

NOTES OF MEETING– TILEHURST GLOBE – Wed 20 December 2013

Present: Lesley West, Tina Allen, John Venning, Sheila Smith, Ron Smith, Pam Webb, David Webber, Carol McClellan, Tom Steele, Brian Methley
 Jenny Cottee (notes) Liz Ellis (chair), James Freeman (Reading Buses):

Apols Cllr Sandra Vickers, Judy Cullen Roger Sym

1	<p>Liz welcomed James Freeman, Chief Executive Officer Reading Buses, to the meeting and on behalf of Tilehurst Globe congratulated him on all the national awards achieved by him and the company (including 2013 route one winner of the operator excellence award)</p> <p>James thanked Globe for inviting him to give a presentation - After explaining that the background to 17 route-unchanged since trams- most successful route in the country, James said his presentation would have the theme Bus Users are winners and he would explain how Reading Buses have been working to make this true and change perceptions of bus users. He started by explaining the structure (Reading Buses is wholly owned by Reading Council), the key statistics about the company its area of operation, and other companies that run buses in the area. On average Reading residents do 104 bus journeys/annum- 4th highest in the country and growing (currently 8%pa)</p> <p>Routes are branded- specific colours for buses, on route maps etc- he reminded us of important local routes- 17 biggest and most frequent, 16 now every 15 mins, 33 now settled route and growing usage, 15 less good- many residents of Dee park have had to move temporarily whilst re generation happening 30 minute frequency 28 to contracted relevant councils (community bus).</p> <p>James explained that the company keeps the fleet up to date : all buses in the fleet are low-floor with kneeling(so accessible for wheel chairs etc), have next-stop info and all new buses have audio information and tell you the destination as you get on. The journey experience is improved eg clean comfortable, some have wifi- so time can be used- catching up with emails etc</p> <p>The staff are key to the success of the operation- they must like people, all have training on disability awareness, and are kept in the communication loop. The company concentrates on making traveling on buses a good experience- smooth ride etc. bus drivers key contact with customers There is extensive training, staff know reasons for decisions, bulletins, awards, an academy, appoint car drivers and train them for psv (<i>this part sounded like an excellent management training reminder-jenny</i>) The bus operations are controlled (via knowledge where all the buses are) by radio and intervention .</p> <p>The company have been working steadily to make people happy to ride on buses for many years, to convert non-users to users , and encourage more people use buses more often. The branding of buses(purple 17 etc) makes them easy to recognize (so non-users can work out the routes etc), providing information before the journey (timetables web real time info apps etc) ,make the journey good, communicate (twitter @reading_buses ,website facebook) putting things right if they go wrong</p> <p>They look to widen the use of buses- and try for clear routes with few variations, aiming to have all local households within 400m of a bus stop. The under 19 go Solo is successful , the company are now thinking about specific groups of potential users eg 19-25</p> <p>They aim for a fleet of clean comfortable modern buses replenishing regularly , and look for clean economical fuels- eg hybrid, and now gas</p> <p>Future plans Known: There will be more buses on 17 route in autumn- increase frequency- more on Tilehurst Rd (33) Undecided :Portman Rd and Cow lane changes: the re-vamp of the oxford rd and consequential reduction of heavy lorries on Oxford rd will enable changes and improvements to services.</p> <p>In discussion James explained that (i) the company is unlikely to change the practice of having radial routes into the town centre and then back - not routes round the circumference and not more cross town routes (like 17-because traffic problems at one end of the route cause delays that cannot be sorted out) (ii) the choice will be between increasing frequency of buses on existing routes or having new routes eg along Portman rd to Rivermead and then to N entrance of Reading Station. No decisions yet, he welcomes comments.</p>
2	<p>Traffic management plans- (produced to reduce traffic accidents in known danger areas, for which funding is available) comments needed asap on proposed 20mph and new pedestrian islands - see map on notice-board. Simon Beasley is also requesting comments on wider vision-to help longer term planning and action when funds are available send in all comments to simon.beasley @reading.gov.uk</p>
3	<p>Updates-(i) Xmas tree lights put up on wellingtonia - batteries will be renewed so they will last til twelfth night well done team (ii) Freegle-Liz and carol to consider offer (iii) Norcot Christmas Market Fri 13 Dec 3-5pm Liz and Carol manned the stall in gloom, rain etc – several contacts made, leaflets distributed- too dark for quiz</p>
4	<p>Meeting plans please pass on the invitations- bring a friend along to these events:</p> <p>(i) 15 January –Love food hate waste. Fun workshop/ event led by Emma Barnet of the specialist organization will dispel confusion, pass on handy tips and news of latest research, and share ideas about how to pass the message on.</p> <p>(ii) 19 February – Draught busters Tony Cowling will show us how to sort out problem areas in our homes cheaply and quickly with instant effects... come along and find out how to stay toasty warm and keep the heat in.</p>
5	<p>AOB (i) Newsletter –most of the distributors were present at the meeting so packs given out- remainder will be contacted by jenny – many thanks to all – aim for delivery to be complete by mid jan, Supplies for joe public at library etc</p> <p>(ii) Happy Xmas have a good holiday.</p>

NOTES OF MEETING– TILEHURST GLOBE – Wed 20 November 2013

Present: Sally Sullivan, Geoff Foley, Paul Johnson, David Webb, Simon Beasley, Lesley West, Tina Allen, Judy Cullen, John Venning, Sheila Smith, Ron Smith, Pam Webb, Carol McClellan, Tom Steele, Cllr Sandra Vickers. Jenny Cottee (notes) Liz Ellis (chair):

