

TILEHURST GO LOCAL FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT (GLOBE)

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 18TH OCTOBER 2023 AT THE METHODIST CHURCH HALL, SCHOOL ROAD, TILEHURST, RG31 5AN

Present: Jenny Cottee, Jean Rainey, Julie Alexander, Pam Webb, Carol McClellan.

1. Apologies

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Liz Ellis, John Venning and Dave Granville

2. Recycling & Sustainability

- 2.1 Reading Borough Council were doing a kerbside recycling trial for soft plastics including bubble wrap, collected in a separate blue bag.
- 2.2 Various items were brought in by attendees & issues raised:
Paper wrapped yoghurt pot - if wrap comes off easily, separate & both go in kerbside recycling if not, leave together in kerbside recycling.
Polystyrene - can't be recycled.
Lithium ion batteries - try Halfords, car servicers or RE3 tip - NEVER put any batteries in domestic waste, they can cause fires. Also be careful with stored old batteries - corroded ones can cause fires in the home.
Boots have a collection box for cosmetic & makeup containers.
(Clean) cling film can be recycled with carrier bags.
Cotswold Sports centre collect Tetrapaks and disposable coffee cups.
W Berks don't take (clean) foil in kerbside recycling but Reading Borough Council do.
No.96 shop in School Road (next to the Post Office) recycle small printer ink cartridges.
M&S have collection boxes for soft plastics.
John Lewis no longer recycles Brita water filters - try Waitrose or Sainsbury's.

3 Litter etc Phone Reporting Apps

- 3.1 You can't get the 'lovecleanreading' app on the Google Store, only 'lovecleanstreets' but this works for Reading (& W Berks too?).
- 3.2 Julie recommended Cllr Ray Singh as being very good at getting fly-tipping issues sorted on his Kentwood patch.

4. Any Other Business

- 4.1 Carol circulated an AGE UK petition 'Offline & Overlooked' advocating for people who cannot access online services.
- 4.2 Tilehurst GLOBE had been asked by a member of the public to contact the developers of the Dark Lane/Long Lane site requesting that they plant wildflowers on the verges around the development. Carol would contact the lady for more details and also take a look at the site.
- 4.3 Ideas for future meetings:
'How to spot & avoid scams' - Carol would look into this.
'How to have a sustainable/cost-saving Christmas'.
'Impending technological changes & their possible impacts' - e.g. closure of telephone landlines, cessation of chequebooks, electric vehicles, smart meters, cessation of gas boilers.
- 4.4 Pam highlighted the plans for the new Reading Central Library & suggested we keep an eye on this.
- 4.5 Jenny would check if we had had any feedback from Reading Borough Council on the issues raised on the July walk.

TILEHURST GO LOCAL FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT (GLOBE)

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT THE METHODIST CHURCH HALL, SCHOOL ROAD, TILEHURST, RG31 5AN ON WED. 20 SEPT 2023

Present: Carol McLellan, Pam Webb, Mike Keep, Della Keep, Kevin Keep, Jenny Cottee, (chair) Cllr Anne Thompson, Pedro Borralho (RBC), Chris Camfield (RBC)
Apologies: Jean Rainey, Liz Ellis, Julie Alexander

