



Caversham GLOBE - Annual Report 2010

Caversham GLOBE aims to improve and protect green spaces for the benefit of local residents and wildlife by taking practical action on the ground, as well as influencing policy and planning decisions. Our activities in 2010 have involved maintenance and improvement projects, where local people have been planting trees, clearing litter clearance and removing graffiti. We have also done a lot of other important work, such as responding on local parks and open spaces policies, having formal and site meetings with RBC Councillors and Officers, researching and responding on planning applications. The following report provides a summary of our work during 2010. Further information is available on request.

(This report covers our activities in the calendar year from January to December 2010)

New Trees were planted by Caversham GLOBE in February-March 2010 as follows:

Picton Way - 2 x autumn flowering cherries

Balmore Park Surgery, Hemdean Rd - 1 x field maple

Buckingham Drive verge - hornbeam (replacement)

Peppard Rd verge - wild cherry (replacement) ***

The Cloisters, Priest Hill - hornbeam (to replace TPO trees which had died)

All above were watered regularly during the summer.

*** This tree was subject to vandalism in early July and will need to be replaced.

RESCUE (Rivers & Environmental Spaces Clean-up) 9-10 March 2010 GLOBE organised following:

Hills Meadow - 12 bags of litter, a shopping trolley, various scrap wood, metal and plastic

Caversham Cemetery, Victoria Rd - Unemptied bins cleared and litter picked area - 11 sacks.

Church Rd/Bridge St - litterpicked area, especially the grassed area by advertising hoarding

Thames Prom/Richfield Ave area - approx 11 bags of rubbish from around ditch, shopping trolley, & glass bottles (recycled)

Additional litterpicking was carried out in November 2010 as follows:

Footpaths behind Caversham Centre - School Lane, Promenade Rd area - 11 sacks of litter

Footpath behind Chiltern Road - 6 sacks of litter

Liaised with Reading Borough Council Parks Dept over landscaping and other issues affecting:

Balmore Walk, Beech Wood, Caversham Cemetery (Victoria Rd), Christchurch Meadows, Clayfield Copse, Furze Platt, Hill's Meadow, King's Meadow, Mill Green, Picton Way footpath, Thames Promenade, View Island, Warren Woodlands

Christchurch Meadows / Hills Meadow consultations: On site meetings and presentations from RBC officers at GLOBE meetings on management plans. Ongoing.

Liaised with other local community organisations:

Caversham & District Residents Association (CADRA),

Emmer Green Residents' Association (EGRA),

Friends of Caversham Court Gardens (FCCG)

Reading Urban Wildlife Group (RUWG),

Eye & Dunsden parish (covers Caversham lakes area).

GLOBE members regularly attend meetings of **Econet**, the **Reading Globe Alliance (Trega)** and the **Green City & Open Spaces Forum**.

Caversham GLOBE has registered as a Founder member of **Reading Cultural Partnership** with particular interest in the partnership's 'sustainability' theme.

We are also part of **GREN**, the 'Greater Reading Environmental Network' which brings together groups and individuals around Reading who care about sustainability, environment, climate change, conservation and planning issues.

RBC Tree Strategy - detailed response from GLOBE sent on draft tree strategy (April 2010)
Site meetings held with RBC officers Andy Gillespie, Ben Oates and Richard Stimpson regarding trees in Balmore Walk, Buckingham Drive/Peppard Rd, Warren Woodlands.
Globe also intends to support the new **Reading Tree Warden Scheme**

RBC Site Allocations / Details Policies Document & Proposals Map. GLOBE sent detailed comments on the latest consultation. (March 2010)

At our November meeting we had a guest speaker from **Earley Environmental Group** who gave an interesting talk about their work.

RBC Grant & insurance In early 2010 RBC notified all the GLOBE groups that they would not in future be eligible for Core Funding, nor would the Council pay for Insurance for the GLOBE groups after 30 April 2011 (when the previous policy was due to expire). Caversham GLOBE provided evidence to RBC that this move was contrary to commitments made in 2006 when it was agreed that future core funding grants would be available in lieu of direct admin support (previously provided by RBC). Caversham councillors took up the matter and, since the change of administration, we have been assured that GLOBE groups will again be eligible for core funding grants. The insurance was renewed by RBC until August 2011.

South Oxon Site Allocations We continue to monitor applications from developers for building in rural areas adjacent to the Caversham boundary.

Planning Applications GLOBE continues to monitor planning applications, including applications for work on protected trees. Comments are submitted as time permits, particularly with regard to environmental issues. One recent application of great concern was for the felling of a historic cedar tree at **Rosehill House**. Representations have been made to RBC officers and ward councillors and as well as direct to the residents committee at Rosehill House in an effort to save this tree. Representations have also been made about the trees in **St Martin's Precinct**. Comments were sent in on a planning application for railway land in **Napier Road**. An objection was sent to a planning application which would affect a TPO tree in **Kidmore Road**

GLOBE members continue to tackle graffiti around the Caversham area on an ad hoc basis and to regularly report issues to RBC officers and the local police as appropriate.

GLOBE is participating in the council's monthly **Environment Visual Audits**

Caversham GLOBE's web site is regularly updated with news and documents

Battery Recycling scheme GLOBE members continue to collect batteries from four shops around Caversham. These are taken monthly to central RBC collection points to be sent for recycling.

Caversham 100 years on Caversham GLOBE has agreed to take part in events to mark the 100th anniversary of Caversham's incorporation into Reading in 1911. We are intending to prepare a display on our natural heritage and open spaces.