Apols Cllr Ricky Duveen

1	<p>Simon Beasley, Network Manager, RBC updated us and asked for feedback and comments to him at Civic office or email, (simon.beasley@reading.gov.uk)- (or contact globe to pass on)</p> <p>a) The Ban on Verge/Pavement Parking. The purpose is to keep the area nice, and safe for all users, minimising 'street clutter' (railings bollards etc that are costly and ugly) .This trial (so far 7 months duration) over area with about 1000 households and businesses is proving useful and has been extended for a further 18 months. Opinions have not changed significantly since before the trial (split about 30:70 with 70 in favour). A few problems eg in Mayfair when disabled drivers are required to park much further away from their residence .Enforcement is an issue- a few light touch letters/approaches to people. Currently the enforcement vehicle (with camera etc) is not permitted to be used to enforce this ban. Many examples of places where the ban is frequently flouted- (cash machines ,hairdresser drop offs, residential roads).</p> <p>Comments please: email (simon.beasley@reading.gov.uk) (or letter feedback- take photos, just write with examples and ask for better enforcement- easier still use the app Love Clean Reading that gets pics sent direct to rbc (Transport and streetcare now one dept) Currently there are only 6 hrs traffic warden time per week allocated to Tilehurst. Enforcement situation will be improved if he receives evidence of public demand.(possibly cc to local councilors)</p> <p>b) RBC Draft Cycling Strategy. This is now open for public comments- closing date is mid january see it here- or contact jenny for full/executive summary version. Most emphasis on centre of Reading(there are no cycle lanes in Tilehurst) with intention to emphasise through street markings etc that <i>roads are for all users</i>. Discussion about poor behavior of car drivers and lorries(cutting-up cyclists turning into them , too close etc) and cyclists(avoid red lights go on pavement etc) Please comment you can see the executive summary and the on-line comment form on this link http://www.reading.gov.uk/council/Consultations/openconsultations/cycling-strategy-consultation-2013/</p> <p>Comments particularly welcomed on road marking diagrams showing cycle ways near junctions/parking bays (pgs 5-10 of exec summary)</p> <p>c) Plans for traffic management in Triangle area - on going story nears significant improvements: Simon met us in April 2012 when we talked about traffic. (reminder: he mentioned Shared Space –the philosophy of street design with little street clutter but cyclists pedestrians cars and lorries co-exist safely by well designed roads. Most recent UK example is a village ,Poynton, Cheshire which has a massive flow of traffic through it imposed on village life. See excellent 14 min video on this link www.sustrans.org.uk/our-services/what-we-do/route-design-and-construction/shared-space- This scheme does not involve any special speed restrictions, but the street design makes people more considerate and look out for other users and their speed drops). Although very expensive,(funded by several sources transport and regeneration cash) this scheme was cheaper than the splendid Kensington Exhibition Rd scheme mentioned in 2012.Our discussion in 2012, centred on needing having lots of pedestrian crossing points. These changes from ideas to separate all road users (vehicles from pedestrians,cyclists etc) reduce road clutter but change perceptions by hard landscape changes can be seen in small scale eg Jacksons corner- no traffic lights, dropped kerbs in market place, Pangbourne raised crossings...</p> <p>Now a modest Tilehurst scheme will happen. The Tilehurst, School rd area – roughly between the Laurels and beyond Mayfair has funding and will start early in 2014. In contrast to the above it involves a 20mph area, and five new pedestrian island crossing points and some changes to allow for road space lost by islands . No existing crossings to be removed, zebras to be re-furbished. Some changes to bus pause points- where they wait to catch up with their schedule.</p> <p>See attached plan of the scheme (slightly annotated naming more roads) .Simon asked for comments on (i) on this scheme asap to the (ii) a long term vision (to help if more funding becomes available). Reply to him as shown above</p> <p>Several members asked that we consider the <i>whole</i> of Tilehurst District Centre ie to include Norcot/School rd junction area too.</p>
2	<p>Blundell's Copse –a reported good progress with planned maintenance and improvements, a few problems remain with the path, but generally considerable improvement in spite of rain. The work raising canopy has resulted in better light- less intimidating etc, the arisings help protect the interior .Reminder :CROW will undertake hedge laying event in the copse on Wed Nov 27. 10am-3pm - meet at Teviot rd entrance people interested in joining in are very welcome- tuition/support provided. Join in or come and see what is done (Coffee 11:15)</p>
3	<p>Planting events since last meeting – (i) Pat has done the cattle trough-pansies and little daffodils (ii) Mixed daffodils and narcissi were planted at the Dunstall Close/ School Rd- in spite of rainy weather task completed by globe volunteers (iii) Mixed daffodils and narcissi were planted at the Halls Rd /the Meadway junction. Plenty of globe volunteers worked hard and fast in the rain- finished earlier than anticipated- very muddy. See shock horror story involving gas improvements on our website... (iv) Poppy seed has been planted by RBC at the Triangle to commemorate 100 yr anniversary of start of World war 1(anticipated charge to Tilehurst globe was waived, since now much bigger scheme –Tilehurst Triangle was one of several Reading locations)</p>
4	<p>Updates-(i) Martin Cullen will take photos of events- getting them to Liz for the website/future use. (ii) domestic battery collections: Pam, Judy and Carol will collect used batteries from one venue each.(iii) Display boards made by Ron had been very effective when for the Reading Neighbourhood Network AGM -boards were light traveled easily on the bus, and did the job well.</p>
5	<p>Updates on projects (i) Corwen gardens planter has benefitted from 8 bags of compost-supplied by RBC housing (probably need some grit too) Edging of prostrate rosemary (over the edge) bellis and white mixed bulbs has been planted following discussion with residents. A few more bergenia are needed. This leaves the middle for planting by residents in the spring/summer (ii) Xmas tree lights. Carol explained that following investigations she has purchased some more strings of lights so that the display will be 3 times the size of last year's - we have enough batteries for this seasons display. The meeting decided that we should aim to light up on Sunday 1 December</p>

6	Meeting plans –(i) December festive nibbles and James Freeman ,Reading Buses, will be coming in recognition of the recent national awards, and will talk about what next for Reading Buses - will include opportunity to consider the traffic scheme, and also implications of Cow lane bridge widening in 2015
7.	Carried Forward : What do you think of the station so far- does it work for you? What needs sorting out?-
8	AOB (i) Norcot Christmas Market Fri 13 Dec 3-5pm in aid of Norcot Youth and Community centre – jenny and Carol will mount a stall publicizing Tilehurst globe- give away woodland leaflets - liz may devise a competition Cost to globe £5. for stall since we will donate a prize for their raffle (ii) New year letter, in hand,- we decided not to enclose woodland leaflets ,aim to give to distributors at next meeting.

NOTES OF MEETING– TILEHURST GLOBE – Wed 16 Oct 2013

Present: Lesley West, Tina Allen, Judy Cullen, John Venning, Julie Lawrence, Sheila Smith, Ron Smith, Pam Webb, Pat Ager, Carol McClellan, Kate Jones, Jenny Cottee (notes):

Apols , Liz Ellis, Cllr Meri O'Connell, Tom Steele, Cllr Jenny Rynn, Cllr Ricky Duveen