1. **Starting the meeting** : Jenny explained in the first part of the meeting we would refer to comments about the environment in the Triangle area during our July walk. Members of the RBC Streetscene team (Chris the manager, and Pedro) will talk about them and answer questions
The notes below use the numbering of the July walk minutes. Abbreviations : wpo = will pass on to appropriate staff for attention-speed of action will depend on priorities.
2. **Streetscene members Pedro Borralho and Chris Camfield** said
 - 1.1 wpo
 - 1.2 Bamboo not suitable for planting in the muddy area near the Co-op, but other plants possible (invasion risk - Thames Water pipes etc below.)
 - 1.3 The Keep family raised questions about why the grass had not been cut; Pedro said that following RBC policy to increase number of re-wilded areas and grass meadows (increasing bio-diversity etc) some areas now have only one cut (Sept/Oct) per year. In this particular case a fire-break will be made, and the tall grass close to the fence of the Triangle house cut down. Regarding a flower meadow, the process of establishment is tricky and takes time - after the annual cut arisings are swept up and removed to reduce soil fertility.
3. Land in front of library is under library budget, action will depend on cost, but planters could be moved, planting is welcomed. RBC will review litter situation and style of litter bins currently available.
- 5.1 The area between Walnut way and St Michaels Rd is well known and a great concern (safety issues etc). Regardless of cost it is not clear what the best answer is. Some extra fencing may help, adding benches as suggested in 5.2 requires clarity and agreement about location. Don't want to make the area too attractive, causing further problems. Streetscene team is exploring possibilities, talking with many, and moving slowly - can't afford to get things wrong.
3. **General points** listed will be considered and acted upon, eg surplus tree stakes will be removed; tree officer will come to look at sickly trees.
4. **Reporting problems when you spot them:** Contact main call centre **01189373787** or use smart phone app "**lovecleanstreets**" or "**lovecleanreading**" both work- you need to register your email address after installing the app.Tilehurst Globe will publicize the apps.
5. **We thanked the speakers** for very helpful and interesting input. After they left we looked at the TG Constitution and then proceeded to the AGM, because we agreed we needed more members present to establish a clear sense of direction and aims for the future,
6. **Annual General Meeting Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2023**
Carol presented the report (circulated with papers for the meeting) saying the accounts (signed off by our scrutineer) as last year showed a healthy financial balance, without much expenditure. We accepted the accounts and thanked Carol for her work.
Carol explained that we needed to revise the bank signatories, we need 4 in total, Jenny was standing down but both Pam and Jean were willing to be a replacement. Jean will be an immediate replacement, Pam on standby if/when another is needed.

Further discussion about plans was held over until more members were present.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

TILEHURST GO LOCAL FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT (GLOBE)

NOTES FROM WALK AROUND TILEHURST TRIANGLE ON 19TH JULY 2023

Present: Jenny Cottee, Jean Rainey, Roger Sym, Carol McClellan, Philip Allen, Ray Clayton, Jan & Brian Wigham, Pam Webb, Shirley Cooper.

Following a walk around the Triangle, the following comments & suggestions were made:

1. War Memorial Area

- 1.1 Reinstall or replace wooden posts from edge of grass now lying loose (RBC).
- 1.2 Move small chunks of bamboo to patch of grass/mud outside Co-op entrance. And possibly by Burger Van site. Check for underground services first. Or just add a new plant(s)
- 1.3 Have a wildflower meadow on part of the grass.
- 1.4 Remove grass from around Wellingtonia.
- 1.5 Remove grass from around small Cherry tree & water.
- 1.6 Remove dangerous remains of old tree stump by telephone box. (Latter is due for removal by BT). Plant with new tree and level paving around the area.
- 1.7 Clean & waterproof wooden seats
- 1.8 Add planters to make the area look less barren. Shops, Council and/or local groups could plant and maintain.
- 1.9 Remove grass between paving slabs.

2 Corner of Dunstall Close

- 2.1 Remove redundant support posts (or plant a new tree there).
- 2.2 Cut grass (perhaps just around edge to balance neat, 'cared for' appearance and wildlife value).
- 2.3 Ailing Crab Apple trees need attention (the Tree Wardens will trim off the dead bits).
- 2.4 The side of the old bank building looks dilapidated and weedy.

3. Corwen Road Clinic/Tilehurst Library

- 3.1 Remove old paving slabs and replace with bulbs and/or wildflowers.
- 3.2 Replace/replant old planters.
- 3.3 Add more Cherry trees in front of Clinic (or Lime trees).
- 3.4 Add a litter bin at Clinic. Clear litter.

