



MINUTES & ACTIONS, CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 23 February 2021 (virtual meeting - held online via GoToMeeting)

Chair: NH **Minutes:** DK

Attendees: Bob Busby, Caroline Johnson, Chris Burden, Dave Kenny, Dean Ezra, Judith Barratt, Lin Godfrey, Nick Haskins, Sigi Teer, Vickie Abel, Wendy Terry

1). Minutes of last monthly meeting held on 26 January were approved

2). Finance & Funding - Nothing new to report

3). Air Quality

Sigi reported that air quality readings for 2020 should be available by March. **ST**

The next meeting of CAST (Cleaner Air Safer Transport Forum) would be on 18 March. **NH / CB**

4. Church Street Planters

Bob has made some progress with manufacturing replacement pegs for the planters. The next planter to be repaired will be on the corner of Church Rd, after current restrictions are lifted. **BB**
Dave has found a possible source of sleeper-sized timber. **DK**

5. Bridge Street/Church Rd triangle improvements. WT is still awaiting paperwork from RBC valuations for the proposed adoption of the grass triangle. Meanwhile NH will approach Jo at RBC to try and speed up the process. (Update - NH contacted Jo and Andy in Neighbourhood services. Andy was put in contact with WT and he has put WT in contact with someone in valuations.). **WT / NH.**

6. Litter & Graffiti issues

Sigi reported that KEG (Keep Emmer Green) volunteers are now covering Marshland Square in addition to their other regular litterpicking areas. Dave mentioned the woodland bordering Southdown Rd/Stuart Close also needed attention. **ST**

7. Planning Applications

182252 Former Royal Mail site 80 Caversham Road Reading RG1 1AA . Application for 620 flats, 24 storeys (ex 658 flats, 25 storeys). Pending.

200188. SSE site, 55 Vastern Road. Demolition of buildings and construction of up to 11 storeys, with walkway from Christchurch bridge. Objection from the EA over biodiversity. Berkley Homes has submitted a detailed response to the various objections. Pending

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

201734 Rivermead - new leisure centre. Plans for new build on the car park to the east of the current building. Clarification is sought over the landscaping plans and the need to retain a number of existing trees which appear to be marked for removal. Globe has submitted comments. Keep in view. (Update: Developer has confirmed that most of the trees we queried will be retained.)

201876. Blewgarth, The Warren. Replacement boathouse. Cadra and Friends of Caversham Court Gardens have raised concerns over its impact on the river and conservation area. The EA has objected over its proximity to the river and flood risk. **Keep in view.**

210018 Reading Golf Course - outline application for demolition of golf house and new residential-led scheme with 257 dwellings. More details on the Keep Emmer Green web site <https://keepemmergreen.com/> Deadline for comments is 18 March. **Globe to object.**

P20/S3501/FUL Caversham Lakes Change of use of North Lake for recreation & sporting purposes (retrospective). There are a number of concerns about these proposals although the site operators (who lease the lake from Tarmac) have announced that it will fully open as an Aqua Park on 2 April - despite no planning permission yet. Oxfordshire County Council has now objected, along with objections from local residents, Eye & Dunsden Parish and the EA. Concern remains over the extent of vegetation clearance and installation of buildings on what is supposed to be a nature reserve. It was reported that work was ongoing - a huge area of the site has been covered with artificial grass and equipment for the aqua park purchased. **Keep in view**

8. Environment Agency Caversham & Reading Flood Defence proposals.

Concern was expressed over a survey being conducted by MP Matt Rodda in which questions appear to be loaded in support of the proposed flood scheme. The MP had also commented on social media about “serious flooding” in Caversham this winter. It is noted that the Environment Agency alerts for Mapledurham to Sonning during that period only said that flooding was “possible” and to be prepared. Indeed the alerts said that flooding of footpaths along the river was possible but stated that flooding of property was not expected in Caversham. Water levels in Caversham peaked at a lower level than in 2014 and water only covered part of the natural riverside meadows - which are intended to hold flood water. Unfortunately the Environment Agency flow monitor at Reading appears to have stop working during the flood.

9. Any other business.

- a) **The Moorings, Mill Green.** Residents have raised concerns about the cutting of trees and filling in part of the flood ditch by contractors working for new owners of The Moorings (the plot of land was sold in October 2020). They do not own the strip of land along the ditch (it is unregistered) but they appear to be trying to construct an access route over it to The Moorings. Future plans for the site are not known. RBC Highways and enforcement officers are understood to have visited. **Keep in view**
- b) **Next meeting** It was agreed that the March online Globe meeting would be a week later than usual on **Tuesday 30th March** to avoid a clash with other meetings on 23rd.

NEXT MEETING

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