1	<p>Tilehurst Globe response to Woodland consultation : members had taken part in the consultation- visited the drop in session, responded to the questionnaire. We decided we also wanted to send in a group response: We thought the documents were good- principles well-explained, detailed plans clear and sensible.</p> <p>Re the local drop in session on a Saturday morning- good venue, well located, BUT it needed better ,more eye-catching signage outside on the pavement, the form should say the reply destination, website VERY difficult to navigate to locate the form, consultation was a good event ; good opportunity to talk things through with those in charge, informative, nice to see ALL the woodlands on one map-very impressive, pleased they are taking note of ron's work</p>
2	<p>Blundell's Copse – progress with planned maintenance and improvements So far so good, with some slight worries re the path surface. We noted that there had already been progress some trees that overhung the sides of the path- causing damage to the surface- holly and laurel has been cleared, and some work to enlarge/restore glades to improve biodiversity. Work on the drainage- more pipes installed, and possibly a little increase in the depth/extent of the drainage ditches. We were pleased to note that Dave had arranged for this and some future work to be done by volunteers-(firms and CROW)</p> <p>Regarding the re-surfacing currently being done by the contractor (due to be completed within say two few weeks) we noted (i) that the parts nearing completion were paths we had not anticipated would be given Coxwell surfacing- the top path near the field, and the path from Teviot rd (ii) the level of the path that goes parallel to Calder Close has been raised using coxwell foundation . (iii) the top surface of the path has been laid and whacked down in some parts, but we are a bit concerned whether the hardening process will happen before more rain sets in. If this happens there will be more durability problems.</p> <p>The Teviot Rd, Calder Close service entrances and Moorlands entrance have been cleared .</p> <p>CROW will undertake several hedging laying events before the summer- the first will be on Wed Nov 27. 10am and continue up to 3pm people interested in joining in are very welcome- tuition/support provided. Join in or come and see what is done (Coffee 11:15)</p>
3	<p>Battery box recovered from Norcot News- after discussion of possible locations we decided that local convenience stores would be the first option- we listed some to check out/approach. To avoid duplication, Kate (who has the spare container-and possibly a second one), will check out shops identified.</p>
4	<p>Corwen gardens Kate reported that residents are delighted with new paved area and sheds- real support for their use of the garden . More are enjoying propagating plants and more are working at maintaining beds and even hanging baskets . Regarding Rejuvenating the brick-built raised planter at the front-(We reaffirmed the previously agreed aim for a pink/mauve/blue colour scheme-residents have been sounded out and seem in general agreement)</p> <p>(a) Clearance: A team of 8 from Hilton worked very hard clearing some massively overgrown /crowded areas-6 globe volunteer helped. Only plants there were doubts about or that we were certain should remain were left- lots of muscari have been planted under the hedge</p> <p>(b) next steps Kate reported helpful advice from knowledgeable sources. We agreed our opinions on some key issues- (i) we want some trailing edging plants –so the soil level eventually should be just below the top of the planter (ii) we do not want the planter to look over-full- ie no ground cover spreading plants (iii) We want to re-plant the roses in large pots for subsequent re-location –colour is unknown (iv) we disagree re the fate of the hydrangea it will remain for the time being (v) we want interest in all 4 seasons, and some scented plants near the edges.</p> <p>First actions Based on these decisions Kate will (i) investigate the best source of the estimated 90x50litre bags of soil improver/compost and action this asap- this will take priority in budget (ii) draw up a scale drawing of the 2.8mx 4.2m planter ,(iii) discuss with residents –probably individuals and at Monday coffee morning to seek consensus (iv) check out heights and seasons of suggested plants. (v) contact others for help as needed- cannot work out time scales now</p>
5	<p>Cattle trough near water tower planting-happening on Friday 18 October. Pat reported that the necessary approvals and arrangements have been made –she will be doing the planting on Friday morning</p>
6	<p>Bulb planting at Halls rd /Meadway junction- Saturday 9 November 10-12 noon (a) Publicity- we need to inform parents etc –put up posters at schools etc . All must wear High Viz jackets so we may need to borrow some: Jenny to lead on this task- lots of help needed on the day</p>
7	<p>New projects suggestions so far- more welcome (i) Poppies 2014- sow poppies at the Triangle to mark 100 years since start of WW1 – Jenny explained that the suggestion had come from RBC who would sow the seed, she had done sounding with British Legion which had been supportive. In discussion we agreed that jenny should check out : date of sowing- would it affect the remembrance occasion? , what would it be like next year- will they be mown out? is the suggested strip a bit too deep? –with these caveats full support –good idea and will be part of a wider commemorative events round the country.</p> <p>(ii) Wall painting on side of Co-op at the triangle? Seeing the excellent mural produced by the junior church at the Methodist church hall reminded people of previous suggestions that the youth club/co-op wall would be excellent site for a mural- any ideas about how to approach this? Contact owners? Who has expertise?</p>
8	<p>Meeting plans – we decided that an introduction to the draft cycling strategy (closing date for consultation replies in jan) would be timely</p>
9.	<p>AOB (i) help needed taking photos of local events for newsletter etc. We will see how we get on asking for people to turn up with cameras... - possibly consider buying a camera in the future if essential... (ii) ideas for making contact with youth/school groups. We need to provide things they want... PLEASE TALK ABOUT IT- MAKE SOUNDINGS...</p>

NOTES OF MEETING– TILEHURST GLOBE – Wed 19 Sept 2013

Present: Lesley West, Tina Allen, Judy Cullen, John Venning, Cllr Meri O'Connell, Ray Clayton, Tom Steele, Roger Sym, Cllr Sandra Vickers, Pat Ager, Carol McClellan, David Bollam, Jenny Cottee (notes) Dave Booth(RBC Parks) ,Matt Dady (RBC Street Care)
Apols , Liz Ellis, Sheila Smith, Ron Smith, Pam Webb, Cllr Jenny Rynn

