



MINUTES & ACTIONS, CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 26 November 2019

Chair: DE **Minutes:** DK

Attendees: Bob Busby, Dean Ezra, Dave Kenny, Nick Haskins, Jo Cushley (KEG), Caroline Johnson, Chris Burden

Apologies for absence: Helen Sheldrake, Judith Barratt, Steve Goodchild, Isabella Pietrzak, Len Smith, Sigi Teer, Vickie Abel, Wendy Terry, Francis Hamley, Jean Newbery, Richard Denney

Minutes of last monthly meeting held on 24 September 2019 were approved.

1 Air Quality (AQ)

Ongoing concern over AQ in Caversham was discussed at length, along with suggestions on possible actions GLOBE could take. **DE** confirmed that Cllr Barnett-Ward would support our request for trees on Church Road to replace some of the bollards. **HE** is attending meetings of RBCs Cleaner Air & Safer Transport Forum. **DE** suggested GLOBE objects to all major planning applications until the air pollution issue is addressed by RBC, as more vehicles would mean more pollution. **CB** suggested Caversham needed a smoke-free campaign.

2 Finance & Funding.

Steve Goodchild is in the process of contacting local businesses to try and get them to sponsor GLOBE. BB was providing assistance. **BB SG**

Following further discussion it was agreed that there is no need to amend the constitution as it already covers us to carry out fundraising as necessary.

3 Environment Agency Flood Defence proposals.

The EA has cancelled all meetings with local groups until after the elections so possible changes to the flood defence proposals were not now likely to be made public until January.

An event at the Civic Centre organised by Cllr Ayo Sokale with Chris Beard from the EA was cancelled at very short notice due to the elections; it is rescheduled for 18 December.

4 Church Street Planters

WT was thanked for sweeping up the crab apples from the pavement.

DK had bought winter bedding (48 x primula) and planted them. There were fewer gaps now as the shrubs have grown out, which has saved considerably on the cost of winter bedding this year.

NH was arranging a working party on 1 December to attempt to re-align one of the planters.

Bob has the parts to rebuild one of the planters on the corner of Church Rd which has deteriorated. Working party to be arranged when weather conditions permit. **BB**

A problem with clothing, bedding and other detritus dumped behind the BT planters had been raised with the ASB team (Update: This was all cleared away on 27 November)

5 Planning Applications

191088 **Crowne Plaza** Richfield Avenue RG1 8BD – Redevelopment of the hotel's car park and construction of new 132 bed hotel, with associated access, car parking and landscaping. Cadra has objected. Keep in view.

190451 **SSE, 55 Vastern Road** Revised plans had been shown to GLOBE at a meeting with the developers and also at a public exhibition on 15 October. Although it was generally felt that the plans were an improvement, albeit still too high, concern was expressed over the lack of proposed new trees along the river frontage (a commitment given to GLOBE at previous meetings). This had been drawn to attention of RBC planners. Planning application likely soon.

182252 **80 Caversham Road** Reading RG1 1AA (former Sorting Office). Application for 658 flats. Decision is awaited.

181151 **Abbotsmead Place** – erection of a two storey building to provide 2 x 1-bed flats. Amendments to the landscaping plan shows new hedge and tree planting but removal of some existing sycamore trees. **Planning permission now Approved. (closed)**

180499 **St Martin's Precinct developments**. Decision still awaited.

Vastern Road Station Shopping Park Redevelopment – A second exhibition with revised plans was held on 30-31 October. Concerns focused on the height of the development and particularly on the loss of large retail outlets i.e Aldi & The Range. Application is expected soon.

Any other business.

Reading Local Plan Jo reported that the Local Plan has now been adopted by RBC. It restricts building on Reading Golf Course to 90-130 homes with the rest of the site retained as open space for golf/leisure. However Reading Golf Course is believed to be working with developers on a much larger development, contrary to the adopted Local Plan.

Cutting of 800 saplings at Palmer Park This had been widely reported in the national & local press. A number of GLOBE members had taken part in the original planting in 2016-17. RBC has now committed to replanting of all 800 saplings along with several additional larger trees.

Launch of Trees for Reading This new project organised by Ethical Reading with support from the Tree Wardens and RBC is raising money from businesses for new trees in the town. The launch was held today at Thames Lido with the first new tree planted on King's Meadow.

River Clean Up has been postponed until the Spring. **NH**

Graffiti cleaning kit - DK has purchased a stock of Graffiti wipes for GLOBE which are proving to be very effective at removing small areas of graffiti. (available to Globe supporters on request).

GLOBE Christmas meeting - traditionally we have met in the pub for a pre-Christmas social meeting. NH has kindly offered to host a meeting again this year. Details / Date TBC

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 28 January 2020 - 7.30 pm at Church House, Church Street, Caversham.