

## NOTES OF MEETING – TILEHURST GLOBE – Wed 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018

**Present:** Liz Ellis (Chair) John Venning, Pat Ager and Pam Webb (Notes), Carol Mclellan, Judy Cullen, Kate Jones, Lesley West, J Alexander, Ray Clayton, Joanne Taylor Apols Jenny Cottee, Julie Alexander, David Glanville, Jules Thomas

The meeting was to review the Rescue event and other matters brought up during the meeting.

**Mosque** Liz started the meeting by saying that she had seen a copy of the decision paper that is to be presented to council on the 25<sup>th</sup> April. She said that the decision paper had a lot of restrictions regarding the running of the mosque, and these included no amplified music, parking restrictions and the requirement to have on the site a parking attendant, no more than 50 people on the site, there to be no gender discrimination and other restrictions. Members questioned whether the regulations would be adhered to in the event that the council approved that application. Liz said that as with any other application if the regulations are breached then it is up to people to take note of the breaches and report them to the council – with evidence of the breaches and a diary etc.

**Park Lane School** We talked a bit about the fact that Park Lane School is still in the local plan as a site for development., including Downing Road Playing field. It seems that the intention is still to amalgamate the infants and Juniors into one Primary school on the Laurels site, and move the Nursery to the Laurels site too.

**Stall at the Library on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>** We shall be attending Earth Day at the library event. The main topic will be reuse and recycle. We have had offers to help at the stall and thank you for that. We will have leaflets and handouts. Liz has put together a stand with our main topics – recycling in and around tilehurst and how long does it take litter to rot. down. The stall will run from 10.30 to 2.30 and will be outside if at all possible.

**.Rays weekend May 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>** We discussed whether we would want to join in with the Keep Britain Tidy event . Ricky Josey said he would run the event as part of the RAYS scheme. We reviewed it in conjunction with how the Rescue event went. and on balance we decided that to join the event as a group would involve a lot of work so we would opt out, but that we would encourage people who are part of RAYS to join in on an individual basis.

Liz mentioned that the Rescue event although we collected a large amount of rubbish we had very few people attending on Saturday afternoon and looked back and found that was the case last year. Also we did not attract any children this year which is a real shame.. We think that we will need to look at the organisation next year to see if we can improve the level of interest in the event.

**Wildflowers** Liz said that we had planted more wildflowers at the junction of Armour Road and Lower Armour Road to infill at random those that we had already planted. Another neighbour has also planted some seeds and its looking for suggestions about where they should go. Some ideas were – at the bottom of Victoria Rec where the patch of daffodils is and maybe at the top of Pierces Hill . Jenny thought that the verges by the Water Tower might be good for planting the seeds given by C and G (thank you Geoff). So Liz and Kate went along and raked through the grass on the verges on the Water Tower side and scattered wildflower seeds along the length between the two posts. A map has been sent to the council to indicate where we put the seeds. Fingers crossed. We were helped out by a heavy burst of rain in the night followed by lovely sunshine. That surely must get them going. We are still looking for ideas. Pat was given one of the boxes of poppy seeds which she will scatter in suitable places.

**Collecting Milk Bottle Tops** John told us that the charity Hearing Dogs for the Deaf were no longer collecting milk bottle tops but that another charity are he thinks and he will investigate further and let us know.

**Walks** Linda handed out leaflets about the interesting programmes of walks run by the Pang Valley Ramblers. She also told us that Reading and District Natural History Society had organized a walk in Blundells. Since we didn't know about these we thought we might want to get in touch to find out about their local activities. It put us in mind of the fact that we will need to start thinking about where we will have our July walk.

The meeting finished at 9 ish.

The next meeting is on **Wed 16 May 7.30-9.15pm** : Among other things we will be talking about arrangements for our stall at the fete in Victoria Rec which is on 9<sup>th</sup> June.

## NOTES OF MEETING – TILEHURST GLOBE – Wed 21 March 2018

**Present:** Liz Ellis (Chair) John Venning, Pat Ager (Notes), Carol Mclellan, Jenny Cottee, Judy Cullen, Kate Jones, Lesley West, L Moon, D Glanville, J Alexander, Ray Clayton, Marek Lipka

The meeting was largely about projects that we can take on in the coming months.