1	<p>Blundell's Copse –Annual review of the Action plan led by Dave Booth We checked over the plan adopted in sept 2012 noting that generally (apart from mud problems) things had gone according to plan. Ron and Sheila Smith reported monthly,(until the summer , now Margaret Davies has kindly taken on this role) so communication to RBC about obstacles/rubbish etc had been good and problems sorted out according to priority,(thanks parks dept) Path clearance- (mowing the grass and using a hedge-cutter on encroaching brambles nettles etc) had generally been effective ,obstacles had been removed from paths and excellent work had been done by volunteer teams (identified by Dave) on benches, the steps and the bridge.</p> <p>Dave explained that an early start would be made in the Copse on agreed aspects of the Reading Woodland Project. Preventative and restorative work on the two sections of the path will start within two weeks, reducing the chance of impassable mud this winter .We will hear chain saws cutting back overhanging branches to reduce damaging leaf drop on the path . Dave explained that he will follow the guidance of the contractor, but anticipates that the drainage ditches will be enlarged and more drainage pipes will be installed following the pattern initiated by Ron Smith whose effective work had reduced the problems considerably. The path parallel to Calder Close is the most difficult to sort out. There appears to be a natural spring emerging in the middle of the path. When the ditches etc are finished the Coxwell surface on the path will be renewed(it looks very yellow initially, but fades).</p> <p>The timing of other aspects of the improvement plan (extra paths, glades, bracken reduction etc) will be sorted out following the current consultation. Please see details and how to respond and say what you think -on line or on paper http://www.reading.gov.uk/council/Consultations/openconsultations/woodlandsproject/ We discussed the wildflower area- our efforts have met with only moderate success, but we will persevere. The area at the top of Calder Close is probably too fertile so weeds grew very well and smother the emerging seedlings. To be discussed and further attempts during the year.</p>
2	<p>Dumping generally and especially in Blundells Matt Dady (RBC Street Care) and Dave Booth joined in the discussion about the long lasting problem of dumped rubbish in specific areas of the Copse . Members were delighted with the plan of joint action: they agreed to involve RBC Housing department as well. No-one wanted to clear up the same areas repeatedly,(even those who had enjoyed tea with the mayor recently).</p> <p>Everyone was reminded it is essential to report all dumping using the excellent smart phone ap loveclean.reading.gov.uk, or phoning 0118 937 3787 to get the problems noted and into the clear-up system</p>
3	<p>Our Projects We looked at the photos of activities in the last year and agendas and noted (i) we are project led- different people do all aspects of a specific project- paper work etc (ii) we need photos of everything sometimes we forget... (iii) some people have been doing jobs regularly on their own- eg weekly watering trees to keep them alive, clearing their own local patch etc (iv) we are really grateful for regular sponsorship from local businesses in cash , and services like photocopying (v) the major success this year has been the woodland leaflets- Liz' brain child- and the library and big co-op displaying them (vi) we had interesting sessions on energy saving and thermal imaging- thanks to the people who took part and shared their experiences. (vii) our posters and big central noticeboard effectively bring the different projects to people's attention different people come to different meetings and are interested in different projects.</p>
4	<p>Tilehurst Globe AGM see future plans papers and summary accounts attached</p> <p>(i) Reminder of activities and projects undertaken since last September : we noted the varied activities by looking at the posters (displayed on the excellent 3 section portable display screen kindly made by Ron Smith) covering issues from energy saving, the new rail station, annual walk etc , and the photos of practical activities on the outside pages of the AGM paper (kindly printed by Village Properties).</p> <p>(ii) The Accounts for the year that ended on 31 March 2013 were accepted (see attached document). We thanked people who had worked on preparing and checking them. We noted(a) that they were prepared on a cash basis , (b) the total of funds allocated to be spent on specific projects etc was £966.65 –the figure includes the RBC grant of £500 to cover running costs for y/e 30.03.2014 .</p> <p>(iii) Plans for the year ending 31 March 2014 (see attached document). We discussed plans and costs associated with them noting that it is difficult to be precise about timing, we aim to react to events and emerging priorities. The outline plans (if all the items listed actually happened in the current financial year, and we did not receive any additional funds) would leave us with a balance of about £500 We agreed the proposals as a reasonable working plan .We discussed the possibility of two banners/outdoor promotion signs- we have funding allocated for a flag type with a permanent message, and will consider an A frame type which could hold posters announcing specific projects. These would complete our kit of indoor and outdoor materials.</p> <p>We noted there is some flexibility for new projects, although we may need to consider some way of securing regular income to enable items become a secure regular feature-eg planting up the cattle trough, topping up woodland leaflets. One new item agreed was to renovate the planting in the brick planter outside the front of the Corwen flats-a more coherent colour scheme of pink.blue/mauve had been suggested. We decided that the plans proposed were a good enough working document</p> <p>(iv) The proposed changes to the Constitution (paras 11 and 14) were agreed by the meeting (nem con) so that in the latest version (6) of the constitution the number of authorized bank signatories is two out of four (not two out of three) The meeting decided on this change to avoid possible difficulties in the case of relatively long periods of absence of any one of the signatories.</p> <p>(v) Elections: The following people were elected to the roles listed a) key members :Judy Cullen, Liz Ellis, Jenny Cottee, Tina Allen, Lesley West, Carol McClellan b) key member one : Carol McClellan The meeting thanked Judy for taking on this important role (treasurer) since our independence in 2008 and seeing us reliably through to the current state of relative confidence.</p>

	<p>c) additional bank signatory : Carol McClellan d) person independent of the group to check the accounts: Robert Hurn ATT, ACTA (Hurn Accountants 39a Armour Rd</p>
5	<p>Activities (a) corwen gardens session with a team of volunteers from a firm – end of sept or beginning of October- to sort out brick planter etc b) planting bulbs in Tilehurst on Saturday 9 November 10-12 noon details later of helpers needed- please make a note in your diary and pass the message on to any youth group or teams from different organizations. . We will probably plant at end of Halls rd /green patch under the tree near the Meadway junction Please come (c) Park Lane cattle trough: Pat will undertake this again- probably daffodil bulbs and pansies – she will notify highways of the date proposed and seek help as needed</p>
6	<p>Meeting plans Please pass on ideas as you get brain waves</p>
7	<p>AOB Kate Jone and Roger Sym(representing Tilehurst Globe) had enjoyed to the mayor's reception for RESCUE volunteers. Other Tilehurst volunteers had been present representing tilehurst Horticultural Association and Tilehurst Allotments Society</p>

Tilehurst Globe

Summary of Income and Expenditure for: 01/04/2012 - 31/03/2013

		£
Balance b/f	01/04/12	2,136.45
Income during Period	01/04/12 – 31/03/13	1,909.48
Expenditure during Period	01/04/12 – 31/03/13	(1,762.23)
Net income / expenditure	01/04/12 – 31/03/13	147.25
Balance c/f	31/03/13	2,283.70

which is made up as follows:

	£
Bank statement at 31/03/13	2,283.70
Cheques to be presented	0.00
Cash	0.00
Total	2,283.70

Income and Expenditure for the year ending 01/04/12 - 31/03/13

INCOME	For y/e 31/03/13 £	For y/e 31/03/12 £	EXPENDITURE	For y/e 31/03/13 £	For y/e 31/03/12 £
Grant RBC 01 ³	375.00	875.00	Office	397.38	302.76
Grant RBC 02 ³	149.78	0.00	Rent	255.70	233.80
Donations Sponsors	415.00	420.00	Promotion	24.68	13.00
Donations Christmas ⁶	126.70	209.21	Christmas Lights	59.13	0.00
Donations Other	158.00	0.00	Projects	926.40	682.20
Oxford Rd Com Gdns ⁷	185.00	0.00	BCF	98.94	194.68
BCF Grant	0.00		Events	0.00	15.00
Grant RBC 03 ⁸	500.00				
Totals	1909.48	1504.21		1762.23	1441.44

	Year ending 31 Mar 2013 £	Year ending 31 Mar 2012 £
Balance of Receipts over Payments	147.25	62.77

Notes:

1. These accounts have been prepared on a cash basis.
2. The group is responsible for payment of all bills including insurance.
3. RBC grants 01 and 02 were spent on the allocated purposes (office costs and insurance top-up).
4. Office costs were higher than in the previous year, due to increased insurance costs. However, less money was spent on the newsletter because of on-line printing.
5. All the remaining BCF grant (£4.87) will be spent on Corwen Rd gardens.
6. Of the £335.91 collected, the balance of £276.78 is allocated for the Christmas lights project.
7. Oxford Road Community Gardens Grant to be spent on a Banner.
8. Grant RBC 03 has been received early, and is to be used in the year starting 1.4.13 (office costs, rent, etc.)

Signed Judith Cullen (Key member, Tilehurst Globe)

I have checked the Accounts against Receipts Payments and Statements provided and find this an accurate record.

