Go Local On a Better Environment

MINUTES & ACTIONS, CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 12 November 2024
Held at the Meeting Room The Griffin

Chair: DK **Minutes** WT/DK

Attendees: Dave Kenny, Wendy Terry, Francis Hamley, Vickie Abel, Jacopo Lanzoni, Tim Castle, Chris Burden, Lin Godfrey, Chris Murphy, Brian Murphy, Caroline Johnson, Andy Johnson, Judith Barratt.

Apologies: Nick Haskins.

1) Minutes of last Globe meeting held at The Griffin on 24 September 2024 were approved.

2) Finance and Funding Dave reported that Globe had paid this year's public liability insurance premium of £204. Dave also reported that a £50 donation had been received from Ania Haskins. Thank you Ania. (DK).

3) Church Street Planters Caroline reported that she and Andy have planted some new winter bedding in the planters. Thank you Caroline and Andy. Caroline said that no more plants have been stolen but she will continue to monitor.

Wendy reported that she had approached Wokingham Men's Shed to ask for their help in cutting lengths of timber to the correct size for a replacement planter. Unfortunately the men's shed haven't got the right equipment but recommended a fencing company in Winnersh who might be able to help. (**UPDATE** the fencing company are also unable to help so further enquiries are needed to find a supplier). (DK/WT).

A work party has been arranged for Sunday 17th November at 2pm to cut back the overhanging shrubs and tidying up around the planters outside BT.(**UPDATE** the work party successfully pruned and tidied the area. Thanks to all who took part). (NH,DK).

4) Litter and Graffiti. Dave reported that generally litter has not been too bad. (DK).

Graffiti is getting worse in Caversham, the house wall at the corner of George St and the George Street laundry wall is particularly bad. In Central Caversham there is graffiti by the entrance to Superdrug and on a wall along the Footpath behind the BT building (DK).

5) Christchurch Meadows and Thames Parks.
a) Hills Meadow. A large seemingly abandoned encampment with approx. 6 tents behind the car wash has been reported to RBC by Globe and Keep Caversham Tidy. Keep in view. (DK).
b) The Danall No update.

c) Bugs Bottom Globe has been alerted to the mowing down of saplings planted by volunteers and councillors about 4 years ago. Dave to investigate. (DK).
d) Christchurch Meadows Chris B reported that the hedge behind Patrick Road has been cut back too harshly and is an eyesore. However the meeting felt that the hedge will regenerate and should be fine next year.
A sunken boat by River Spice seems about to sink completely and requests to the Environment Agency & RBC to remove it have failed to have any effect so far. Jacopo suggested that Globe should write to Matt Rodda about it. Nick is chasing. (NH)

6) Chilterns AONB Extension Wendy reported that the public consultation is now due to start over this winter. Keep in view. (WT/DK).

7) Planning Matters
Persian Palace - Have appealed against the enforcement notice. Keep in view (NH).

8) Advertising Hoarding Sites
a) Bridge Street Chris B said that it is a shame that RBC have not [yet] agreed to Globe's request to adopt the Bridge Street triangle as a community garden. The site could be greatly improved and it could be maintained by local residents and community groups.
Brian expressed concern that RBC have ignored offers of help from volunteers and are wasting large sums of money by continuing to try to sell the site when no viable offers have been received. He believes it is unlikely that the site, which is in the conservation area could be sold, as it has such limited potential for development and therefore groups should be encouraged to adopt it and improve it. Keep in view.
b) George Street Triangle Planning application PL/24/0900 to build five terraced houses has been refused. Tim reported that there has been some tidying up of the site. Keep in view.
c) Donkin Hill Triangle No update, keep in view. (**UPDATE** the cars on site have been removed recently).

9) AOB
a) St Anne's Well – the old dilapidated bench has been removed and replaced with a new bench by RBC, though its currently surrounded by leaves which need sweeping.
b) Rewilding sites in Caversham - Jacopo gave the meeting an explanation of RBC's "rewilding" sites in Caversham, obtained from an RBC document. However the document is vague and it is difficult to identify the exact locations on the ground. A map would be much more useful. Dave explained that RBC uses the term "rewilding" to refer to wildflower areas. It was noted that unlike true rewilding, these areas still need to be managed and cut regularly (at least once a year), otherwise the wildflowers would be lost to long grass and scrub.
c) Emmer Green Councillors - Waiting for Judith to contact the Emmer Green ward councillors to suggest that they are added to Globe's email list. (JB).
d) Henley Rd allotments. No formal decision yet, keep in view.
e) Bank Signatory Judith reported that she is trying to get Wendy's name added as a bank signatory to replace Bob Busby. (JB).

Next meeting Tuesday 21st January 2025 at 7.15 pm – at Meeting Room in The Griffin