



MINUTES & ACTIONS, CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 22 February 2022

Held at Church House

Chair: NH

Minutes DK/WT

Attendees: Andy Johnson, Bob O'Neill, Caroline Johnson, Chris Burden, Dave Kenny, Jacopo Lanzoni (Keep Caversham Tidy), Judith Barratt, Lin Godfrey, Nick Haskins, Richard Parry (KEG), Vickie Abel (FCCG), Wendy Terry, Wendy Rooke

Apologies – Dean Ezra, Sigi Teer

1) **Minutes of last GLOBE meeting** held online on 25 January 2022 were approved

2. Finance & Funding

Judith has chased NatWest again to try and resolve the change of signatory. JB/BB.

3. Church Street Planters

a) Nick will arrange for his carpenter Graham to look at possible repairs. (BB/NH)

4. Litter & Graffiti issues

a) **Keep Caversham Tidy** continues to carry out a cleanup event around Caversham most weeks on Saturday mornings. Joint events with Globe are being planned on 26 February at Hill's Meadow and on 12 March in the Caversham Bridge/Thames prom area.

b) **Graffiti** new graffiti tags are an ongoing problem. Being cleaned promptly by RBC when reported via the Love Clean Streets App. Globe also able to clean smaller areas including the green telecom boxes. Nick would ask Chris Camfield to supply us with green paint (NH)

c) **Flytipping** was reported opposite the Pack Saddle just outside the Reading boundary. As this is in SODC its best to report on fixmystreet.com as SODC do not use the Love Clean Streets app. (RON)

5. Christchurch Meadows & Hill's Meadow

a) **Sewage in Dannall**. Not observed recently, continue checking.

b) **Shopping trolleys in the Thames**. Location of the trolleys tied together along Thames Prom. needs to be located & removed when river levels are lower.

c) **Sunken boats** near Caversham Bridge have now been removed by the EA.

d) **Hill's Meadow** had been left in a terrible state by Winter Wonderland which had encroached on & damaged the planted wildlife area between the car park and towpath. Nick has asked RBC Parks if logs from recently felled trees could be used to reinstate the barrier, but after discussion it was felt that a small earth barrier would be more permanent and could be planted with wildflowers. Nick had also written to Keir at RBC about the issue. (NH)

- e) **Willow trees.** Lin reported that two large willows had collapsed into the Danall ditch in the recent storm. (Has been reported to RBC-DK)
- f) **Geese mess** Lin raised the problem of mess on the towpath. Although RBC was regularly sweeping the path it was still an issue. (LG)

6. Planning Applications – New or Updated planning applications:

211843 Reading Golf Club. Shock was expressed over the recommendation by RBC planning officer to approve the latest application for 223 homes on the site. It has generated over 4,500 objections. The planning committee meeting had been brought forward to 2 March. KEG organised a demonstration at the Council Offices which was attended by over 200 people, and was supported by Globe members. (Update: Despite all of the objections the RBC planning committee approved the application on 2 March. The decision has been referred to the Secretary of State by one of the Peppard ward councillors over concerns that the application was pre-determined and could have regional and national significance as well as local.)

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

212061 Riverside Academy, Richfield Ave. Concerns over inadequate landscaping and minimal environmental mitigation of the new school. Globe has sent comments. Similar concerns have also been raised by Cadra and RBCs Design Preview Panel.

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. RBC has determined that a 'Screening Option' will be required under environmental impact legislation.

211077: Reading School Boathouse, Thames Prom (off Cow lane). A new boathouse to replace one which burnt down. Utilitarian building needed softening with planting.

[**UPDATE:** This application has now been approved, with a condition requiring a soft landscaping & habitat enhancement plan to be approved prior to any construction commencing]

NEW The Warren It was noted that three plots along the Warren were up for sale including Willowbrae (a riverside plot), and a plot on the wooded Escarpment. Concerns were raised that this plot is being inappropriately marketed by estate agents as a potential building plot.

NEW: Lower Henley Rd. The former advertising hoarding site is being used to store cars, it looks like a commercial operation. Has been referred to RBC to investigate. Similarly situation in a vacant former back garden plot on the corner of Mill Rd and Kings Rd.

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.*

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*

7. **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.

8. **AOB**

a) **Vegetation** from an overgrown hedge had been dumped at the top of the Chiltern Rd footpath. It was recommended this be reported to RBC on Love Clean Streets (WR)

b) **KEG** is planting a new hedge around the perimeter of the green outside Budgens on Peppard Rd. It would be kept cut to 4ft high so as not to block views. (RP)

c) **Memorial trees**. Bob suggested the planting of a memorial tree or trees as to three founding members of Caversham Globe - Jean Newbury, Jennifer Millest and Phil Bagge. Possible location in Christchurch Meadows. *Please contact Dave if you would like to contribute towards funding.*

9. **Next meeting Tuesday 22 March at 7.15 pm – at CHURCH HOUSE**