4. Rear of Walnut Way Car Park

- 4.1 Trim long grass. Need advice on growing conditions & which trees would grow best there (Hornbeam, Walnut, Hazel suggested).
- 4.2 Coppice existing struggling Crab Apples and grow as low bushes.
- 4.3 Pavement at 16-18 Walnut Way is too narrow.
- 4.4 Ask RBC what maintenance they carry out here.

5. Walnut Way/St Michaels Road

- 5.1 What is under the bund? What are the conditions for planting? Plant more bulbs there if bunds removed.
- 5.2 Add benches, trees, more accessible entrance(s) & mown grass paths to invite people in.
- 5.3 Add trees & benches on grass next to Co-op.
- 5.4 Is there a litter problem? RBC to deal.

TILEHURST GO LOCAL FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT (GLOBE)

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 21ST JUNE 2023 AT THE METHODIST CHURCH HALL, SCHOOL ROAD, TILEHURST, RG31 5AN

Present: Jenny Cottee, Liz Ellis, Jean Rainey, Dave Glanville, Julie Alexander, Roger Sym, Anne Thompson, Deborah Catherall, Ray Clayton, Linda Duff, Ruth Crowch, Carol McClellan.

1. **Recycling & Sustainability**

- 1.1 After an introduction to the topic by Carol McLellan those present split into groups to discuss issues, ideas and questions about recycling and sustainability. Several documents and leaflets offering ideas, places where certain things could be recycled, and useful contacts were distributed. (Several of these are now available through the Tilehurst Globe website). There was also a 'swap shop' to exchange surplus books, CDs & DVDs.
- 1.2 Following the group discussion, these ideas and questions arose:
What do the local authorities do with the materials (especially plastics) they ask us to recycle? Residents might have more of an incentive to comply if they knew what happened to the stuff. Can food pouches (for petfood, detergents, etc.) be recycled? Possibly via Terracycle, some in kerbside collections?
Any update on the Government's Proposed Deposit Scheme for Returnable drinks containers? Key info given so far: plastic bottles and cans only, in England, to be introduced in 2025, 'reverse vending machines' on designated sites where people can return their bottles and receive their cash back. The retailers who sell drinks covered by the scheme would usually host a return point. Lengthy consultation period with soft drinks manufacturers (re changes to infrastructure and amended labelling) – ongoing?
Hearing Aids - can they be recycled? Batteries, yes, as other household batteries, at usual collection points. Other materials: probably have to return to supplier. If provided by NHS, they take old ones back when replaced/updated with new.
Jean would rework/produce a local version of the soft plastic recycling info sheet brought by Liz. Reading BC were going to trial kerbside soft plastic recycling: further information awaited.
Ray Clayton put out a plea to all, asking that we keep lids on water containers & similar in the garden, to prevent frogs/wildlife falling in/drowning.
Waitrose on the Oxford Road had a bin for coffee grounds, which the public could also take from to use for compost, snail repellent etc.
Some tea bags are biodegradable – check on packaging.
Nut shells and crushed eggshells can be used as slug & snail deterrents around plants.
Compost made from local food waste for sale at RE3 Smallmead and free to local groups.
Alternative uses for things: e.g. plastic milk bottles for plant watering, cut down for plate display stands, used as mini cloches etc. Making sculptures from old books, folding & fanning pages.
The OLIO app allows people to choose and collect food etc donated by supermarkets etc.

2 **Autumn Planting & Ideas for July Walk**

- 2.1 Ideas for July walk: visit possible planting /maintenance areas centred in/near the Triangle as preparation for decisions about activities in the Autumn, more suggestions welcome as matter of urgency. Roger the tree warden said that RBC will replace dead trees if notified. He also said that he had a new fellow tree warden so more capacity to look plant and look after trees if they were provided by GLOBE.

3. **Any Other Business**

- 3.1 Anne informed us that RBC were removing the impromptu BMX track created by children on the Triangle and flattening the bunds, replacing them with a low fence - this was for safety reasons.