**Wildflowers** Liz started off the meeting by saying that we had planted the wildflowers at the junction of Armour Road and Lower Armour Road. Paul had been very successful at nurturing the seeds over the winter but decided that they couldn't wait anymore. She also pointed out that there were a good few seeds planted by other neighbours and that we should think about where we are going to plant them when they are ready. Jenny thought that the verges by the Water Tower might be good – especially since people do not park their cars on the verges on the Water Tower side of the road. We are still looking for ideas.

**Tidy up messy patch** Liz also mentioned that she had made initial enquiries about the mucky bit of land at the end of Gypsy Lane where it runs down to Rodway Road. It is always scruffy and full of litter. She has asked Parks Department whether we can tidy it and maybe put some benches and litter bins in the area. We would only want to do this if RBC would maintain it after the initial clearing and landscaping, for example, keeping the area mown.

**Mosque** Marek wanted to know that the status was regarding the application for the Mosque. Liz, who receives copies of the planning applications, said that the application was to convert the offices at the back of the Post Office to a Church. The Shia muslim community have bought the premises and are seeking permission to hold prayer meetings. She explained that there is yet no decision by the council regarding the application. Jenny said that the decision would be based on planning issues. There have been objections to the conversion on the grounds of noise and traffic issues since the office building is close to residential premises and the prayer meetings go on til late in the evening. Liz also explained that the application included a request to build a fence around the edge of the property with a locked gate. Also there was a request to build a porch over the front door to facilitate outdoor prayer. There was a general feeling that a more suitable setting for the Church would be in Portman Road. A question about the sign was raised. It was thought that the application for the erection of the sign was already passed.

**Red Route** A question about the red route for the 17 was asked. The initial red route is already operational at the Wokingham Road end of the route. When the trial period finished there will be a period of consultation about this trial. If all goes well the red route should be fully operational by the end of the year. A considerable advantage will be that cameras can be used to ticket parking offenders including people who park on pavements. At the moment it is only traffic wardens who are allowed to give parking tickets. Once the red route is in place camera can be used. Perhaps the buses themselves will have cameras installed.

**Collecting Milk Bottle Tops** We talked about how John could collect milk bottle tops to pass to the charity Hearing Dogs for the Deaf. We thought it a good idea if John asked the opticians (who also treat hard of hearing people and sell hearing aids) if they might host a pot to collect the bottle tops. John would then be able to keep an eye on the pot and empty it when needed. This way more people may donate the tops for the cause.

**New Exit Sign at Asda Garage** We wondered whether we might ask Asda to put signs up at the exit to the garage to make vehicle take care of pedestrians when they exit. Leslie offered to write to Asda to ask about the possibility of signs at the exit. We agreed that it was a problem being a pedestrian on this bit of the pavement and the signs may make a difference.

**End of Library Consultation** We noted that the library consultation had ended. The proposals are for a cut in the number of hours that Tilehurst Library will be open and that the space available for the library will be reduced. Some of the existing library building will be let out to as offices.

**Recycling around Tilehurst** We talked about the "Recycling around Tilehurst" sheet that John had produced and thought that it might be a good idea to make the sheet available at different sites around Tilehurst. We suggested that we could put a bigger version on the Tilehurst Globe Board. Other sites that we suggested were the church, the library, Village Properties notice board and the co-op. We would also add a note to say what the RBC recycling service would take.

**Rescue** Rescue weekend has been moved to 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> March. The litter collection is restricted to what you can put in a bag. Big stuff must be left alone but reported.

**Animal Warden** Apparently there is now an Animal Warden, Lisa Clements, in RBC. We did wonder what her role might be.

The meeting finished at 9 ish.

The next meeting is on **Wed 18 April 7.30-9.15pm** :

# NOTES OF MEETING – TILEHURST GLOBE – Wed 21 February 2018

**Present:** Liz Ellis (Chair), John Venning, Lesley West, Judy Cullen, Pam Webb and Pat Ager (notes), Kate Jones, Tom Steele, Jules Thomas, Julie Alexander, Joanna Taylor, Ricky Duveen, Linda Cairns, Phil Allen, Ricky Josey, Carol Mclellan, Daniel Tuiss, Charlotte Thornton, Ray Clayton

**Apologies:** Jenny Cottee

## 1. Recycling

Liz welcomed Oliver Burt to our meeting. She explained that our interest in recycling fell into three categories. We were very pleased about the news that re3 will now take much more plastic waste in our red bin collections and she praised the clarity and informative nature of the new leaflet that is being delivered to each household in Reading, Bracknell Forest and Wokingham. She also said the re3 website provided additional information which is very good and helpful. We are also interested in what we can recycle locally, to save putting reusable items in landfill. John Venning had produced a chart of sites where we can recycle items, and this has now been updated with additional sites, including what local charities will take. This information will be added to our web site in due course. Our other interest is how we can encourage agencies to take items for recycling that are currently not recyclable or indeed not produce the item at all. Liz also pointed out that such web sites as Freecycle and Freegle are very useful for finding and shifting items no longer wanted. Most of the people at the meeting knew and used these sites.

