



MINUTES & ACTIONS, CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 25 February 2020

Chair: BB **Minutes:** DK

Attendees: Bob Busby, Dave Kenny, Jo Cushley, Caroline Johnson, Wendy Terry, Francis Hamley, Maggie Hawkes, Chris Burden, Tim Castle.

Apologies for absence: Judith Barratt, Helen Sheldrake, Dean Ezra, Nick Haskins, Sigi Teer, Isabella Pietrzak, Len Smith, Paul Goddard, Steve Goodchild.

Minutes of last monthly meeting held on 28 January 2020 were approved.

1 Air Quality

Dean will chase up meeting with Sam Sheen of RBC which had 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**). Keep in view

2 Finance & Funding.

Steve Goodchild is continuing contacting local businesses and traders to seek funding for Globe. Donations have been agreed so far with Farmer & Dyer and Walmsley. **SG**

3 Church Street Planters

Generally looking good , all plants are ok. No progress yet on repairs to the wood. **BB**

4 Bridge Street/Church Rd triangle improvements. Agreement in principle from JCDecaux to plant two low-level areas of shrubs in the middle of the grass triangle. Agreement is now awaited RBC Legal dept. CJ has offered some lavender plants. **WT**

5 Environment Agency Caversham & Reading Flood Defence proposals.

The EA is holding several public drop-ins around Caversham during February / March. Concern was expressed over some misleading recent publicity by the EA and by the BBC, referring to the 1947 flood (caused by snow melt - an event that would not be protected by their proposed river flood defences) and exaggerations on the impact of the 2013/4 flood locally. GLOBE considering the use of Twitter to respond to these issues. Those present at the meeting strongly felt that the EA should completely change their approach from concrete and a heavy-engineering scheme to natural scheme with property-level resilience.

6 Planning Applications

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

SSE site, 55 Vastern Road Planning application now submitted, application number TBC. A public exhibition showing latest plans held on 27 February 4.30-7.30pm at 55 Vastern Rd

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 - BB/DK had attended a public exhibition at the golf course. RGC in conjunction with Fairfax property developers & Redrow builders want to build 249 houses on the part of the course in Reading borough, leaving the section in South Oxon as open space. The recently adopted Local Plan designates only 90-130 houses on the site and it was felt that anything exceeding this number should be strongly resisted by RBC. Proposed "improvements" to local roads included widening Kidmore End Rd with consequential loss of the park hedge and verge next to Emmer Green Rec, also widening the junction at the Caversham Park Rd/Kiln Road which would lead to the loss of several large trees planted by Globe in 2000. These measures and the extra pollution from some 500 more cars on local roads were not acceptable. See the Developers plans at www.rgcfuture.com and KEG (Keep Emmer Green) at www.keepemmergreen.com

192049 Queen Annes School, Henley Rd, Meeting discussed application for new artificial pitches, floodlight tennis courts, new pavilion & changing rooms, new indoor tennis courts. Concern raised over impact on trees, wildlife (badgers & bats); potential light pollution and traffic.
GLOBE to send objection

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 lime would be planted further from the wall and another new tree would be planted outside the Stable Block.

Graffiti cleaning - **CJ** has recently used the new graffiti wipes to clean green boxes and street furniture along Westfield Rd and Gosbrook Rd. The benches on Westfield Rec needed attention, possibly re-varnishing. (The wipes are available to Globe supporters on request - contact DK).

The Danall (Christchurch Ditch) This remains completely blocked with almost no flow even during the recent high river levels. **CB** reported seeing sewage from a large storm drain entering the Danall just east of the footbridge near Patrick Rd/Tamesis Place. **Keep in view.**

Christchurch Meadows. Maggie reported that litter and old tents remained trapped in the area behind the advertising hoardings at the corner of George Street. **LS is chasing JCDecaux** which owns this piece of land and recently fenced it off. (**Update:** This has now been cleared)

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. Meeting point is the Hill's Meadow car park for a 10am start. **DK**

NEXT MEETING

MARCH AND APRIL MEETINGS CANCELLED following the government's announcement.
Dates of future meetings will be circulated when confirmed.

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