TILEHURST GO LOCAL FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT (GLOBE)

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 17TH MAY 2023 AT THE METHODIST CHURCH HALL, SCHOOL ROAD, TILEHURST, RG31 5AN

Present: Jenny Cottee, Liz Ellis, Jean Rainey, Dave Glanville, Julie Alexander, Keith Weller, Pat Poulson

1. Apologies

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Carol McLellan and Jan & Brian Whigham.

2 Making Tilehurst a Better Place to Live

- 2.1 Those present discussed what issues affected how nice a place was to live e.g. safety/low crime, independent shops, litter/cleanliness, services (doctor's dentists, vets etc), green spaces/parks/trees/sitting areas, friendly people who smile & chat to each other, clubs/groups/activities for all ages, transport, dog control & facilities, safer pavements.

3. Looking forward & Local Changes

- 3.1 How to increase numbers coming to GLOBE meetings? We had two speakers recently which were quite successful. There would not be a Tilehurst Show run by RBH League of Friends this year, which was usually our main way of interacting with the public, so we needed to find other events to replace it - suggestions included the car show in Prospect Park and having a stall at the Triangle Shops. Reading Tree Wardens had invited us to a Summer Walk in Burnham Beeches on Sat 24th June. We would consider a GLOBE walk instead of a meeting in July, possibly one to identify local defibrillator locations - Julie would follow up the person who contacted our Facebook page about this. The impromptu BMX track behind the Triangle Co-op was expanding. The last bank in Tilehurst Village was due to close in June.

4. Other Issues

- 4.1 Leaflets – Liz to consider which ones we might need more of including the ones on Plants in Front Gardens, History of Tilehurst etc. The Blagrove Rec Walk leaflet needed updating – Jean would take an initial look at this one and get back to Liz about it.
- 4.2 We would decide at the AGM whether to change the timings of some meetings in the hope of attracting new people.
- 4.3 Avenue School had requested a contact to discuss litter in Blundell's Copse - Jean agreed that Jenny could give them her name.
- 4.4 Planting event – moving the bamboo by The Triangle shops in the autumn. Any suggestions for other planting?
- 4.5 We agreed to a donation of £50 to First Responders who gave the defibrillators talk.
- 4.6 The subject of next meeting would be 'Recycling & Sustainability' – an open forum for people to exchange ideas, ask/answer questions, issue an updated list of recycling points and maybe include a 'swap-shop' for books, CDs & DVDS (everyone would have to take their offerings back home if they didn't find a new home though). Jean would draw up a list of 'where & what to recycle' for the meeting.
- 4.7 Our website desperately needed updating – Julie would try a contact of hers for this.
- 4.8 The website www.defibfinder.uk showed the nearest 10 defibrillators to a location.

TILEHURST GO LOCAL FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT (GLOBE)

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT THE METHODIST CHURCH HALL, SCHOOL ROAD, TILEHURST, RG31 5AN ON WED. 19 APRIL 2023

Present: Liz Ellis, Carol McLellan, Robert Turner, Pam Webb, Keith Weller, Ray Clayton, Pat Poulson, David Pick, Mary Brooksbank, Dave Glanville, Jenny Cottee, C Burch, MJ Keynon, Liz Aldersley, Angela Puttett, Brian Wigham, Jan Wigham, Julie Lawrence, Anne Thompson, Rachel Chilton, Julie Alexander chair)

Apologies: Jean Rainey,

1. **Starting the meeting** : Julie welcomed Paul Hughes, a volunteer with the Community First Responders in the local Ambulance service .

2. **Paul Hughes**, explained that as well as his day job he volunteers with Community First Responders. They aim to help save lives by getting to people quickly-(within the order of 10 minutes) because chances of survival decrease rapidly with every minute of delay. After a 999 call the volunteers are called by ambulance service to help with emergencies in their locality-e.g. Paul lives in Tilehurst.

The website of the South Central Ambulance service <https://www.scas.nhs.uk> gives information about the Charity, how defibrillators must be kept ready for use etc.