Carol P. McEllan
CAROL P. McELLAN
11-9-13

NOTES OF MEETING– TILEHURST GLOBE – Wed 19 June 2013

Present: Lyn Jones, Chel Nagendran, Lesley West, Tina Allen, Sheila Smith, Ron Smith, Judy Cullen, Pat Ager, Carol McClellan, Pam Webb, David Bollam, Jenny Cottee (notes) Cllr Ricky Duveen, Sarah Griffin, Adrian Lawson

Apols David Webber, Tom Steele, Kate Jones, Liz Ellis,

1	<p>The Friends of RBH show: Very lucky with the weather, concerns re the layout- extremely cramped and cul-de-sac location made for few passers-by and very difficult for people who knew of the stall to find it (some failed). The side walls of next door stalls made only one entrance available for use- claustrophobic- disappointing .Meeting decided to pass on concerns to organizers.</p> <p>The woodland leaflets, map, quiz on fines, and the feedback re initial reactions to the verge parking produced interesting discussions. Our free stall- with no fees but free entrance to quiz and possibility of prizes (generous donations from local shops) is a good appealing stall in what can be an expensive family trip out. Many thanks to all who helped –lots of work, but worthwhile.</p>
2	<p>Tour(s) of Rail Station: The first tour had been very successful and interesting, (repeat version Tuesday 9 July 7.15-9.00pm currently 2 vacant places contact us asap-confirmation of meeting arrangements etc coming soon). Many points of concern relate to the scale (i) signage- too small for this very large space- so too much walking required just to read information,(ii) too big space without seats- heavy luggage etc (iii) disappointment that the plan to have free circulation area has already been subverted by commercial coffee kiosk- so clear vista and circulation space compromised (iii) need signs saying where the loos and waiting rooms area are, location of meeting point (iv) emergency arrangements- no notices... Clearly the signage etc meets the industry standard, but the latter is out of date and does not meet requirements of a large busy junction (iv) no platform tickets?</p> <p>Interesting to note that temporary customer service desks installed on ‘free circulation space’ –these should not be necessary... Meeting decided to pass on comments to appropriate authorities .</p>
3	<p>Plans for area(s) near the Station (i) RBC landscaping area immediately around the station including the underpass. We looked at the large scale plan- showing works being done now- some will be completed in July. The levels are being altered, and hard surfaces replaced, the area N of the station will have taxi ranks and bus stops for existing routes (open 8 July). The area S of the station will have bus stops (for park and ride/specials –not eg 17 or 33 which stay as they are) and a taxi area and the W drop off area restored to use.</p> <p>Most contentious is the ruling that cyclists must dismount in the underpass. Adrian explained that the underpass is not likely to be used by rail passengers since they go in/out of the station, but it is an important link between areas N and S of the river across the railway-lines. Together with the new pedestrian /cycle bridge across the Thames it will open up traffic-reduced routes to the centre of town for pedestrians coming from the centre of Caversham, and cyclists from a wider area. Adrian explained that the decision to ban cycling in the underpass was taken many years ago at the planning stage, it seems anomalous since the underpass is wider than any other shared use cycle-way in Reading, it will not have station traffic. Jenny reported that she had been informed that the decision was based on height problems- the closed-circuit tv cameras might be hurt tall cyclists, Adrian pointed out that cyclists on bikes are lower than the same cyclists when walking and has subsequently sent us a photo of a tall cyclist in the underpass with plenty of clearance under the tv camera. This issue will not go away.</p> <p>ii) The very large area between Friar street and Station Hill including old bus-station and many offices etc- now owned by Sackville. Jenny explained that there are two planning applications about this enormous area .The idea is that the area will be developed as 7 separate sites in phases A-G according to prevailing circumstances. An application for outline planning permission was put in March this year. It contains very sketchy outlines and broad parameters for the whole area for comment now, -there is no immediate rush. When agreed this outline plan and the final parameters will guide the more detailed planning applications for the separate sub-sites The meeting agreed that it is important that the area is considered as a whole and wish to consider and probably make comments on the parameters.</p> <p>Parts of the main site will be cleared before the planning applications have been agreed –in particular the old shops fronting station rd will be demolished (not western tower at this stage) , the pavement in front of them will be lowered soon and a planning application to convert the land cleared into a temporary park has been submitted. This application shows some planting seating etc, and is largely an open area that could be used for a market, ice-rink, events ,performances etc. It is proposed that this temporary urban park would have a life of 10 years- ie whilst other areas are being developed in phases.</p>
4	<p>Our Projects -different projects led by different individuals. The project leader is responsible for all aspects of the task ,but a key member gives guidance about red tape,health and safety,insurance etc (i) Litter teams-still need someone for Tylers rest area of bank to mcilroys park facing Norcot rd – liz will chase up (ii) Corwen gardens-good progress made by team from Microsoft, more work needed to tidy beds- new members of team welcome- contact kate asap please (iii) Horse trough- Pat and Jane have re-planted with summer bedding, after sorting out the red-tape and practicalities</p>
5	<p>Next meetings- walk on 17 July-Liz has this in hand for an interesting fun event- meeting point etc tbc , then AGM and Blundells management Plan (annual review) on Wed 18 September. Apart from these two fixtures we are open for more ideas.</p> <p>One idea that came forward was considering the parameters for developing the whole Sackville site (ex-madeski-Friar St to Station Hill- see item 3 above) so we need suggestions re how best to tackle this task – any prior knowledge/skill out there?</p>
6	<p>Updates Blundells Copse : Good news (i)RBC have been successful in applying to the Forestry Commission for a grant to remedy surface problems from Calder Close to Bran close entrance of the Copse. The intention is to get the work done asap, to give the surface time to harden in the summer. The meeting agreed that t asap and proceed even in the school summer holidays.Work associated with the path will proceed- thinning canopy over the path etc- but the rest of the ecological work will be subject to consultation in autumn, along with projects in the rest of Reading (ii) A youth group will be tackling some practical tasks over a day</p>

	and a half on 29/30 july-improving bridge/hand rail, replacing two benches ,stream clearance etc.
7	<p>Business items (i) insurance- we will be receiving a cheque to pay for the insurance top up to £10million plc from RBC parks dept – due in August so all volunteers will have the required cover.</p> <p>(ii) banner purchase-we have funds allocated- one grant one savings to purchase one flag banner- which will identify our group, and one A frame that will stand near our working location to advertise the specific activity. – designs need careful thought so will be done hopefully during summer ‘slack’ time</p> <p>(iii) Auditor so far we have not found a replacement for our auditor/person to sign off that our accounts and summary are a true record – we do not require audit qualifications- are not a charity, but do want someone of appropriate ‘good standing’ to help and check through and sign that all is ok. Judy will be preparing the year end summary soon and we will need to be ready to present them in early September. Contact us for ideas please.</p> <p>(iv) photos of events- we need pics of events/activities for our Annual report/News letter/website, but are not routinely organized to do this- please bring phone/use it and mail to tilehurst globe so we build up resources- we don’t want last minute panics... not all have/ use mobiles so if you do please help</p>
8	<p>AOB (i) Xmas lights- we are looking for sets of battery powered lights (not solar- don’t work well in winter) to supplement the modest twinkle achieved last year- please contact us if you spot any bargains</p> <p>(ii) Competition: shop locally for 1 week (29 July-4 August) pick up a leaflet at Village Butchers, Deli in Pangbourne or visit www.fsb.org.uk/thamesvalley/kitchallenge</p> <p>(iii) Facebook/group for people who value Tilehurst facilities and community? Sarah asked if anyone knew of such a group/website she was floating the idea of establishing such a group and wants to find out a)if there is anything already existing, b) would one be a useful addition please send comments to Tilehurst Globe- we will forward and she will collect /collate and get in touch</p>

