



## **MINUTES & ACTIONS, CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 27 October 2020 (video meeting - held online via GoToMeeting)**

**Chair:** NH      **Minutes:** DK

**Attendees:** Judith Barratt, Dave Kenny, Nick Haskins, Bob Busby, Chris Burden, Maggie Hawkes, Wendy Terry, Francis Hamley, Vickie Abel

**Apologies for absence:** Dean Ezra, Sigi Teer, Caroline Johnson

**Phil Bagge:** We were saddened to hear that Phil had died in the RBH on 12 October. Phil was a founder member of Caversham Globe and chaired the group for many years. He had a keen interest in all aspects of local history and the natural environment and had produced a very detailed riverside trail guide to the Hill's Meadow and View Island area in 1998. As a tribute to Phil we hope to re-publish this on the Globe web site.

**1). Minutes of last monthly meeting** held on 22 September 2020 were approved

### **2). Finance & Funding**

The donation from Warings is still due. Dave will contact Steve Goodchild to chase. **SG/DK**  
Our annual public liability insurance from Zurich is due for renewal - £279, same as last year. TCV Berkshire has once again kindly agreed to give us a £200 grant towards it. **DK**

### **3). Air Quality**

Sigi will request more details from RBC about the adjusted diffusion readings. An explanation is sought as to how the 2019 readings were so much lower at all sites. **ST**

### **4. Church Street Planters**

Bob is still in process of making the pegs to refurbish the planter box at the corner of Church Rd. The task will be arranged when weather permits. **BB**  
Dave will look to sourcing some primroses to brighten up the planters over winter. **DK**

**5. Bridge Street/Church Rd triangle improvements.** RBC Valuation Dept have advised Wendy that it will take two months for them to confirm the adoption of the grass Triangle. **WT.**

**6. Autumn Cleanup / Graffiti** The planned event was cancelled but ad-hoc cleanups by individuals or small groups with social distancing may still take place.  
Maggie reported that there is a lot of litter and flytipping around Hills Meadow  
Wendy reported litter in the Danall which is now visible following vegetation clearance by RBC. It was also noted that there was quite a lot of new graffiti around the area on various green boxes, bus shelters and on walls near Christchurch Bridge.  
Please contact Dave if you would like a litter picker or Graffiti wipes. **DK/VA/WT/MH**

### **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. It was noted that the EA were objecting on grounds of over-shading of the river and insufficient mitigation planting at the river edge.

**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** - application for 260 houses. There have been around 2,000 objections from local residents - this is reportedly a record number of comments on any planning application in Reading.

**8. Caversham Lakes** concern over vegetation clearance and structures around North Lake by <https://cavershamopenwaterswim.co.uk/> The permissive path remains blocked. Dave is in contact with Eye&Dunsden parish who are trying to set up a liaison meeting. SODC Planning application **P20/S3501/FUL** - does not fully reflect the developments on site. **Keep in view**

**9. Environment Agency Caversham & Reading Flood Defence proposals.**

No further updates to report. **Keep in view.**

**10. The Danall (Christchurch Ditch)** No further sewage leaks had been observed but Nick will follow up with Thames Water. **Keep in view. NH.**

**11. Church House** is now open for meetings, but we agreed to continue with virtual meeting for the time being. Church House will carry over our payment for 2019 **Keep in view.**

**12. Any other business.**

a) **Traveller encampments** The encampment was evicted from Thames Promenade after several months, but subsequently some moved to Cow Lane, Prospect Park and Hill's Meadow. With regard to Hill's Meadow, there is a lot of rubbish and litter around the area. RBC is attempting to evict but the process could take several weeks as there is currently a long delay in the courts. Rubbish will need be cleared up after they have moved on. Judith also reported a possible encampment of vans in the Milestone Centre car park. Any new encampments, or issues arising from encampments should be reported to [asb.team@reading.gov.uk](mailto:asb.team@reading.gov.uk)  
**Keep in view.**

b) **Cleaner Air & Safer Transport Forum.** Chris Burden will attend the next virtual forum on 3 December. **NH / CB**

c) **Trees in Church Road.** RBC has agreed to a request from the Oxford Diocese to fell two very prominent horse chestnuts on the river frontage in the Rectory garden which are ailing. They will be replaced with two large Dawn Redwoods (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*). Planning ref 201292. Vickie reported that there was no sign yet of the replacement lime tree, which was due to be planted in late October, by the Caversham Court entrance gate **Keep in view. VA**

d) **RBC vegetation cutting** Chris reported that RBC had been cutting back vegetation in Christchurch Meadows, it had opened up views but he was concerned about it being too tidy: areas of brambles etc need to be retained for habitat. Dave reported that cutting of grass on the Balmore Walk slope and the Globe hedge at Hills Meadow is still outstanding. The parks team has changed, we need to make contact with the new maintenance supervisor. **CB/DK**

**NEXT MEETING**

**Tuesday 24 November at 7:30 pm** - Virtual meeting via GoToMeeting..