Liz then invited Oliver to introduce himself and tell us about the new re3 recycling plan. Re3 is one of a few places whose plastic waste does not currently require any extra sorting. This is good news and proves that a focus on the quality of our material has been worthwhile – it's also a pat on the back to residents. He had visited the recycling plants at Corby and Loughborough and saw how the plastics are recycled. When the plastic is sorted the clear plastic is cleaned and washed, the labels removed, the plastic is flaked and then washed again with a more powerful cleaning cycle. Once this process is performed the waste is heated to 240 degrees and the resultant liquid plastic material is suitable for making into other plastic products. In this way the plastic can be used over and over again. Similarly plastic milk bottles and detergent bottles, for example, are reprocessed and used to make pipes, such as drain pipes. These new items tend to have a long use.

He was hopeful that re3 can produce a video showing the process so that people can more readily understand the recycling process.

He was a firm advocate for the fact that the plastic waste problem is different than has been written about in the press and on TV. He said that while there clearly is a problem with plastic that ends up in the ocean, plastic is also a material that can be recycled. Residents in the re3 area do a good job in that regard. He is confident that we can get to grips with reusing plastic in the future.

He praised Reading for being one of the first councils to arrange for the recycling of glass. It wasn't necessarily profitable but new glass is required and it is helpful to recycle. However we are still importing packaging products.

We then asked Oliver a load of questions.

It is very difficult to find places to recycle hard plastic – ie bottle tops, toys etc. Some is sent to Malaysia but there is currently nowhere in UK to recycle hard plastic. Oliver thinks that the amount of waste shipped to China will decrease over the years since they will need to recycle their own waste.

Plastic film should be able to be put into sites that collect plastic bags – most supermarkets do. Clear magazine wrappers can be put in with plastic bag collections at supermarkets and so can the bags that you buy supermarket bread in

You can leave labels on any plastic pot that is to be recycled. The label will be removed in the recycling process. Any recyclable plastic pot or bottle that has a hard lid or top must have the lid or top removed. It should be put for landfill. This would include plastic bottles, shampoo bottles etc that can otherwise be recycled.

Yoghurt pots and ice cream pots can now be put for recycling.

Food trays can be recycled except for black trays. Oliver explained that the detection units in the recycling plant cannot detect black items so they cannot be recycled at all. In fact this includes any black plastic item.

Tins and ring pulls can be recycled

Aluminium foil can be recycled including foil milk bottle tops

However, plasticized foil which is used for crisp packets and other food pouches cannot be recycled. As a rule of thumb, if you can't scrunch it into a ball it is plasticized so should not be recycled

Fruit containers can be recycled

Cardboard with staples or tape can be recycled

Items need to be dry

Put shredded paper into a cardboard box otherwise it tends to fly around

Cardboard boxes with a transparent film that typically have food should have the film removed before being put in the

red bin

Wrapping paper can probably be recycled, even if it has glitter on it

Coffee cups that are plasticised cannot be recycled, although Costa say they will collect them and send them for recycling. Some coffee cups now have paper outsides and plastic insides so if they can be separated the paper bit should be recycled

Guinness cans with widgets in them are not a problem and can be recycled

Wokingham Borough Council has announced plans to collect food waste from April 2019. Oliver mentioned a food waste processing facility that he had visited which processed both food waste from residents and also business – including a large amount of ground coffee. The facility produces a compost which can be used in agriculture. Plastic flakes are used to make fleece, if so in theory it could be recycled!

Time moved on and there would have been more to talk about, but we needed to move on to a few other topics. Liz thanked Oliver very much for coming and explaining the new scheme and for answering so many questions. Inevitably there will be more.

