

## **MINUTES & ACTIONS, CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 28 May 2019**

**Attendees:** Richard Denney (chair), Dave Kenny, Dean Ezra, Bob Busby, Vickie Abel, Jo Ramsey, Caroline McArthur, Jean Newbery, Margaret Skinner, Helen Sheldrake, Sigi Teer, Abi Johnson, Nick Haskins (Chair NRSNF), Councillor Adele Barnett-Ward

**Apologies:** Judith Barratt, Christelle Riviere, Steve Goodchild, Caroline Johnson.

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

**Minutes of last monthly meeting held on 26 March 2019** were approved (April meeting had been cancelled). Matters arising were discussed/noted below, with additional items added as discussed in this current meeting.

- 1. Poor Air Quality (AQ) in Caversham – first raised January 2018 – See previous meeting notes.**  
Councillor Barnett-Ward described the new RBC “Cleaner Air and Safer Transport Forum” which will deal with initiatives to reduce pollution and address climate change by promoting active travel across the borough. This forum will also promote measures to make Reading’s air cleaner. Members of various interested groups from the community, including Caversham GLOBE, will be invited to join. The first meeting of this forum will be “after summer”, which means that progress to combat our local poor AQ will be slow. Discussion turned to WHAT actions could be implemented without major delay. Some of our group’s seven AQ actions were suggested as achievable in short term, these are: more tree planting or planter boxes on Church St, Church Rd and top of Prospect Street (e.g. to replace bollards) also, to extend the current RBC vehicle anti-idling policy by posting notices near junctions. Councillor Barnett-Ward committed to raising these with the officers concerned. Also to inform the group where the regular RBC AQ local readings are publicly available. **Richard to follow up with Adele and RBC.** Thanks" to Adele for attending and keeping the group fully informed See also that it's national clean air day on Thursday 20 June, in which Reading Borough Council is participating: <http://news.reading.gov.uk/air-quality-champions-needed-19/> and here at <https://www.globalactionplan.org.uk/clean-air/clean-air-day>  
Additional AQ solutions already suggested are: (1) a possible site for a green wall in Church Road, (2) the banning of HGVs similarly to what is being proposed in Oxford (3) requiring electric taxis. Useful AQ links include: <https://motortransport.co.uk/blog/2019/01/21/oxford-reveals-clean-air-plan-to-ban-hgvs-from-city-centre-by-2020/>  
[https://www.cadra.org.uk/uploads/wysiwyg\\_editor/files/Sharing-Our-Streets/Sharing\\_Our\\_Streets\\_Summary\\_Report.pdf](https://www.cadra.org.uk/uploads/wysiwyg_editor/files/Sharing-Our-Streets/Sharing_Our_Streets_Summary_Report.pdf)
- 2. Finance matters. Sources of Grants and Donations to ensure GLOBE group’s future and funding of projects.** Yet to receive the £250 from the Environment Agency for hedging replacement in Christchurch Meadows [**update:** this has now been received]. Decisions needed on 2 environmental improvement projects (1) the £350 donation from Heights School PTFA and (2) Farmer & Dyer Estate Agents have said they would consider a GLOBE project. **Decisions required! NB** Further sources of financial support are still needed. **Keep in view**
- 3. Christchurch Meadows and riverside green spaces.** It was reported that RBC has carried out highly damaging destruction of shrubbery and trees along the Danall including, unnecessarily, uprooting c200-year-old veteran willow pollard. This is serious vandalism contravening national guidance on veteran trees as well as habitat destruction. This action could have been avoided if RBC had granted GLOBE a site meeting as we asked for 3 times. Elsewhere, thank you to those supporters who replanted boundary hedging damaged by EA contractors. A new section of hedge was also planted north of the old pavilion. A suggestion for planting bulbs on embankments of Christchurch Bridge to discourage pedestrians short cuts was considered not viable or effective. **Keep in view**
- 4. Environment Agency Flood Defence proposals.** The [www.cabfas.org](http://www.cabfas.org) Campaign for a better flood alleviation scheme is challenging the basis for these controversial proposals, the consultation process and related issues. Alarming aspects have emerged of how the future riverside scene would look with

flood barriers near which no trees or hedging can be planted within at least 5 metres either side. A third public consultation will take place later this year. Encouragingly, a national policy shift towards natural flood resilience is emerging which contravenes the type of scheme the EA is planning for Reading. See <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/a-different-philosophy-why-our-thinking-on-flooding-needs-to-change-faster-than-the-climate>

More encouraging comments: there is currently insufficient funding for the scheme; RBC has told EA that they must demonstrate majority support from affected properties. **Update at next meeting**

5. **Proposed Development on the SSE site opposite Christchurch Bridge.** A public consultation on revised plans took place on this major residential development – see <http://www.vasternroad.co.uk/> Planning application expected soon. **keep in view**
6. **Reading Golf Course** - the club plans to relocate and develop Caversham Heath Golf Club and sell the current site to a developer. A development company named Fairfax held consultation with GLOBE (Dave and Sigi) on 9 May. The developers talked of wanting to build 700 homes across the site. Initial plans would be for 130 homes on a small part of the golf course nearest to Kidmore End Road. A campaign “Keep Emmer Green” is active against housing development, see <https://www.keepemmergreen.com/> **keep in view**
7. **Planters on Church Street.** Bob has acquired 8 lengths of timber he can modify for planter repair but more timber to rebuild or repair other failing planters is required. The finished timber sizes needed for various repairs are ideally **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"** though larger size can be cut possibly. If anyone has sources willing to supply or donate any of these sizes of hardwood, please contact Bob Busby. **Project ongoing**
8. **Reading Climate Change Partnership** invites GLOBE supporters to attend the launch of the consultation on the third Reading Climate Change Strategy (2020-25) Thursday 13 June from 2 to 5 pm in the Civic Offices Bridge Street, Reading see <https://readingcan.org.uk/events/event/third-reading-climate-strategy-launch-event> Please confirm if you plan to attend **Report at next meeting**

## 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](http://www.fixmystreet.com)
10. **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](mailto:rays@reading.gov.uk)
11. **Planning Application number 181151 Abbotsmead Place Erection of a two-storey building to provide 2x1-bed flats** Revised plans with minor changes have been submitted. **Keep in view**
12. **Planning application 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 again requested Councillor Barnett-Ward to urge the planning officer to add a landscaping condition for 5 planters (or trees). **No change**
13. **Appeal against refusal of outline planning application for 245 dwellings on farmland by Emmer Green.** Turned down at High Court hearing on 27 March 2019 Campaign victory! **CLOSED**
14. **Car wash on Hill’s Meadow** landscaping condition completed but tree awaited. **Keep in view**
15. **Any other business .**  
Reading Canoe Club intends organising a river clean up in early September.  
Events for Reading Tree Wardens – see <http://www.readingtreewardens.org.uk/upcomingevents.htm>  
The Thames is mentioned in this article <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/may/27/worlds-rivers-awash-with-dangerous-levels-of-antibiotics>

## NEXT MEETING

**AGM Tuesday 25 June 2019 at 7 pm followed by brief monthly meeting at Church House, Church Street, Caversham.**