



## Caversham GLOBE – Brief Annual Report on 2018 activities

**INTRODUCTION.** This 2018 report provides a summary of GLOBE supporters' work and the group's contributions during 2018 to a cleaner more pleasant locality. Caversham GLOBE group is now more than 20 years old. The group, originally set up by RBC with funding and support but now completely independent of the council, aims to improve and protect green spaces for the benefit of residents & wildlife by taking practical action on the ground and influencing policy & planning decisions. Much has changed since the early days of the GLOBE groups in Reading in the late-1990s when there was abundant and active Council sponsorship, liaison, support and cooperation on many projects. In the current challenging times the group continues to make a difference locally due to a core group of activists and the continued support of interested residents. Much more could be done if more residents would contribute to our work.

### 1. PARKS, TREES AND GREEN SPACES

There are a lot of **trees and hedges planted by GLOBE** over the past 20 years that continue to enhance various parks, public spaces and private land. GLOBE liaises with RBC Councillors/Officers, the Reading Tree Wardens and, residents groups (CADRA & EGRA) on landscaping, litter and other issues concerning many green and open spaces.

**The 20 RBC wooden Planters** along Church Street and Church Road continue to be planted with seasonal bedding plants then watered, tidied and maintained. The structural framework has been treated and repairs made. Partial or total rebuilding using replacement timber has also been done on several of these planters. Thanks to the resourceful GLOBE activists for their good work.

**Thames Parks, including Christchurch Meadows, Hill's Meadow and View Island.** The hedge by the laundry was partially re-planted by GLOBE supporters in early 2018. The group also monitored concerns over the felling of poplars. We cleaned rubbish and tree debris obstructing **The Danall**, which is a regular occurrence. Thorough litter picking was also done. Regular contact with RBC Parks officials is a necessary component for these matters.

**Baltimore Walk** – Occasional litter picking and local maintenance of some hedging and newly planted saplings.

**Richfield Avenue and adjacent green spaces** – Major litter pick in March 2018.

**2. PLANNING MATTERS** GLOBE monitors RBC and SODC planning applications, including applications for work on protected trees. Site meetings and consultations are attended, comments and objections are submitted, as time permits, particularly regarding environmental and landscaping issues. During 2018 major planning matters that occupied GLOBE's time and attention included: The CAGE Dunsden campaign that defeated proposals for building on farmland north of Emmer Green; The East Reading MRT scheme that could alter forever the Thames/Kennet confluence; The Environment Agency's proposals for a massive flood defences scheme – from which GLOBE initiated the current (2019) CABFAS Campaign; KEG (Keep Emmer Green) campaign against building on Reading Golf Club and other open space in Emmer Green; Small infill housing development on Abbotsmead Place and Blenheim Road; Extension of facilities on Westfield Rec and St Anne's School Field for the Heights Primary School; St Martins precinct residential and commercial development and landscaping along Church Street.

### 3. CLEANER CAVERSHAM

**During 2018 GLOBE supporters** collected from public spaces the following: more than **103 sacks of rubbish (including 34 sacks of cans and plastic bottles for recycling), more than 350 glass bottles for recycling, plus fly tipped metal, wood and plastic debris, vehicle tyres, drugs needles and related items.** During the Reading Festival 8 volunteers carried out daily litter picking to keep central Caversham clean over the long weekend. Thanks to all those people who invested their time to make Caversham a lot cleaner.

**RBC operates a “Residents Adopt Your Street” scheme** known as RAYS. GLOBE promotes this and co-operates with RBC Streetcare. Some GLOBE activists are RAYS members who keep a designated area free of litter. GLOBE supporters report issues such as fly tipping, graffiti, abandoned shopping trolleys, potholes, defective street lights etc either direct to RBC or through the **Love Clean Reading** technology app. GLOBE supporters also take personal direct action to clean or paint over graffiti & clear litter & fly tipping.

**Air Quality in central Caversham.** The poor air quality measurements taken at four locations showed illegal levels of nitrogen dioxide in central Caversham. This resulted in requests for remedial action by RBC. We published articles in the Caversham Bridge monthly newspaper, we wrote to RBC Councillors and highlighted the matter publicly in various forums. There was very little progress. A summary of the issues can be accessed at <http://cavershamglobe.org.uk/articles/the-silent-killer-on-cavershams-busy-roads-2018/>

#### **4. OTHER MATTERS**

**Finances** Our costs of monthly meeting room hire were met from current funds. Our public liability insurance fees were partly covered by the Trust for Conservation Volunteers (TCV). We benefited from donations from local businesses whose names are visible on our website. A separate financial report for 2018 is available.

**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](http://www.cavershamglobe.org.uk) and <https://www.facebook.com/cavershamglobe>

**Purchase of Hi-Viz tabards** We purchased 25 additional hi-viz tabards for use when working on GLOBE projects.  
**Purchase of GLOBE business cards** – a supply of these contact cards was obtained for publicity purposes.

**New Data Protection Statement.** Following new legislation known as GDPR in May 2018, GLOBE, in common with many organisations, implemented revised administration to ensure compliance.

**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 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday.

Richard Denney, Key Member,  
Caversham GLOBE June 2019

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