



MINUTES & ACTIONS, CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 25 January 2022
(virtual meeting – held online via GoToMeeting)

Chair: NH

Minutes DK/WT

Attendees: Chris Burden, Dave Kenny, Jacopo Lanzoni, Judith Barratt, Nick Haskins, Sigi Teer, Wendy Terry, Wendy Rooke

Apologies – Bob Busby, Caroline Johnson, Vickie Abel

1. **Minutes of last monthly meeting** held on 30 November 2021 were approved
2. **Finance & Funding**
Issues with change of signatory on NatWest account ongoing. Judith is chasing. JB/BB.
Finance issue ongoing. Nick reported that Caversham traders did not meet in January.
3. **Air Quality**
Nothing to report. The RBC CAST (Cleaner Air Safer Transport) meetings were not felt to be very useful.
4. **Church Street Planters**
a) Nick is to arrange a future visit with his carpenter Graham to look at possible repairs. (BB/NH)
5. **Litter & Graffiti issues**
 - a) **Keep Caversham Tidy** continues to carry out a weekly cleanup event around Caversham on Saturday mornings. Joint events with Globe are being planned to cover the Hill's Meadow and Caversham Bridge/Thames prom areas. (Dates TBC)
 - b) **Graffiti** new graffiti and tags are appearing all over the area. Being cleaned promptly by RBC when reported via the Love Clean Streets App. Globe supporters are able to clean some of the green telecom boxes but need a supply of fast-drying green paint. Dave asked whether KEG would be interested in tackling some of the boxes in Emmer Green.
 - c) **Reading Festival** Nick attended a meeting on 6 December which proved to be useful: Festival Republic are aware that they need to do more over the issue of abandoned tents & litter. (NH)
6. **Christchurch Meadows & Hill's Meadow**
 - a) **Sewage in Dannall.** Nick had shown Thames Water the problem. Unsure if fixed yet, will need continuing checks.
 - b) **Shopping trolleys in the Thames.** A row of c20 trolleys tied together is thought to be in the river somewhere along Thames Prom. Needs to be located & removed.
 - c) **Sunken boats** to be removed by the EA soon. (Update: Now removed)
 - d) **Winter Wonderland** has left Hill's Meadow in a terrible state, they encroached on & damaged the planted wildlife area between the car park and towpath, which is supposed to be out of bounds to fairs etc. All of the log barriers have been removed, they left flytipped oil containers on site. Travellers have now moved onto the car park with littering, flytipping and ASB reported. RBC are very slow to deal with this issue.

7. Planning Applications – New or Updated planning applications:

NEW. 211843 Reading Golf Club. This 3rd application, now for 223 homes on the site, has generated a record number of over 4,000 objections. (Globe objection sent.) Planning committee meeting expected in March.

Meanwhile the Golf club and their developer have appealed over the refusal by RBC for their earlier application for 257 homes. This will likely now go to a planning Inquiry.

NEW 212061 Riverside Academy, Richfield Ave. Globe to comment over inadequate landscaping and minimal environmental mitigation of the new school.

NEW 212072 BBC Caversham Park. Conversion of mansion to 63 apartments, construction of 64 bed care home west of main building, 41 houses and 12 apartments on parkland east of the main building, 33 houses on Peppard rd frontage. *(Not an application yet as such but a scoping option for an environmental impact assessment)*

210544 Mill Green Footpath. Application to fill in flood ditch for vehicle access by the new owner of The Moorings. (Update: Application has been Refused)

200328 Vastern Court (The Range/Aldi etc) Outline permission for flats, offices, retail & leisure. **Developer has appealed, a planning Inquiry is underway**

210373 Pipers Island bar – conversion to residential. **The EA has now objected**

No change on these planning applications

182252 Former Royal Mail site 80 Caversham Rd– Application for 620 flats, 24 storeys.

P21/S2089/FUL Reading Golf Course application for a “Family Golf Centre” off Kidmore End Rd, has raised a large number of objections from local residents.

Awaiting decision from SODC.

P20/S3501/FUL Caversham Lakes – Change of use of North Lake for recreation and sporting purposes. *Refused by SODC, but the operators have said they will continue to operate while trying to get retrospective permission.*

211077: Reading School Boathouse, Thames Prom (off Cow lane). A new boathouse to replace one which burnt down. Utilitarian building needed softening with planting. RBCs ecologist has commented on the need for biodiversity.

8. Environment Agency Caversham & Reading Flood Defences proposals

The EA has confirmed that it will not be going ahead with this scheme. Many welcome this as flood walls and flood barriers would have been environmentally damaging. NH said that the EA funding should have been used instead for property-level flood measures.

- 9. Bridge Street Triangle.** RBC is selling the site and talking to a company wanting to install a digital signboard here. A meeting had been held with Globe, Cadra, RBC and the digital operator. Strong views were expressed that a digital sign here would be out of keeping with the conservation area, would cause light pollution and waste energy, and be a distraction to drivers. RBC may be willing to accept a community bid. Keep in view.

10. AOB

- a) Future Globe meetings.** After discussion it was agreed that we would return to meetings at Church House from February.
- b) Changes in RBC Parks & Streetcare Dept.** The department has been restructured into a new Street Scene Team headed by Chris Camfield. The current parks managers who have been the main point of contact with Globe over many years are leaving at the end of March.

- 11. Next meeting Tuesday 22 February at 7.15 pm – at CHURCH HOUSE, 59 Church Street, Caversham (next to Waitrose)**