



MINUTES & ACTIONS, CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 25 August 2020 (video meeting - held online via GoToMeeting)

Chair: NH **Minutes:** DK

Attendees: Bob Busby, Dean Ezra, Judith Barratt, Dave Kenny, Wendy Terry, Francis Hamley, Nick Haskins, Vickie Abel, Chris Burden Steve Harcourt (EGRA)

Apologies for absence: Sigi Teer, Helen Sheldrake

1) Minutes of last monthly meeting held on 28 July 2020 were approved

2) Finance & Funding.

The donation from Warings is still awaited. Steve Goodchild may need to chase. **SG**
Awaiting reply from Church House about a refund for meetings cancelled due to Covid. **DK**

3) Air Quality

Sigi had queried why RBC's Diffusion tube data for 2019 is showing lower readings at all sites. Ross Jarvis at RBC confirms that the readings are adjusted and suggests that the use of cleaner vehicles has contributed to the reduction. The meeting expressed scepticism that air pollution reading last year had really fallen by the amount claimed - more details needed from RBC. **(ST).**

4. Church Street Planters

Bob reported that the planter outside Coral has been repaired with a new panel. The next priority for refurbishment is the box at the corner of Church Rd outside Humos Aromatherapy. This was pencilled in for 20 September [**Update:** task date has been postponed until October]. **BB**

5. Bridge Street/Church Rd triangle improvements. Wendy has written to RBC Valuation Dept with a number of queries regarding possible sale of the land at the Triangle to Globe. There was concern over the liabilities and amount of work that would be involved. **WT.**

6. Autumn Cleanup Plastic Free Caversham would like to join us with another cleanup covering Hill's Meadow / View Island area. There would need to be appropriate social distancing and sanitising of litter pickers etc before and after use. Pre-booking and circulation of safety reminders would be done in advance by email, rather than signing-in on the day. Dave would discuss the details with Rachel at Plastic Free Caversham. **DK.** [**Update:** The event planned for 27 September has had to be cancelled, but we may arrange smaller ad-hoc cleanups - TBC]

7. 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.

200713 Reading Golf Course - plans for 260 houses. Sigi had sent a number of updates which Dean had circulated by Facebook. There were many objections including building on green space, removal of mature trees with replacement planting off-site, impact on traffic in Caversham (Peppard Rd already exceeds air pollution limits), impact on schools & doctors etc. Steve reported that EGRA would be objecting: 153 of 162 responses from EGRA members opposed the proposals. Objections had to be for material reasons. More details see www.keepemmergreen.com **The deadline for objections has been extended until 25 September. Globe to object. NH/DK**

8. Caversham Lakes A large swathe of vegetation has been cleared around the North Lake and permissive paths blocked off to construct an Open Water Swim & SUP centre. See site plan at <https://cavershamopenwaterswim.co.uk/> The area has effectively been a nature reserve for many years. Although in Caversham this comes under Eye&Dunsden parish, Dave is in contact with them about it. There has been no planning application so far. SODC has belatedly put a TPO on the remaining trees but there is concern that soil is piled up against the trunks of a row of prominent old oaks. **Keep in view**

9. Environment Agency Caversham & Reading Flood Defence proposals.

No updates since our last meeting. **Keep in view.**

10. 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.

11. Any other business.

a) **Keep Emmer Green** request to add a link to the Globe web site agreed - Now done.

b) **Land at Caversham Park Village** No further details 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 has expressed concern. **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.**

d) **GLOBE Key Members** Helen Sheldrake has resigned as a Key member owing to other commitments, so there is now a vacancy. The admin roles were discussed, Dean offered to upload docs to the web site and keep an eye on the emails. Dave would draft the minutes. Nick would help with climate change issues.

e) **Church House** had written to say that they are hoping to reopen the meeting rooms in September. It was agreed that our next Globe meeting would be online, but that we would hope to be able to resume meetings at Church House, initially with a smaller number of participants, subject to the latest Covid situation. **Keep in view.**

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 22 September at 7:30 pm - Video meeting via GoToMeeting. Thanks to NH for arranging it.