Paul's talk was focussed on what a member of the public should do on finding someone in distress. Having assessed the situation, call 999 and say clearly if the adult/child is conscious and whether they are breathing. This information will be used immediately to alert ambulance personnel whilst other details are taken. Importantly, you should look out for others to help.

Paul explained that if the patient is not breathing properly **good quality CPR is the most important priority-** starting quickly and **keeping it going** until ambulance staff take over. This helps ensure that no parts of the patient's body are starved of oxygen. In the course of the evening Paul demonstrated the technique to use using several members of the audience as the helper, and a dummy as the patient.

Fibrillation of the heart is when it is not beating properly but just does lots of fast shallow fluttering beats, so blood is not circulating carrying oxygen all over the body. A defibrillator applies an electric shock to the heart, stopping the shallow ineffective fluttering. Afterwards the heart returns to normal mode. **When finished make sure the casualty is in the recovery position.**

Paul showed how an inexperienced member of the public can help save a life, whilst good quality CPR is continuing. **If anyone else is available to help, ask them to get the defib whilst you continue with CPR.** There are public access defibrillators located outside buildings in strategic places, like sports centres, they are locked, but can be opened by using a code unique to each one. You get the code when speaking to the 999 operator so you can open the holder and remove the machine. Then you open the box. The instructions are clear and detailed: you place the two contact pads on the bare chest of the patient (possibly cutting clothing/shaving hair on chest, and check casualty is not in any water). Follow the instructions about turning the machine on.

Paul showed us several different de-fib kits, using a training version to demonstrate the importance of following the diagrams to locate the pads correctly.

Paul reminded us that the crucial work of volunteers was supported by their charity- (see website above)

3. **Julie** Thanked Paul for an interesting and informative evening, closing the meeting at 9.15pm

TILEHURST GO LOCAL FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT (GLOBE)

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 15TH MARCH 2023 AT THE METHODIST CHURCH HALL, SCHOOL ROAD, TILEHURST, RG31 5AN

Present: Jenny Cottee, Liz Ellis, Carol McLellan, Pam Webb, Jean Rainey, Dave Glanville, Anne Thompson, Julie Alexander, Helen Wallace, Jan Wigham, Brian Wigham.

1. Trip Hazards and Other Issues with Pavements

- 1.1 The group had a lively discussion about the various issues with pavements and verges including broken and uneven slabs, potholes, raised drain/manhole covers, broken glass, parked cars and cyclists. The Wigham's expressed concern about the impromptu BMX circuit created by some children on the Triangle near the Co-op; this was destroying the grass and planted areas, causing litter and putting the children in danger as they raced on and off the 'track' from and into Walnut Way and the road linking with St Michael's Road. We also discussed what could be done about these issues, who to contact and the apparent lack of action by the Council. Anne said that she would try to come up with some useful contacts. We hoped that the Council might consider creating a BMX circuit in part of Blagrove Rec, which had been given to the town for children to use, and perhaps ask local children to help design and create it.
- 1.2 Another issue raised was the control of dogs in parks and on streets and restricting the number of dogs a walker could have at any one time (too many and they could not properly control them). RBC could perhaps put information about rules regarding dogs on their website. They could also put on their website advice on how to avoid scams and have advice sessions, especially for older people, on scams and how to avoid them, in local Libraries etc. They could also consider banning parking on pavements throughout Reading.
- 1.3 Potholes were another bug-bear e.g. on the roundabout at the corner top of Langley Hill, as was the localised flooding on the pelican crossings at School Road in front of the Triangle Chemist and the corner of School Road and Armour Road opposite the Turkish Barbers.

2. Any Other Business

- 2.1 Jan Wigham suggested the council add a bin beside the bench in Blundells Copse; we agreed that RBC should advertise their free bulky waste collections more to try to reduce fly-tipping.