NOTES OF MEETING– TILEHURST GLOBE – Wed 17 April 2013

Present: Lesley West, Tina Allen, Sheila Smith, Ron Smith, Tom Steele, Kate Jones, Ray Clayton, Pat Ager, Carol McClellan, Pam Webb, Cathy Wade, Jenny Cottee (notes),

Apols Roger Sym, Cllr Sandra Vickers, David Webber, Judy Cullen, Liz Ellis,

1	<p>Next meeting-Wed 15 May 7.15-9.00 pm guided walk round the new Rail Station . We will hear from a knowledgeable engineer who worked on the project and explore facilities for cyclists, buggies, signage etc. We will only go where there is public access and will hear about the North entrance (opening in July) There will be places for max 20 people so please contact Globe asap to book your place- for meeting arrangements</p>
2	<p>Cosy Homes meeting : what we and the ‘thermal imaging guinea-pigs’ have learned: We found the meeting interesting. Jenny has contacted the ‘guinea pigs’ , and spoken with veronica- we will be able to keep the ‘energy kits’ longer if demand there,(please contact us if you want to borrow) and we will pass on feed back. Most is about making the kit/instructions/ results of the survey easy to understand and not too daunting- needs to be very clear. We played a game in 4 teams discussing and prioritizing the most cost/effective ways to avoid wasting energy and to list what uses energy (vacuum cleaners are surprisingly greedy). One enthusiastic member told of her successes with Painter’s Mate- she had tracked down many surprising sources of draughts and filled them all- whilst a firm advocate of ventilation (and avoiding problems with damp) she is delighted the increased comfort in her 1960’s home. The plaster-board dabbing effect has been immediately solved at minimal cost and time.</p>
3	<p>How to keep Tilehurst looking nice all the time with much less Litter and Dumping:</p> <p>(i) Rescue how it went- Liz had compiled the Tilehurst Globe report from all information sent in –many thanks for this. Overall, not surprisingly, the weather had played a big part . Snow hid the litter so it could not be spotted on the Saturday, biting winds etc kept numbers down, only very determined ventured out for long... However many notable achievements and good progress made. In considering the organization we thought all had gone very well- new leaders did well, (having experienced volunteers helped) . The dust cart teams were excellent and gave excellent service. Information about problems about litter pickers breaking, and thin transparent bags had been passed on to HQ disappointing that promised police support had not occurred- no messages received about reason . (ii) litter street teams volunteers to join existing teams dealing with specific areas throughout the year are very welcome. We have no specific pattern-people do what they can/is convenient for them to it is patchy. However any help is welcome. Liz and RBC street care team have compiled official guidance (including insurance and how to passon info to relevant rbc teams)- so don’t just start up- Please contact us for info- (and litter picker & vest and insurance details) We are particularly keen to find some help to deal with the bank at edge of Mclroys park /norcot rd near Tylers rest.</p> <p>(iii) preventing litter-hot spots etc Jenny reported that the RESCUE follow-up meeting is planned to involve all relevant departments of RBC in concerted effort, following experience of this event. (Late note: this decision taken at prior RESCUE meeting was reversed without advance warning) It appears that it will be down to local groups to secure RBC joined up working locally.</p> <p>Actions for all :</p> <p>(i) When following up issues re litter etc with RBC officers please copy tilehurst globe into correspondence</p> <p>(ii) look for some rubber bungy fastenings for banner it give quick flexibility</p> <p>(iii) agree design of the flag banner</p> <p>(iv) (anyone passing through)check up garden waste in Blagrave rec corner near nursery- if still there report to parks dept-</p>
4	<p>Our Projects- updates , etc please contact us if you can help</p> <p>(i) Domestic Battery collection-remember RBC collect batteries in clear plastic bags when tied to top of red bin,</p> <p>(ii) Cattle trough planting- may need top up of soil when planting summer bedding- or slightly taller plants so easily visible over the top-</p> <p>(iii) Chewing gum collection bin/removal - Lesley continuing research, Tom following up mosaic idea seen in Berlin</p> <p>(iv) Woodland leaflets- need person to be i/c distribution/top ups to library –please contact us- needs pop in to library, possibly visit dentist/ vets /the link</p> <p>(v) Corwen sheltered accommodation gardens- need major project and then routine maintenance of flower beds. The big task involves sorting compost bin area- bagging the compost ready for re-use, constructing/refurbish existing bins and locate source and collect pallets/construct more bins . Kate will draw up a plan showing what order tasks need to be done etc, Jenny will seek team (s) of strong outside volunteers to help at key stages. Ideally the work needs to be done in several stages in May</p>

5	<p>Updates (i) Blundells Copse improvements/maintenace Jenny reported that there had been little progress- RBC report no news from Forestry commission about their whole project (that involves several woodlands) . <i>However late news : RBC will submit grant application for only the Blundells path immediately without prejudice to the other aspects of the whole woodlands plan .</i> We have our scheduled annual review of the maintenance of the copse at our September meeting when we will hear from Giles and Dave progress on all aspects of the plan. In the mean time we are hoping for some visible progress towards maintaining this well-supported public asset.</p>

NOTES OF MEETING– TILEHURST GLOBE – Wed 20 March 2013

Present: David Webber, Lesley West, Judy Cullen, Sheila Smith, Ron Smith, Tom Steele, Summreen Sheikh, Kate Jones, Chel Nagranedram, Cllr Ricky Duveen, Liz Ellis, Ray Clayton, Jane Blake, Pat Ager, Dudley Browne, Ian Gough, Ivan Somerville, Rachel Chilton, Carol McClellan, Tony Cowling, Veronica Leeke, Jenny Cottee (notes),