## **2 Battery Collection**

Liz said that Shirley who had been collecting batteries from Butts at the Triangle was now no longer able to do it so we were looking for someone else to talk over. Pam very kindly offered to take on the job. Thank you Shirley for collecting them over the past months.

## **3 Skipton Building Society**

The Society has done a refurb of their premises and are having a bit of a do – tea and cakes – to celebrate. They have kindly invited a few Tilehurst Globe members to join them since they support us with a number of community activities.

## **4 More Library Cuts**

Reading Council is again making cuts to the library service. Information about the cuts proposed for Tilehurst Library are [here](#), Briefly the hours open are to be reduced by 4 hours. There is also a suggest that the footprint will be reduced too. A consultation is ongoing and the closing date is 21<sup>st</sup> March. This is an opportunity for you to have your say.

## **5 Alok Sharma**

Alok Sharma (MP) is holding a public meeting at the Methodist Church in School Road on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March from 7pm to 8pm: The subject of the meeting will be Crime and Antisocial Behaviour.

## **6 Rescue Weekend**

This year Rescue weekend is on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, and Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March. We will have three sessions altogether. We will do two sessions on Saturday from 10 to 12 in the morning starting by the Thirlemere Avenue entrance to Mcllroys and from 2 to 4 in the afternoon also starting by the Thirlemere Avenue entrance to Mcllroys – but we will clear different areas. On Sunday we will be clearing Blundells Copse and we will start by the Teviot Road entrance at 10 and end at 12.

Ricky Josy was fortunately at the meeting and updated us to say that there will be two rubbish collections on Saturday afternoon and one on Monday morning. The rubbish sacks provided this year will be blue and only normal litter can be collected and put into the bags. Recyclable waste should be collected separately and taken home or to a recycling centre. Larger items that will not fit into a sack should be left and reported separately. We have teams of volunteers who will organise each of the session. Thanks to them.

# NOTES OF MEETING – TILEHURST GLOBE – Wed 17 January 2018

**Present:** Liz Ellis (Chair), John Venning, Lesley West, Judy Cullen, Pam Webb and Pat Ager (notes), Kate Jones, Tom Steele, Jules Thomas, Julie Alexander, Elizabeth Smeeth, Joanna Taylor, Keith Smith, Sue Burston, Lisa Moon, Ricky Duveen, Linda Cairns, Jenny Cottee

## 1.

### 2018 Newsletters

We had printed the 2018 newsletters and given them out to volunteers who have now delivered them to our members.

### Christmas lights at the Triangle

We had put the Christmas lights up at the Triangle before Christmas and then taken them down after the new year. Many thanks to the volunteers who helped on both occasions. And most of all thanks to Carol for sorting out the lights to be put up, charging the batteries and storing them over the year.

### Planting Bulbs

Jenny is planning to organise another planting session in February. She explained that she had wanted to engage the scouts and brownies again but unfortunately her proposed dates coincide with half term. The other remaining date that is good is February 3<sup>rd</sup>. We had a quick vote and decided that enough people would be able to help out on that date. So the plan is to plant snowdrops in Walnut Way on Saturday February 3<sup>rd</sup> between 10 and 12. Look out for the posters nearer the time.

### Wildflowers in the green

Another planting project on the go is to plant wild flowers on the green in Armour Road. We have the council's permission to do this. Several neighbours have already planted seeds at home. We plan to plant these out as plugs in the Spring at a suitable time. These seeds were given to us by Kew Gardens. We also have been given four boxes of wild flower seeds by C&G Hardware. If the trial at Armour Road is successful we will decide where the new patches of wild flowers will be planted. Any suggestions are welcome.

## 2 Crime and Antisocial Behaviour

Tony Venning told us that Alok Sharma (MP) is holding a meeting at the Methodist Church in School Road on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March: The subject of the meeting will be Crime and Antisocial Behaviour.

## 3 Recycling

The main subject of our meeting was Recycling. The discussion was kicked off by a comment in our last meeting: we had noted that the bin provided in the NCP car park in Recreation Road to collect aluminium foil had been removed. We decided to follow it up to find out where foil could be disposed of to be recycled. This in turn raised the general topic of recycling. What we can and what we can't.

Liz started by recounting the background to our battery recycling scheme. The idea is that it helps the smaller local shops who sell batteries continue to sell batteries and provide a recycling service. We have volunteers who regularly visit the shops, C&G Hardware, Butts Supernews and Today's Local, to empty the pots and dispose of the used batteries. She gave this as an example of what is possible locally.

