



MINUTES & ACTIONS, CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 24 November 2020 (video meeting - held online via GoToMeeting)

Chair: NH **Minutes:** DK

Attendees: Judith Barratt, Dave Kenny, Nick Haskins, Chris Burden

Apologies for absence: Wendy Terry, Francis Hamley, Vickie Abel, Sigi Teer, Caroline Johnson, Margaret Skinner, Steve Goodchild

1). Minutes of last monthly meeting held on 27 October 2020 were approved

2). Finance & Funding

TCV insurance grant is still awaited. Keep in view. **DK**

3). Air Quality

Sigi has not yet had a response 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

i) 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**

ii) Caroline has offered to weed and tidy up the planters after lockdown is lifted. **CJ**

iii) RBC had contacted Globe to ask that we cut back shrubs on one of the planters on the BT frontage: they want to be able to access the area more easily as there had been reports of drug items. Three Globe supporters (socially distanced) carried out the work on Sunday, it is looking more open there now but plenty of greenery remains. RBC collected the arisings the next day.

5. Bridge Street/Church Rd triangle improvements. Wendy is still awaiting a response from RBC valuations about the proposed adoption of the grass Triangle. **WT.**

6. Litter & Graffiti issues

Wendy has offered to do a litterpick of the Danall in Christchurch Meadows . **WT**

There is a lot of litter around Hill's Meadow, which RBC will have to clear when the Travellers vacate the car park.

Quite a lot of new graffiti has been seen on various green boxes and on walls (eg by SSE & Christchurch Bridge). Please contact Dave if you would like a litter picker or Graffiti wipes.

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.

Update: application is expected to be approved at the January planning committee.

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. Update: Berkley Homes has submitted a detailed response to the various objections.

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 a record number of comments on any planning application in Reading. **Update:** this application has been withdrawn & a revised application is expected.

8. Caversham Lakes concern over vegetation clearance and structures built around North Lake by <https://cavershamopenwaterswim.co.uk/> The permissive path is reported to have reopened. SODC Planning application **P20/S3501/FUL** does not fully reflect the developments on site. Objections have been submitted by Eye&Dunsden Parish as well as holding objections from the S.Oxon Forestry Office, the Oxon Countryside Officer and the EA. Globe has been invited to attend a site liaison meeting with reps from the parish and Tarmac, due to be held next week. **DK**

9. Environment Agency Caversham & Reading Flood Defence proposals.

The EA have said the latest Ecology survey (carried out in July) will be ready in December: they will send us a copy. **Keep in view.**

10). The Danall (Christchurch Ditch) No further sewage leaks have been observed so the issue may have been resolved. However there is a lot of rubbish currently visible in the ditch following vegetation clearance by RBC. Wendy has kindly offered to do a litterpick. **WT**

11). Church House will carry over our payment for 2019 meetings until we can resume meetings there, but for the time being we will continue with virtual meetings. **Keep in view.**

12. Any other business.

a) **Traveller encampments** Concern was expressed over the Traveller encampment which has been in Hills Meadow car park for several weeks. There is a lot of litter/flytipping, and some anti social behaviour had been reported. The courts have given possession to RBC but this can't be enforced until after Lockdown is lifted on 2 December. Any new encampments, or issues arising from encampments should be reported to 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 and report back. **CB**

c) **Trees in Church Road.** A large new lime tree has now been planted by the entrance gate to Caversham Court to replace the lime felled earlier this year by the diocese. Two horse chestnuts in the rectory garden have been felled and replacement Dawn Redwoods planted. However the new redwoods were planted at either side of the garden rather than on the river frontage, so are not be as visible as the trees they are intended to replace. Planning ref 201292. **Closed.**

d) **RBC vegetation cutting** Chris expressed concern at the extent of vegetation clearance in Christchurch Meadows: some wild areas need to be retained, especially brambles which are important for butterflies. Dave has emailed Chris Capper at RBC to ask for an update on the cutting of grass on Balmore Walk slope, and the Globe hedge and grass mounds at Hills Meadow which have not yet been cut. A site meeting has been requested. **CB/DK**

e) **Next meeting** we don't usually have a Globe meeting in December, so the next meeting will be on 26 January 2021.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 26 January at 7:30 pm - Virtual meeting via GoToMeeting..