Apols Roger Sym, Cllr Sandra Vickers

	<p>Introduction and Welcome. Jenny welcomed all to the monthly Globe meeting. The first half would be on an energy theme (especially saving energy, keeping cosy in cold weather). The second more regular items would be chaired by Liz. The April meeting would follow up some of the themes of the energy items.</p>
1	<p>Thermal Imaging: a way of seeing where the heat goes: what it tells us, common findings, reports from people who had their home done recently : Jenny explained that 3 volunteer families had been working with Veronica Leeke (a trainee thermal imaging consultant) and her mentor Brian Harper to survey their houses from the inside- to see where the heat goes (using a thermal imaging camera) . Jenny and Veronica explained how the system works and common findings. All households are different; similar houses are used differently. The 2hr visits helped householders see sources of heat loss and draughts, making visible otherwise invisible problems- cold air circulating behind plaster board, heat going through loft hatches, misplaced/missing insulation ,thermal bridges etc. The volunteers would be lent an energy kit to follow up any issues and check up how much different appliances cost to run.</p> <p>Data collected (anonymously) would be passed on to university departments for real-time research into how people can save cash on energy costs. The experience of further trials of the procedures/kit and training Veronica would enable the service to expand to more areas beyond the original Malvern Hills.</p>
2	<p>Green Deal : reduce loss of heat -using the cash saved from smaller energy bills to pay for the improvements: Ian Gough explained that Reading Council has obtained grants to employ people to publicize the Government Green Deal scheme .They help more people benefit from advice and (if suitable) some to go on and take up the scheme. The free advice was only available until 1 April, so hasty replies might be successful. The Green Deal is a way of borrowing money- a loan – to be paid for by future savings made on energy bills. The loan is related to the specific house/energy meter ,so would be transferred to new owner if house is sold. Tied into the scheme is a Quality Assurance arrangement so that the work/products of all suppliers etc who use the Green Deal logo is of guaranteed quality- very important, since so much is invisible and poor workmanship can easily subvert improvements .Discussion focussed on how realistic were the forecasts of future savings, and the interest rates charged</p>
3	<p>Draught busting: simple, cheap, DIY ways to keep the heat in and stay warmer, for everyone to check out : Tony Cowling , ex builder, now an energy consultant outlined some findings of the Transition Reading/ RBC funded Draught Busters scheme to fix draughts in peoples houses. He emphasised that many solutions were quick, simple , and cheap to do. He showed some horrifying slides eg big gaps under front door/letter boxes, round windows- all of which allowed large flows of cold air in to homes occupied by many frail /elderly people in 21 C Reading. Not only old houses were treated-effects were immediate.</p>
4	<p>RESCUE plans: checking the leaders’ guidance- is it clear ,are we ready for the weekend.... Liz thanked the leaders of the four sessions at the weekend for volunteering to do this in the worst weather we can remember at RESCUE. The she explained the importance of the records/insurance arrangements , have emphasized the need to liaise with other session leaders- saying what areas had been done etc.</p>
5	<p>Updates (i) RBC grant – we have been awarded £500 to cover routine costs- eg meeting room, insurance, printing annual newsletter and posters (ii) The popular leaflets about local walks have been reprinted – we need a volunteer to liaise with the library/other outlets and keep them topped up.</p>

NOTES OF MEETING– TILEHURST GLOBE – Wed 20 February 2013

Present: Pam Webb, Tina Allen, Lesley West, Pat Ager, Paula Miles, Ray Clayton, Phil Allen, Carol McClellan, Sheila Smith, Ron Smith, Cllr Ricky Duveen, Liz Ellis (chair), Dave Booth RBC, Lyn Jones, David Webber Tom Steele, Claire O'Brian, Cllr Meri O'Connell Jenny Cottee (notes),
Apols Roger Sym, Judith Cullen, Cllr Sandra Vickers

1	<p>Giles Sutton, RBC: Making Blundells Copse better for people and wildlife in 2013. Giles an ecologist, is currently working with Dave Booth to improve about 100Ha of RBC woodlands by preparing bids for specific improvements to the Forestry Commission. If successful the paths/rides will be improved with more light allowed into specific areas encouraging a range of species to flourish- i.e. to better manage the woods. In contrast to other plans these bids include an annual maintenance schedule for a period after the main work has been done. There will be public consultation about the plans for all the woods. There will be some wood clearance in Lousehill Copse quite soon –to let in light etc (contact Globe/Giles for details) but most work is pending consultation and plan preparation. The Blundells bid is nearing completing : RBC seek comments suggestions , and most importantly community support.</p> <p>Giles showed the draft maps that the plan includes access and paths(re-surfacing the circular path and drainage work, bridge repair, steps rail, a new narrow path and bridge) and some work on vegetation(e.g. reduce bracken and sycamore , reduce tree canopy over path , some new copses, manage grass area outside for wild flowers, with a mown path). The group passed on comments including how best to tackle the drainage issue (Dave will meet up on site with Ron), show more exits on the maps, use Calder Close alleyway as emergency path in dire weather conditions, and commented on priorities: Highest included: path surface suitable for wheelchairs etc – no fear of tipping over so horizontal , entrances boundaries, reduce bracken and sycamore. Lower priority- so if cash is available: interpretation board(s) possibly inside Moorlands Primary School entrance to reduce vandalism damage, hand rail for steps</p> <p>To win the grant RBC need to show that more people will use the wood when the work is completed. Tilehurst Globe will support RBC application and help inform people know how to pass on their views: Please a) send a LETTER to Giles Sutton, Planning Department, RBC Civic Offices, RG1 7AE, mark the envelope blundells . b) add short comments to the forms being circulated c) email to dave.booth@reading.gov.uk (subject: blundells bid comments) please say where you live, what you think about the copse, say if you would use it more if the improvements were made and why Please get this done by 12 March and PASS ON THE MESSAGES- your support is urgently needed and is essential for success. -</p>
2	<p>RESCUE Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 March: Liz explained the preparatory work that had been done (and is scheduled to be completed before this clear up weekend) .We decided to share out leadership for each of four sessions (am /pm on each day) , after an introduction to briefing pack prepared by Liz (accumulation of years of practice). Volunteers were sought and came forward- Liz will deliver the briefing documents to them , and arrange a Q&A session soon before the event. We talked about key issues- safeguarding children, H&S etc –all covered in the briefing docs- many thanks to all volunteers and helpers-fingers crossed for fine weather. We noted litter hot spots-e.g. BT exchange at top of Norcot Hill and were pleased that the HQ evaluation meeting after the event will focus on prevention- how to stop /reduce dumping we don't want to do the same again next year....</p>
3	<p>How did the planting go? We had been lucky with the weather for both events- Corwen gardens, and Triangle. Both had been successful- tasks completed in good time- enough volunteers (grown-ups and children) to do the taks. Rain after made all perk up . People like the appearance. Maps have been sent to grass-cutting team at RBC to avoid the plants.</p> <p>We discussed future planting – main Triangle area is OK perhaps move to side of Y&C building if problems re lorry damage sorted, also Downing rd advert. hoardings, ex-upcroft school on Norcot rd, replace previous planting on Mayfair- damaged by contractors...(also Broomfield and Pierces hill)</p>
4	<p>Energy saving: keeping cosy/saving cash : The March meeting will focus on these issues- looking for simple cost-effective solutions (as well as capital outlay schemes) .Come with practical questions...Thanks to participating members</p>
5	<p>Updates (i) Pam reported a generous Pegasus Court resident had donated the takings of a slide show to our group – we agreed to aim to use the cash for bulbs to be seen easily from 17 bus route. Jenny to write to thank donor</p> <p>(ii) Liz reported she is in preliminary discussions with a new sponsor</p> <p>(iii) We decided to join the Reading Neighbourhood Network http://www.rgneighbours.net/home.</p> <p>(iv) following correspondence about broken battery boxes we agreed to pay for the p/p (about £19) for the free replacements ,</p> <p>(v) Following excellent demand we expect to receive more supplies of Lousehill ,McIlroys and Arthur Newbery leaflets- we have opted for 1000 per run being only £10 more than 500.</p> <p>(vi) co-op destined lorries down Gratwicke Rd- Lesley will try to take details and pass on info</p> <p>(vii) surplus Garden Tools needed- by Ghurka community- pass on tools/info to Tom Steele</p> <p>(viii) Dog poo problems- contact the RBC Dog Warden-(0118 937 3787) they provide good service- will watch out – tackle owners and can fine....</p> <p>(ix) Corwen gardens-there will be probably 2 work parties needed after Easter- heavy work (clearing compost bins and reconstructing) AND weeding etc ready to take the newly made compost...volunteers welcome say which day of the week suits you...</p>

