



Caversham GLOBE – Annual Report on activities in 2021 (covering the period from April 2021 to March 2022)

INTRODUCTION. This report is a summary of GLOBE supporters' work and the group's contributions during 2021 to a cleaner more pleasant locality. Caversham GLOBE group is over 20 years old. The group, originally set up by RBC with funding and support, is now completely independent of the council. It aims to improve the local environment for the benefit of residents & wildlife by taking practical action and influencing policy & planning decisions.

GLOBE MEETINGS During all of 2021 Globe's monthly meetings were held online using the GoToMeeting platform. Meetings at Church House resumed in February 2022.

CHURCH STREET PLANTERS The 20 RBC wooden planter boxes along Church Street and Church Road continue to be maintained, planted and watered by GLOBE volunteers. However a number of the wooden structures are deteriorating. Although some repairs have been carried out, more work will be needed to stop them deteriorating further, and longer term replacements are being sought.

CLEANER CAVERSHAM. Group clean-ups resumed following the lifting of lockdown restrictions and some joint clean-ups with Keep Caversham Tidy have also taken place. We also continue to support Reading Borough Councils RAYS (Reading Adopt Your Street) scheme

Graffiti cleaning - The cleaning of graffiti has been undertaken by some Globe members which is much appreciated as there has been a significant increase since the start of 2022. Reports made to RBC have in some cases been slow to be acted upon.

Thanks to all supporters who invest their time to make Caversham a lot tidier and cleaner.

PARKS & OPEN SPACES - GLOBE supporters monitor local parks, rivers and open spaces. Concerns were raised over damage caused by commercial businesses running events in Hill's Meadow. The wildlife area is supposed to be out of bounds to commercial users of the car park site and this area was protected by log barriers to avoid encroachment, these have been moved and not yet reinstated by RBC. Problems with water flow and sewage in the Danall were reported to RBC and Thames Water.

TREES – Globe liaises with Reading Tree Wardens and RBC over tree issues and raised a number of issues. In late 2021 Globe provided support to a group of residents in Emmer Green involved in the planting of a replacement hedge at the Emmer Green recreation ground.

BRIDGE STREET TRIANGLE - Globe members expressed concern over the sale of the site by RBC and the possibility following the sale of a digital sign on the site which is in St Peter's Conservation Area. RBC were informed of these concerns.

PLANNING MATTERS GLOBE monitors RBC and South Oxfordshire planning applications close to the Reading boundary, including applications for work on protected trees. During 2021 major planning matters that occupied GLOBE's time and attention included:

Reading Golf Course – Globe objected to two separate applications for a substantial housing development of over 230 houses on the Golf Course. The first application was refused in August 2021 but the second, to build over 230 houses, was approved in March 2022. GLOBE provided support to KEG (Keep Emmer Green) which was campaigning to protect the Golf Club and other open spaces in Emmer Green from development.

Caversham Lakes – Globe raised concerns over vegetation clearance and construction of an aqua park without planning permission and in an area partly designated as a nature reserve. Planning permission was refused by South Oxfordshire District Council but the operation is continuing despite this and SODC does not appear to be taking enforcement action. Globe continues to monitor.

Caversham Park - Globe objected to the planning application on the grounds of loss of green space, loss of veteran trees and the fact that houses are proposed on part of the listed parkland and inappropriate housing is proposed along the Peppard Road boundary. The progress of the application is being monitored.

Environment Agency Caversham & Reading Flood Defence - Globe raised concerns over the proposed flood defence scheme and members attended several meetings relating to the proposals. It was announced at the end of 2021 that the EA was not proceeding with the scheme.

LIAISON WITH OTHER LOCAL GROUPS

GLOBE liaises with many other local groups including CADRA, Friends of Caversham Court Gardens, Caversham Traders Association, Econet, Reading Tree Wardens, Caversham RAYS, Keep Emmer Green (KEG). We also participate in North Reading Safer Neighbourhood Forum.

FINANCES Our public liability insurance fees were partly covered thanks again to funding from Earley Charities through the Berkshire office of The Conservation Volunteers (TCV).

Local publicity GLOBE has a website and Facebook pages where events are publicised and details of meetings are available. Our **web site** and **Facebook** pages are kept updated www.cavershamglobe.org.uk and <https://www.facebook.com/cavershamglobe>

Volunteers: The GLOBE group relies on the active support, time and expertise of a dedicated group of supporters and residents. More participants are always welcome to initiate, lead or help with projects. There is no financial subscription or formality to joining in our activities, which are covered by public liability insurance. The group holds evening meetings monthly on the 4th Tuesday.