[Post meeting Anne kindly provided the following information:

Anti-social behaviour, such as dangerous cycling, potential drug dealing etc. can be reported in the following ways:

- *via the **Reportable** app. The app is free to download from your smart phone's app store. Once you're set up, reports are forwarded to Reading Borough Council's ASB team and the police.*
- *via the police website - [thamesvalley.police.uk](https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk) The direct link to report ASB online to TVP is <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/ro/report/asb/asb-v3/report-antisocial-behaviour/>*
- *by phoning the Council on 0118 9373787 or by reporting the problem via links on their website - reading.gov.uk*
- *by phoning the non-emergency police number 101*
- *via email to the neighbourhood police team at westreadingnhpt@thamesvalley.police.uk (only if there is immediate danger, call 999).*

Problems such as graffiti, fly-tipping, overflowing bins etc. can be reported:

- *via the **LoveCleanStreets** app, which is also free to download. If you're walking along and see rubbish, you can open the app, take a photo and send the report right away. Reports made via the app go direct to the Council's street-cleaning team.*
- *by phoning the Council on 0118 9373787 or by reporting the problem on their website.]*

TILEHURST GO LOCAL FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT (GLOBE)

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT THE METHODIST CHURCH HALL, SCHOOL ROAD, TILEHURST, RG31 5AN ON WED. 15TH FEBRUARY 2023

Present: Liz Ellis, Carol McLellan, Pat Poulson, Keith Weller, Pam Webb, Ray Clayton, Alison Grant,
Jenny Cottee

Apologies: Jean Rainey, Joanne Taylor, Cllr Anne Thompson

1. Arrangements for the Meeting

1.1 Liz reminded us following discussions earlier in the year about priorities for 2023, the meeting had been arranged by Carol who would be chairing the meeting .

2. Safe and Well Service provided by Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service

2.1 Stewart Faulkner and Steve Jennings, (both Technicians of the service), explained that the service, had evolved from installing fire alarms free in peoples homes. The emphasis now is re-focussed to the wider brief: the safety and well-being of individuals . New leaflets on Fire Safety targeted to people with different needs are available for download on the website

2.2 'Safe and Well Visits', by technicians are offered free of charge to Berkshire residents- apply **08005876679** , or SafeandWell@rbs.co.uk or the website rbfrs.co.uk/SafeandWell)

The technicians visit peoples homes on appointment and give advice on safety tailored to the capabilities and circumstances of the individual and their home. If you are elderly, frail, have some limitations to your hearing, eyesight etc then things can become more tricky to cope with, including fire safety. The service aim is to prevent accidents, ill-health, and deaths, by considering individual needs.. **To check if you are eligible** for a visit you can check on the website or on the phone.

2.3 **Threats to Safety in the Home** Stewart and Steve showed us an impressive/horrifying collection of items illustrating things that can go wrong. All were singed, charred or discoloured showing that safety had been compromised. The items included a phone charger, electrical adaptors that had been stacked up high, 4 gang sockets that had been strung together. All had been recovered from people's homes. Stewart and Steve reported that whilst historic problem behaviours still exist (e.g. smoking – perhaps in bed, using a chip-pan) they have reduced so fires caused by smoking/smouldering cigarette butts, and chip-pans caught alight are much fewer, but still happen. There are other newer dangers to avoid . Hints included: Charge your phone during the day (avoiding night time fire problem) . Unplug things at night. Do not use a toaster directly under a wall cupboard- (the bottom of the cupboard can overheat/smoulder

2.4 **More Safety reminders:** ensure alarms (smoke, heat and Carbon Monoxide) are located as per the instructions, are operational, and are tested weekly.

Be very careful regarding hot cooking oil, (if any drop of water/moisture gets into a pan the oil will spit may well shoot out and burn arms etc – even if there is no fire).

Use 999 service-max response time is 10 mins, on average 6-7 mins.

Actions: FIRST Get all people out of danger and stay out of danger THEN call 999

2.5 **End of meeting** We looked at the leaflets targeted to help with different circumstances (see examples below) . Carol thanked Stewart and Steve for an informative and interesting evening and closed the meeting at 8.50.

