stopping lorries using the A4074; anti-idling policy; kerbside planter boxes and green walls. These have been submitted to Caversham Ward Councillor Adele Barnett-Ward who is a member of the RBC Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport Committee. We await a date for site meeting with council officers and other resident groups. We have also suggested that Adele requests the planning officer to add a condition to the current St Martins Precinct application 180499 for a landscaping requirement to add the 5 planters (or trees) as pictured in the artists impression of the Church Street frontage. **Reliant on responses from RBC**

**2. Planters on Church Street.** Bob reported that he and Steve had reclaimed some timber to rebuild or repair other failing planters. 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. **Project ongoing**

**3. Finance matters. Sources of Grants and Donations to ensure GLOBE group's future and funding of projects.** Need to decide on a project for which we can request a donation from Farmer & Dyer Estate Agents who have said that they are willing to consider a financial sponsorship of a specific GLOBE project. The PTFA of The Heights Primary School has now made a donation of £350 to GLOBE for a local improvement project. We need to decide on something specific and tell the donor. Further sources of financial support are still needed. **2 decisions needed PLEASE!**

**4. Christchurch Meadows and riverside green spaces.** On Monday 26 January GLOBE volunteers did a litter pick and planted some extra hedging. 16 sacks of litter and some fly-tipping were collected plus drugs needles Thanks to all who worked on this. There are ongoing worries about the EA sub-contractors causing damage to trees and hedging as part of the flood defence site surveys, including damage to the recently planted hedging. There are also major concerns about EA staff cutting back trees/hedges and wild margins downstream in Amersham Road area. Formal complaints are to be submitted to the EA. (See item 5 Flood Defences) **Report at next meeting**

**5. Environment Agency Flood Defence proposals.** A campaign has now been formed with the aim of challenging the need for these controversial proposals, the consultation process and related issues. See [www.cabfas.org](http://www.cabfas.org) (Campaign for a better flood alleviation scheme) Much work has been done to launch this campaign, with GLOBE supporters involved in many aspects. Additionally, GLOBE supporters have raised formal complaints about current destruction of wildlife habitats by EA contractors for site surveys as well as damage to trees and hedges. **Update at next meeting**

6. **Proposed Development on the SSE site opposite Christchurch Bridge.** A public consultation on revised plans has taken place on this major residential development - see. <http://www.vasternroad.co.uk/current-scheme/> **Review next meeting**
7. **March RESCUE / Keep Britain Tidy spring cleanup.** Possible sites in need of attention included the green margins along Richfield Ave and the George St embankment of Christchurch Meadows. **Decide on date at next meeting**

## ITEMS TO NOTE BUT WITH NO CHANGE SINCE LAST MEETING

8. 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” is active against this, see <https://www.keepemmergreen.com/> . 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**
9. **Residents please 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)
10. **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**
11. **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. **No change**
12. **Appeal against refusal of outline planning application for 245 dwellings on South Oxfordshire farmland by Emmer Green.** See [www.cagedunnsden.org](http://www.cagedunnsden.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.” **Review at April meeting**

## NEXT MEETING

**Tuesday 26 March 2019 at 7 pm Church House, Church Street, Caversham**