



## **MINUTES & ACTIONS, CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 28 July 2020 (video meeting - held online via GoToMeeting)**

**Chair:** NH      **Minutes:** DK

**Attendees:** Bob Busby, Dean Ezra, Sigi Teer, Judith Barratt, Dave Kenny, Wendy Terry, Francis Hamley, Maggie Hawkes, Nick Haskins, Vickie Abel, Helen Warren, Chris Burden (in part)

**Apologies for absence:** Helen Sheldrake

**1) Minutes of last monthly meeting held on 25 February 2020** are now uploaded to the Globe web site - see Documents page at [www.cavershamglobe.org.uk](http://www.cavershamglobe.org.uk)

**2) Globe AGM.** This had taken place via email owing to the Covid-19 restrictions. A total of 18 responses all approving of the Finance & Annual reports and Key members (quorum is 5).

### **3) Finance & Funding.**

Thanks to donations received from Farmer & Dyer and Walmsley, Warings also expected. Dean will add these to Globe web site banner. Thanks to Steve Goodchild for progressing. **SG**  
Dave will contact Church House to ask about a refund for meetings cancelled due to Covid. **DK**

### **4) Air Quality**

Sigi reported that RBC's Diffusion tube data for 2019 is now available and shows lower readings at most sites. In Caversham the tube at 59 Prospect St was still above the legal limit for Nitrogen oxide (41 mg - the limit is 40 mg). What changed in 2019 to produce these lower readings? Sigi has queried the results with Ross Jarvis at RBC and will report back. **(ST)**.

### **5. Church Street Planters**

The planting has held up well this summer despite the drought, thanks to all who helped with watering and maintenance recently. Deteriorating state of the wood was discussed, Bob is trying to source suitable timber and will circulate dimensions, will also check state of planters. **BB**

**6. Bridge Street/Church Rd triangle improvements.** Wendy reported that RBC and JCDecaux were OK in principle with Globe's proposed landscape improvements, but land ownership was an issue. RBC were looking at possible sale of the land, would Globe be interested? **WT**.

**7. Graffiti Cleaning kit** Globe has bought 15 more packs of Graffiti cleaning wipes. These are very effective and easy to use. If any supporters would like one please contact DK.

**8. Spring & Autumn Cleanups.** Our Spring cleanup on 8 March in conjunction with Plastic Free Caversham was a great success, at least 40 sacks of litter were collected from Hill's Meadow, Christchurch Meadows and View Island. Keep Britain Tidy is organising another national cleanup 11-27 September, we hope to participate subject to social distancing etc. **keep in view.**

### **9. Planning Applications**

**182252 Former Royal Mail site 80 Caversham Road Reading RG1 1AA .** Slightly revised application now for 620 flats, 24 storeys (ex 658 flats, 25 storeys) .

**192049 Queen Annes School, Henley Rd**, Application for new artificial pitches, floodlight tennis courts, new pavilion & changing rooms. Slightly revised plans but concern remains over impact on trees, wildlife (badgers & bats); potential light pollution and traffic. **Objection sent.**

**200188. SSE site, 55 Vastern Road** Demolition of buildings and construction of up to 11 storeys, with walkway from Christchurch bridge. A public exhibition showing latest plans held on 27 February 4.30-7.30pm at 55 Vastern Rd

**200328 Vastern Court (The Range/Aldi etc)** Outline permission for flats , offices, retail & leisure. Objections from Environment Agency and Historic England.

**Reading Golf Course** - ST reported that an application for 260 dwellings on the Reading borough section of the golf course has been submitted, it is contrary to the Local Plan which only designates 90-130 properties, with conditions. The golf course in conjunction with developers Farifax had offered unspecified open space on the Oxfordshire part of the course, but meanwhile are trying to get South Oxfordshire's emerging Local Plan amended to include housing on the site. See the Developers plans at [www.rgcfuture.com](http://www.rgcfuture.com) and KEG (Keep Emmer Green) at [www.keepemmergreen.com](http://www.keepemmergreen.com) (Update: Planning application 200713 is now online at RBC, closing date for comments 11 September )

#### **10. Environment Agency Caversham & Reading Flood Defence proposals.**

The EA has released details of the public drop-ins they held in Feb-March and are pressing on with their proposals for a heavy-engineering scheme. Flood modelling has shown that flooding on Heron Island (outside the flood defences) would be made worse for the 1: 200 year plus climate change scenario: the EA cannot build schemes which increase flooding elsewhere so there would need to be modifications eg lower walls and bunds. Walls, embankments and a flood channel through Christchurch & Hills Meadows would still be built, so just as much disruption and environmental damage, with less protection. **Keep in view.**

**11. RBC Transport Strategy** is out for consultation, deadline for comments 30 August, See <https://consult.reading.gov.uk/dens/reading-transport-strategy-2036/>

Concerns discussed over proposals for 3 x Park & Rides in fields north and east of Caversham / Emmer Green plus a North Orbital road cutting through Chilterns countryside, linking into the proposed Third Bridge. All of these proposals would impact on the countryside around Caversham and inevitably lead to further development pressure on this rural area.

#### **12. Any other business.**

a) **Keep Emmer Green** request to add a link to the Globe web site agreed. **ST/DE**

b) **Land at Caversham Park Village** Judith reported on the recent sale of parcels of land at Caversham Park Village by the original developer. This included open areas as well as Milestone Wood (which is just inside the Reading boundary and is protected by a blanket TPO). MP Matt Rodda is trying to find out who has acquired the land. **JB Keep in view.**

c) **The Danall (Christchurch Ditch)** NH had reported to Thames Water and EA sewage effluent in the Danall in March. Thames Water investigated and said it was probably a wrongly connected household outlet pipe. Need to follow up to see if any repairs have taken place. **NH.**

### **NEXT MEETING**

**Tuesday 25 August at 7:30 pm** - Video meeting via GoToMeeting. Thanks to NH for arranging it.