It was also pointed out that batteries can be placed on the wheely bins and your binmen will recycle them. We wanted to know what else can you dispose of in this way? We thought small electrical items and maybe ink cartridges but did not have a definitive answer. We are not sure about where to find this information. Tom Steele told us that you can load an app on your smart phone and that will give you this information but Liz had found that there is very little useful information to be found on the RBC recycling site when she tried looking up the information online.

John Venning has produced a splendid chart that lists the recycling sites around Tilehurst and the items that can be recycled at these sites. This will be put on our website and may get updated when we have further information. Going back to the question that triggered this debate (how to dispose of aluminium foil), it seems that the Savacentre recycling site in Calcot is the only place around where you can now recycle aluminium foil but you cannot recycle aluminium trays, even though you can recycle drinks cans – some of which are made of aluminium. Liz pointed out that the Savacentre recycling site is managed by Palm Recycling. Reading Borough Council is managed by RE3.

At this point given the confusion we decided to list the problems we had knowing what we could recycle and where we could recycle items.

The main issue was with plastics.

What type of plastic could go in the Red Bin? The RBC leaflet says plastic bottles (no tops). Someone wanted to know whether you have to take off the thin plastic ring that remains on the bottle after you have taken off the top. You are not allowed to put any plastic food trays in the red bin. You don't seem to be able to recycle food trays anywhere, either plastic or aluminium. If you can't put plastic in the Red bin, where can you put it to be recycled in an environmentally friendly manner? Where can you put plastic that is not suitable for the Red Bin? Is it not possible for food manufacturing companies to package food without using plastic?

You can put paper and card in the Red Bin. Can you put envelopes that have a window in the Red Bin? They have a clear panel that is not paper; and there is gum to self seal the envelope not to mention the stamp that also is glued. And gradually we compiled a long list of things that we didn't know what to do with. We all wanted to be able to dispose of things in an environmentally friendly way. How can we do it and how can we encourage other people to do it.

A further list of concerns:

Do we need to have fruit and vegetables wrapped in plastic? Can shops provide paper bags for us to put fruit and veg in (if we need to put it in anything at all)

Can shops be encouraged to not use plastic to wrap prepared food? (cardboard trays for food was mentioned)

Where can we dispose of ink cartridges?

Where can we dispose of light bulbs? (there are different types – can they all be disposed of in the same way)

How do we persuade people to use recycling facilities?

How far should we need to travel to dispose of items for recycling?

Can we recycle toothpaste tubes?

Can we recycle bubble wrap?

Where can we recycle yoghurt pots?

Where can we recycle tetra paks?

Why don't mothers use terry (ie reusable) nappies any more?

Avoid using plastic take away coffee cups

Can we put food in the green bins if not why can't we had food waste collections?

This is probably only a short list of people's concerns.

During the course of the meeting it was mentioned that some items can be recycled by giving them to charities or returned to shops. The following were suggested:

Hard plastic bottle tops to Hearing Dogs for the Deaf

Stamps to charities

Curry/PC World will take electrical items for free and will recycle them even if you didn't buy the item from them.

Staples will take ink cartridges ( and it was suggested that you could get a rebate off your next purchase.

Ikea will take light bulbs.

Metal to scrap metal merchants

Used ink cartridges to the Berks Family History Society

It seems that a reference list of all these odd recycling places needs to be built up. The question as to whether we are going to try and do something can be considered at our next meeting.

A number of people had brought with them useful articles and leaflets. We hope to get them on our web site in due course. Pam brought a newspaper item about a group of people meeting to encourage local people to use less plastic and recycle more. Leslie handed in a leaflet produced by Warmwell in Dorset listing the items you can recycle there. It is a very long list compared to the RE3 list. How can they do it and not us? Tom Steele brought a leaflet produced by Ards and Northdown Council to encourage people to recycle.

As a summary of the discussions – we think we need to:

Use less plastic – think about whether we need to use it at all

Have more information about what and where we can recycle

Make this information more readily available to people

Provide information to encourage people to reuse and recycle

**4 Our Next Meeting** Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 21st February. This will also be about recycling as a followup to this meeting. We hope to have members of Reading Borough Council with us to answer questions and probably we will raise even more queries and add to the information needed to recycle efficiently.