NOTES OF MEETING– TILEHURST GLOBE – Wed 16 January 2013

Present: Pam Webb, Tina Allen, Lesley West, Pat Ager, Ray Clayton, Carol McClellan, Sheila Smith, Tom Steele, Judith Cullen, Cllr Sandra Vickers, Claire O'Brian, David Bollam, Jenny Cottee (notes) ,

Apols Roger Sym, Ron Smith , Cllr Ricky Duveen, Liz Ellis ,Lyn Jones, David Webber

1	<p>Newsletter 2013 Congratulations to Liz for good edition. We considered how things had gone- discrepancies re delivery details were being collected for correction. The newsletter had been welcomed- electronic delivery had worked. The new format had resulted in considerable savings. We received a few replies, and comments were noted (see later in agenda). We have more spares than before (minimum print run) so some have gone to sponsors, and then to dentists, doctors, the LINK village café and keep some for the Show- <i>Carol and Jenny will distribute asap</i></p> <p>Discussion re layout : <i>could the calendar be larger-easier to read? Views divided re separate calendar- some kept safe in kitchen- narrow stiff material was better- is the current one the same weight?-More trials please during the year.</i></p>
2	<p>Twinkling Xmas Lights on Wellingtonia at the Triangle Jenny explained that following the last meeting Roger had bought 4 sets of battery powered (cost £10 each and each uses 3xAAA) 48 led lights (in slightly different colours /tones of white). Devices have integral timing devices so they had been fastened on the tree and shone 4.15-10.15pm from Fri 14 Dec- Sun 6 Jan (23 days – needed a refill of batteries in the new year), twinkling device meant longer battery life. No thefts.</p> <p>We decided that although faint the lights were pretty, affordable, within budget and so it was worth repeating next year with more sets- Carol will find out if any remain and buy 4 more sets (and a battery charger) - best to buy more of the same. We could ask what people think in next newsletter edition. Lights on tree cannot compete in brightness with surrounding lights- but seemed to be in right place- centre of the community. Possibly have switch on at communal carols- also Christmas shop-window competition. <i>Tina and Lesley will chat with shopkeepers when they distribute the February posters – sound out – also find out re Christmas Carol events possible window comp</i></p>
3	<p>Green Deal – (http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/tackling/green_deal/green_deal.aspx) The new government scheme to help householders (and businesses) to save cash and keep warm, with capital costs covered by loan that is repaid using savings from reduced energy bills. Jenny reported that as yet there are no registered assessors less than 20 miles from Reading, so that until there is a good number nearer we are unlikely to be able to get free quotes. <i>Jenny will keep monitoring the situation so that when some available members can get reports and swap experiences- we are particularly interested in non-cavity walls... then report back at a meeting...</i></p>
4	<p>Spring planting sessions – (producing instant effect with 'in the green' bulbs), Following discussion about how to get best impact for the money ,we agreed on two sessions both 10.00 -12 noon Friday 8 Feb (meet at Corwen flats car park to plant some aconites and bare-root roses at front of the flats (so finishing off remaining reserved funds) and Sat 16 Feb (meet at Triangle) to plant 'ropes' of snowdrops round the bamboo and oak (quite near in so that more/ a larger circle might be planted another year. <i>Jenny will order bulbs to our agreed budget- Volunteers welcome/needed for both events- pass the word around-most needed for sat 16 Feb</i></p>
5	<p>Grant applications- (i) RESCUE- we would welcome more large high viz jackets and a Tilehurst GLOBE flag banner ,but have missed deadline for march 2013 RESCUE , (ii) we decided to apply for RBC funding for running costs (rent of meeting room,insurance, posters etc) for the max of £375 available for each globe group-<i>Jenny and Judy will prepare and sign this bid</i></p>
6	<p>Projects for the New Year already planned a) Blundells Copse-Giles Sutton (RBC) will update us on Forrestry Commission bid at February meeting (Feb 20). Situation very bad at the moment- unusable due to mud, green waste dumping, fence crashed in to insecure entrances... b) planting the cattle trough at water tower- <i>Pat and Jane will plant twice- spring and autumn bedding</i> c) RESCUE Sat 23 and sun 24 March- 10-12 ,2-4.00 both days VOLUNTEERS (for all ages etc) NEEDED</p>
7	<p>Updates and AOB (a) Liz will order more woodland leaflets asap (b) Kentwood Hill wall collapse by parade of shops- and unusable zebra crossing Cllr Jennie Rynn advises that RBC is establishing the ownership of the land so that responsible people sort it out. (c) 49 Overdown Rd –fencing of land Tom Steele will check out rumours (d) The pilot verge parking ban scheme will probably proceed- opinion divided sensible to try it out... in nominated roads so look out for notices in papers etc (e) NAG meeting : speed indicators will be used again in Oak Tree, Corwen, and New Lane Hill with a request to check out Halls Rd. There is a community speed 'gun' available for use in nominated roads.If you are interested contact Joanne.Anderson@reading.gov.uk – (You will need some training) . Burglary detection (ie finding who did it) down from 34%to 19%. (f) NCP car parking- Sandra reported London meeting with NCP- situation still unclear- NCP say that rbc sets the fees.... (g) Reading Neighbourhood Network has arrived and replaces REFTRA- see their website http://www.rgneighbours.net/home. various local neighborhood groups belong to this (free) WHAT DO YOU THINK / please check this out for decision next meeting .</p>
8	<p>Projects for the New Year we considered suggestions sent</p> <p>a) Sign at top of Langley Hill "Welcome to Tilehurst" -issues include where else- Norcot rd etc, so tricky... undecided Tom said that we could probably get a free 'welcome to Reading' sign at top of Langley Hill ,near the water tower at entrance to the borough- might possibly get an addition saying TILEHURST ...</p> <p>b) a Village sign- illustrations based on local history (eg Danes,Romans,railway tiles) we looked at an example- thought it would need a professional designer- seek grant- not clear exactly where at the triangle...</p> <p>c) concerns about empty shops /ideas to use vacant shops –or community use eg police office,or council contact point- we agreed with the main thrust- want to promote tilehurst as a convenient place ,with valued facilities – doubt if there is much value in having estate agent shops- people look on line- more likely just to be a cheap office not a shop...(what about planning regs?) tricky to get use of empty shops- who pays the rent? need to encourage people to use library on line facilities,</p> <p>d) Farmers Market on the Triangle once a month –people were interested in buying local food, but anticipated many difficulties- not a suitable location – need good facilities for traders- water, van parking/unloading ,do not want to cause problems for local permanent shop keepers who pay rent etc. is it fair?</p> <p>e) Christmas Best Dressed Shop Window ?-This idea had been picked up in earlier discussion- seems good think it could combine with other features to push Tilehurst as a nice venue. Tina and Lesley doing initial discussions</p> <p>On balance we agreed that big priority is to help keep the local shopping centre vibrant . Looking at possible Christmas events might help . we will consider these and other new suggestions over the year. Volunteers to move any ideas along welcome –also more ideas?</p>

