Go Local On a Better Environment

DRAFT MINUTES & ACTIONS, CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 25 June 2019

Attendees

Richard Denney, Dave Kenny, Dean Ezra, Bob Busby, Nick Haskins (Chair NRSNF), Helen Sheldrake, Francis Hamley, Jo Ramsey, Steve Goodchild, Marielle Mouyon. Chris Burden, Maggie Hawkes.

Apologies for absence:
Judith Baratt, Vickie Abel, Caroline Johnson, Wendy Terry, Margaret Skinner, Jean Newbery, Isabella Pietrzak, Len Smith.

ACHIEVEMENTS, UPDATES, PRIORITIES & NEW ITEMS:

Minutes of last monthly meeting held on 28 May 2019 were approved with minor change. Matters arising were discussed/noted below, with additional items added as discussed in this current meeting.

1. **Poor Air Quality (AQ) in Caversham – first raised January 2018 – See previous meeting notes.** This matter will be referred to the newly formed RBC "Cleaner Air and Safer Transport Forum" as discussed at May meeting. Richard contacted Ross Jarvis, Senior Environmental Health Officer at RBC – his comment: "*RBC plan to start the process or reviewing our air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) later this year and the Transport team are renewing the transport plan as well. The two documents will be closely linked, both will look to introduce measures to improve air quality through reducing congestion and in the case of the AQAP other non-transport related measures*" So no imminent solutions! Re National Clean Air Day on 20 June, the only RBC action that took place was described by Marielle, who attended a session, as brief and a waste of time with "no idling" aimed mainly at taxi drivers.
   Agreed that GLOBE will pursue (1) Get RBC to plant 2 trees on Church Road to replace bollards on the wide pavement and offer some funding of up to £350 **Dean/Dave to progress**, also (2) and to request RBC "no idling" posters for display at our specified locations with high incidence of queuing traffic. **Marielle to investigate.**

2. **Finance matters. Sources of Grants and Donations to ensure GLOBE group's future and funding of project**. Decided to spend the Heights School PTFA donation on trees for Church Road to combat poor AQ (see 1 above). Re Farmer & Dyer Estate Agents funding for a GLOBE project, this needs decision. The need for some regular sponsorship based on the Tilehurst GLOBE model was agreed, with **Bob and Steve to develop how this could work**. **Review next meeting**

3. **Christchurch/Hill's Meadows and riverside green spaces.** Noted that RBC are rebuilding the culvert that takes the Danall under George Street in Hill's Meadow and that a section of the GLOBE hedge had to be removed to gain access of equipment. Chris reported seeing a small sycamore being vandalized by a nearby resident – this type of nuisance should be reported to RBC. Also noted that the area of Christchurch Meadows recently re-seeded by RBC has not recovered.

4. **Environment Agency Flood Defence proposals.** The www.cabfas.org Campaign for a better flood alleviation scheme is challenging the basis for these controversial proposals, the consultation process and related issues. Next CABFAS meeting is on 2 July invited attendees only. GLOBE needs more direct dialogue with the EA about our specific concerns and **Dave will follow up.**
   . **Update at next meeting**

5. **Reading Golf Course** - the club plans to relocate and develop Caversham Heath Golf Club and sell the current site to a developer. KEG https://www.keepemmergreen.com/ has forwarded helpful suggestions on how residents can comment on a new consultation on Part of Reading Golf Club, CA1b, in the RBC re-worded local plan. This is a detailed list contained in a separate email that will now be forwarded to all GLOBE supporters for individual personal response as preferred. **Helen to forward the email from KEG dated 20 June to all GLOBE supporters.**

6. **Planters on Church Street**. Bob has been working at rLab on the timber for planter repair 0n Church Road but more timber to rebuild or repair other failing planters is required. The finished timber sizes needed for various repairs are ideally Width: 135 mm (5 5/16") Thickness: 63.5 mm (2 1/2") Lengths: Short: 832 mm (32 3/4") Long: 1735 mm (68 5/16" Larger size can be cut by Bob. If anyone has sources willing to supply or donate any of these sizes of hardwood, please contact Bob Busby. Plants are looking healthy and do improve the streetscape. **Project ongoing**

7. **Reading Climate Change Partnership** Helen reported back on this event that she attended - launch of the consultation on the third Reading Climate Change Strategy (2020-25) on 13 June see https://readingcan.org.uk/events/event/third-reading-climate-strategy-launch-event At the event Helen made contact with new Caversham Ward Councillor Ayo Sokale who subsequently emailed indicating a desire to work with GLOBE on AQ concerns going forward**. Helen to invite Ayo to join GLOBE mailing list.**

8. **Planning Application 190835** Demolition of 199-203 Henley Road and erection of part four, part three and part two storey 82 unit residential care home building (C2 use class) with associated external structures, access from Henley Road, car parking and landscaping. GLOBE concerns about number of trees under threat. **Dave will comment to RBC**

9. **Encouraging the planting of flowers**. Jo questioned whether RBC would allow grass verges to be planted as other towns have done. There is a local group for garden lovers who want to create a trail https://www.facebook.com/groups/gardenloverstrail for garden lovers. There is also a FB group https://www.facebook.com/guerrillagardeningreading who have planted flowers on Vastern Road near the railway station multi-storey car park. Habitats for pollinators would be a positive benefit.

ITEMS TO NOTE BUT WITH NO CHANGE SINCE LAST MEETING

10. **Residents please report** any issues through the **Love Clean Reading App** go to **http://loveclean.reading.gov.uk/help or at www.fixmystreet.com**

11. **RAYS (Reading Adopt Your Street)** At RBC Nicola Woods is now running this scheme for people to adopt their local road, park or open space especially where litter hotspots occur. People can get a litter picker, hi-viz and bags supplied. Ring for info on 0118 937 3534 or email rays@reading.gov.uk

12. **Planning Application number 181151 Abbotsmead Place Erection of a two-storey building to provide 2x1-bed flats** Revised plans with minor changes have been submitted. **Keep in view**

13. **Planning application 180499 St Martin's Precinct developments.** Comments had been submitted about height of buildings and the need to include trees and planters on the Church Street frontage as part of the scheme. Requested Councillor Barnett-Ward to urge the planning officer to add a landscaping condition for 5 planters (or trees). **No change**

14. **Proposed Development on the SSE site opposite Christchurch Bridge.** A public consultation on revised plans took place on this major residential development – see http://www.vasternroad.co.uk/ Planning application expected soon. **keep in view**

15. **Car wash on Hill's Meadow** awaiting planting of new tree by operator. **Keep in view**

16. **Reading Canoe Club river clean up in early September – date to be announced**.

17. **Any other business**.
    - Photos of the shameful rubbish left by travellers at Rivermead recently.
    - Noted that the "Prosecco in the Park" proposed festival has been withdrawn.

NEXT MEETING

Next Monthly meeting Tuesday 23 July 7 pm at Church House, Church Street, Caversham.