2.6 **Website link to leaflets:** <https://www.rbfrs.co.uk/your-safety/fire-safety-advice-and-brochures/>

- [Fire safety for people with sight hearing or mobility difficulties](#)
- [Fire safety for people with sight hearing or mobility difficulties – large print](#)
- [Fire safety in the winter](#)
- [Fire safety in the home](#)
- [Fire safety in the home easy read](#)
- [Fire safety outdoors](#)

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 15th March 2023 7.30pm

TILEHURST GO LOCAL FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT (GLOBE)

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 18TH JANUARY 2023 AT THE METHODIST CHURCH HALL, SCHOOL ROAD, TILEHURST, RG31 5AN

Present: Jenny Cottee, Liz Ellis, Carol McLellan, Pam Webb, Jean Rainey, Dave Glanville, Anne Thompson, Julie Alexander, Roger Sym

1. Review of GLOBE/Ideas for Talks

- 1.1 We discussed where Tilehurst GLOBE was, where we wanted it to be, attracting more attendees and ideas for talks. Liz suggested contacting local groups about speakers and meetings on subjects of mutual interest; Julie suggested getting us onto RBC's list of local groups; we decided that the website needed revamping to make accessing information, especially historical info and meeting minutes, easier; we needed more poster locations – we could ask those on the regular circulation list to put up a poster; using mobile messaging instead of emails to contact those who preferred it that way; recruiting more people for meetings and to help with the website, Facebook etc – Roger suggested a good wording and Jean would make a poster based on it; possibly setting up a What's App group if we could find someone to run it; add a strap line to regular emails 'let us know what you are interested in/we'd love to hear from you'.
- 1.2 Carol had secured Stuart from the Berkshire Fire Service to talk in February on Home Fire Safety and had details of a speaker on Defibrillators who charged £200 per talk – Julie might have a contact in the Community First Responders who would do it for free so Carol would hold fire until Julie checked this out; Julie would also try the Neighbourhood Police to see if they could do a talk on Scams. Anne suggested the local group who funded a hydroelectric plant in Caversham – Jenny would contact them. We agreed to alternate talks with standard meetings. Liz suggested having some meetings in the afternoon since people did not like to go out after dark – Jean suggested doing this in Dec/Jan/Feb and evening meetings in the lighter months.

2. Recycling

- 2.1 Superdrug in Broad Street had agreed to us bringing medicine blister packs to them in bulk for recycling, but we agreed that it would be easier if individuals took their own to Superdrug rather than organising a Tilehurst central collection; we could publicise that Superdrug took them.

3. Problems Contacting Reading Borough Council

- 3.1 Liz had finally received some names for various RBC departments e.g. Highways, Streets etc. She would test these by asking them about the halo lights for the crossing opposite the Co-op and broken glass on various paths. Anne said that she had been told that we couldn't have halo lights on that crossing because they were 'the wrong type of pole'; if we also got that reply from RBC we would ask that changing the poles be added to the list of repairs for the incoming year.

4. Memorial Trees at the Triangle

- 4.1 Roger and his fellow Tree Wardens had planted our Queen's Hornbeam and a Whitebeam in memory of the Meadway Sports Centre employee in front of the Triangle shops. We would consider a root guard for our tree and moving the bamboo to in front of the Co-op later. Jean mentioned that people could add their Queen's memorial tree to a national online map at www.queensgreencanopy.org and the meeting agreed that she should do that for our one.

5. Any Other Business

- 5.1 Anne advised the meeting of a Digital Inclusion Survey from various Berkshire local authorities, available on paper or online. Call 01635 503894 to request a paper copy and send it to Berkshire DIG Digital Inclusion Survey, Ground Floor (ICT Area), Council Offices, Market Street, Newbury, Berks, RG14 5LD. Online the survey was at www.berkshiredig.org.uk/digital-survey.
- 5.2 We agreed to review progress on future talks, recruitment, communication etc at our March meeting.