



MINUTES & ACTIONS, CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 28 January 2020

Chair: DE **Minutes:** DK

Attendees: Judith Barratt, Isabella Pietrzak, Bob Busby, Dean Ezra, Dave Kenny, Nick Haskins, Jo Cushley, Caroline Johnson, Steve Goodchild, Vickie Abel, Wendy Terry, Francis Hamley, Jo Ramsey, Maggie Hawkes, Chris Burden.

Apologies for absence: Helen Sheldrake, Len Smith, Nick Haskins, Sigi Teer, Jean Newbery, Margaret Skinner, Richard Denney

Minutes of last monthly meeting held on 26 November 2019 were approved.

1 Air Quality

A meeting with Sam Sheen of RBC has been arranged by Cllr Barnet-Ward, to look at locations for a new tree to be sponsored by GLOBE on Church Rd - one of the most polluted streets in Caversham (DE). It was noted that a recent report in the Guardian had mentioned Reading as one of the towns with the worst air pollution in the southern England.

2 Finance & Funding.

Steve Goodchild is continuing to contact local businesses with the aim of arranging sponsorship for GLOBE, some progress was reported. **SG**

EGRA was thanked for a recent £50 donation to GLOBE towards hedge planting on Grove Rd.

3 Church Street Planters

Looking good with winter betting. **CJ** has offered some lavender plants & will confirm species. Margaret Skinner has offered some cyclamen and had recently done some weeding.

4 Bridge Street/Church Rd triangle improvements. Wendy presented a proposal for GLOBE to plant two low-level areas of shrubs. These would improve the grass triangle both visually and for wildlife, but not impact on the advertising hoardings. Permission being sought from RBC. **WT**

5 Environment Agency Flood Defence proposals.

The EA had a meeting with reps from GLOBE, the Tree Wardens & Friends of the Earth on 24 January. Revised plans show some changes to the proposed alignment. Though the EA are trying to minimise tree loss there would still be hundreds of trees removed. Concerns remain that such a heavy -engineered flood defence is excessive for this area and would result in the loss of many mature trees as well as hedgerows and other important habitats. Not to mention a large chunk of Christchurch and Hill's Meadow being lost under a wide flood conveyance channel. Some before and after images of the proposed walls showed vegetation being retained which in reality would be removed. This was highly misleading as were the flood maps shown by the EA. Several public meetings are due to be held in late February and March where the plans would be open to view and comment. Details to be circulated to Globe supporters.

6 Planning Applications

191088 **Crowne Plaza** Richfield Avenue RG1 8BD – Redevelopment of the hotel's car park and construction of new 132 bed hotel. **Refused by RBC**

190451 **SSE site, 55 Vastern Road** Planning application likely soon.

182252 **80 Caversham Road** Reading RG1 1AA (former Sorting Office). Application for 658 flats. Decision awaited.

180499 **St Martin's Precinct developments.** This application has recently been **Withdrawn**. Reason is not known but it was noted that Hermes has now acquired the former New Directions building on Archway Road.

Rivermead / Richfield Ave - planning applications for a new swimming pool at Rivermead and a new secondary school further west along Richfield Ave are expected soon.

Reading Golf Course - public exhibition to be held in February where the developers will outline their proposals for the site. The golf course is due to vacate the site in March 2021 moving to Caversham Heath. (JC) It was noted that earthworks were taking place at **Caversham Heath Golf Course**. As this is within the Chilterns AONB, does this work require planning permission?

Any other business.

Trees Caversham Court Lime RBC has advised that the prominent & historic Lime tree left of Caversham Court entrance gate would be felled on 25 March by the Diocese of Oxford, which owns the land, as it was causing a small crack in the wall. Both the wall and tree are protected but very regrettably a decision has been taken to fell the tree. A replacement would be planted further from the wall and another new tree would be planted outside the Stable Block.

Two new Limes have been planted at Milestone Way, Caversham Park Village. Thanks to BB for arranging the transport and the Tree Wardens for arranging.

Heritage Open Days 13-22 September with the theme **Hidden Nature**. Tours of Caversham Court Allotments to be arranged. Would anyone like to help arrange tours of the old Caversham Cemetery in Victoria Road - a little known local wildlife site.? **VA**

Graffiti cleaning - **CJ** has cleaned several benches and signs at Balmore Walk and reported that the new graffiti wipes were working very well. Several green boxes along Westfield Rd needed attention. (The wipes are available to Globe supporters on request - contact DK).

The Danall (Christchurch Ditch) IP reported that this was completely blocked up and that there appeared to be an oil spillage near the old Pavilion. What was happening about the long-awaited maintenance of the ditch in RBCs 2019-2020 budget.? **DK to contact parks.**

Christchurch Meadows. The area behind the advertising hoardings at the corner of George St has recently been fenced off leaving old tents & much rubbish trapped behind the fence. Len is chasing JCDecaux which owns this piece of land. **LS**

Spring Cleanup 8 March GLOBE is linking up with the Plastic Free Caversham group to organise a cleanup around Hill's Meadow / Christchurch Meadows on 8 March. Details TBC. **DK**

River Clean Up has been postponed until the Spring - keep in view. **NH**

GLOBE Christmas meeting - Thanks to Ania and Nick for hosting the Christmas social, which had replaced our December meeting.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 25 February 2020 - 7.30 pm at Church House, Church Street, Caversham.