Go Local On a Better Environment

MINUTES & ACTIONS, CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 21 May 2024
Held in the Upstairs Meeting Room at The Griffin

Chair: NH **Minutes** DK

Attendees: Bob Busby, Dave Kenny, Judith Barratt, Lin Godfrey, Nick Haskins, Tim Castle, Vickie Abel, Caroline Johnson, Andy Johnson, Jacopo Lanzoni,

Apologies: Wendy Terry, Francis Hemley, Chris Burden.

1) Minutes of last Globe meeting held at The Griffin on 26 March 2024 were approved.

2) Finance and Funding Nick has a meeting on 24 May with Festival Republic and will discuss with them possible funding for a new planter (NH/BB).

3) Church Street Planters These are looking good thanks to all the recent rain. Caroline has circulated a rota for watering over the summer and has some bedding plants to go in, but there is currently not much space. When the shrubs have finished flowering they can be cut back which will make a bit more room (CJ).

4) Litter and Graffiti. A Globe litterpick at the Warren Escarpment was carried out on 13 April. A third litterpick at Milestone Woods has been postponed until the winter when the vegetation will have died back.

The long-term litter problem in the Salters/River Spice car park has been resolved.

Graffiti. There is a lot of graffiti on house walls in George Street and on the side of the Convenience store at the corner of Washington Rd. Dave will raise this with Thames Ward councillors. Jacopo (Caversham ward) would follow about graffiti on the convenience store at the corner of Washington rd.

5) Christchurch Meadows and Thames Parks.
a) River Thames Nick has a meeting with the EA this week and will again raise the problem of the sunken boats as well as the build-up of detritus in the river around Pipers Island and at the weir. (NH).
b) Hills Meadow. A small bund is still needed to prevent encroachment into the wildlife area by Winter Wonderland and circuses & fairs that use the site.
c) The Danall Following clearance work earlier in the year, the Danall has is flowing again. However part of the bank has collapsed near to Heron Island/Mill Rd with large stone blocks in the middle of the stream. Nick to raise with EA/RBC.
e) View Island. Brambles badly need cutting back along all paths and around the benches, two benches and bins are now almost cut off by brambles. Dave to raise with Pedro or Chris Wheeler. (LG/DK)

6) Chilterns AONB Extension Still waiting for the start of the public consultation by Natural England, expected to start later this year. Keep in view. (WT/DK).

7) Planning Matters.

Brindles, Kidmore End Rd (240403) Residents raised concerns with Globe over application for 9 houses on a green field site. Pre-emptive felling of mature trees took place in January. Globe has objected to loss of green space and biodiversity, removal of trees & over-development of the site.

Caversham Park Planning applications **220409 & 220410**. Amended plans have been submitted but Historic England maintains their objection because of proposed building on part of the listed parkland east of the mansion. [**Update**: The planning application has been approved by RBC. It includes public access to the grounds which will be welcome.]

Caversham Lakes The operator has now vacated the site following refusal of the retrospective planning application.

Persian Palace The EA has objected strongly to the retrospective application for the extension built over the river. Decision still awaited by RBC. Keep in view
[**Update**: RBC has reused the application.]

Caversham Rd/Vastern Rd RBC is going to the High Court to try and overturn the ruling by a government minister to allow a major scheme on the Royal Mail Site which had been rejected by RBC and the planning inspector. [**Update:** RBC had to withdraw the appeal at the last minute on a technicality. Its presumed the building will now go ahead.]

8) Advertising Hoarding Sites

a) George Street Triangle This remains an eyesore and ongoing concern.

b) Donkin Hill Triangle. The former advertising hoarding site at the bottom of Donkin Hill is being used for car sales without planning permission. Local residents have raised this with RBC planning. A retrospective planning application or enforcement is awaited.

c) Bridge Street Triangle Although the future of the site remain uncertain, RBC is cutting the grass regularly and is currently looking ok. (The other two hoarding sites above are privately owned)

9) AOB

a) Last Crumb. Meeting expressed concern over delays to rebuilding of the Balmore Walk boundary wall. [**Update:** The wall has since been rebuilt using traditional bricks & the original coping stones. The pub has also been repainted.].
b) Petition for Church Rd crossing. Vickie raised concerns from residents and St Peters Church about the difficulty of crossing Church Road outside Caversham Court. There is no safe crossing point for pedestrians anywhere near to the gardens. A petition to call for a 20 mph speed limit and signage to slow traffic was circulated.
c) St Martins Precinct Dave reported that there is an ongoing problem with litter and mess from the bin store (which is used by precinct traders and flats above the precinct).

d) Bench on Balmore Walk. No update. Keep in view. (CJ/WT).

Next meeting Tuesday 23 July 2024 at 7.15 pm – at Meeting Room in The Griffin