



MINUTES & ACTIONS, CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 26 March 2019

Attendees: Judith Barratt (chair), Dave Kenny, Dean Ezra, Bob Busby, Richard Denney, Caroline Johnson, Jean Newbery, Margaret Skinner, Helen Sheldrake, Christelle Riviere, Sherron Mayes, Rachel Barker, Jim Cushley.

Apologies: Nick Haskins (Chair NRSNF), Sigi Teer, Wendy Terry, Francis Hamley, Steve Goodchild, Councillor Adele Barnett-Ward.

ACHIEVEMENTS, UPDATES, PRIORITIES & NEW ITEMS:

Minutes of last monthly meeting held on 26 February 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 – first raised in January 2018 - See previous meetings**
No progress to combat local poor air quality is promised in the short term. This long running issue has been taken up by Councillor Barnett-Ward who has now informed us that RBC is considering setting up an “environment consultative body” with RBC councillors and officers with community stakeholder groups as part of the climate emergency initiative.
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 HGVs using the A4074; anti-idling policy; kerbside planter boxes and green walls. Possible site for a green wall in Church Road was discussed, but owner of building needs to be contacted. **Also, write to local MP Matt Rodda and publicise our AQ briefing bulletin through other channels.**
- 2. Finance matters. Sources of Grants and Donations to ensure GLOBE group’s future and funding of projects.** We have been given £250 by the Environment Agency for hedging replacement in Christchurch Meadows following damage by their surveyors. Decisions needed 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. **decisions still needed PLEASE!**
- 3. Christchurch Meadows and riverside green spaces.** Continuing issues about the EA sub-contractors causing damage to trees and hedging as part of the flood defence site surveys. (see item 2 above regarding £250 compensation for replacements). We will replant where damage has occurred. There are also major concerns about EA staff cutting back trees/hedges and wild margins downstream in Amersham Road area. Including damage to several trees protected by TPO. Formal complaints have been submitted to the EA. (See item 4 Flood Defences) **Report at next meeting**
- 4. Environment Agency Flood Defence proposals.** The www.cabfas.org Campaign for a better flood alleviation scheme is challenging the basis for these controversial proposals, the consultation process and related issues. Work continues, with GLOBE supporters involved in many aspects. Additionally, GLOBE supporters await responses to 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**
- 5. Proposed Development on the SSE site opposite Christchurch Bridge.** A public consultation on revised plans has taken place on this major residential development – a second round of consultation is expected. **Review next meeting**

6. **March RESCUE / Keep Britain Tidy spring cleanup.** Dates agreed for 5 and 6 April to clear the green margins along Richfield Ave/Rivermead and Thames Prom; also the Thames Parks View Island, Hill's Meadow, the George St embankments and Christchurch Meadows. **Richard to arrange.**
7. **Reading Golf Course** - the club plans to relocate to Caversham Heath Golf Club and sell current site to a builder. A development company named Fairfax operating in a similar way to Gladman is now driving a new proposal. Fairfax is planning a consultative meeting with GLOBE representatives on 9 April, Dave and Sigi will attend. A campaign "Keep Emmer Green" is active against housing development, see <https://www.keepemmergreen.com/> **Report next meeting**
8. **RAYS (Reading Adopt Your Street)** At RBC, Nicola Woods is now running this scheme for people to adopt their local road, park or open space especially where litter hotspots occur. People can get a litter picker, hi-viz and bags supplied. Ring for info on 0118 937 3534 or email rays@reading.gov.uk

ITEMS TO NOTE BUT WITH NO CHANGE SINCE LAST MEETING

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
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. We have also suggested that Councillor Barnett-Ward 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. **No change**
12. **Planters on Church Street.** We are still seeking 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").** **Bob has located** Abi is in touch with Bob for one possible source. If anyone else has sources willing to supply or donate any of these sizes of hardwood, please contact Bob Busby. **Project ongoing**
13. **Appeal against refusal of outline planning application for 245 dwellings on South Oxfordshire farmland by Emmer Green.** See www.cagedunsden.org Gladman have been granted a brief private 'Oral hearing' on 26 March in order to plead their case for a full court hearing." **Keep in view**
14. **Car wash on Hill's Meadow** landscaping condition needs completion by operator. RBC Planning Enforcement is pursuing this. **Keep in view**
15. **Any other business** . RBC has been contacted about removal of graffiti on a wall of Christchurch Meadows old pavilion.

NEXT MEETING

**Tuesday 28 May 2019 at 7 pm Church House, Church Street, Caversham
(April Meeting was cancelled)**