

Tilehurst GLOBE Meeting – Wednesday, 18 June 2025

MINUTES

1	<p>Present: Robert Stallard (speaker); David Pick, Carol McLellan (chair), Lynn Mansfield, Paul Mansfield, Emily Darby, Philip Griffin, Emily Talib, Ursula Sinnott, Jane Honey.</p> <p>Apologies received from: Jenny Cottee, Pam Webb and Roger Sym</p>	
2	<p>All were welcomed, and Robert Stallard of Reading and District Natural History Society was introduced, who then gave an illustrated and light-hearted talk on the “Insect Life in our Gardens”, covering invertebrates (rather than birds and mammals) and how they can be attracted into a garden.. This showed how even a small suburban garden can attract a wide range of wildlife. We were shown numerous slides/videos of common and not-so-common species, from spiders to shieldbugs to butterflies. There are hundreds of species that find a home in a mature garden, but unfortunately there was not enough time to show them all.</p> <p>He handed out copies of their Summer Programme for 2025 giving details of their planned walks from April to September. There is also a winter programme (October to March) of talks held fortnightly in the Pangbourne Village Hall (and on Zoom), plus a few field trips. More details can be found on www.rdnhs.org.uk</p>	
4	<p>Future meetings / Activities</p>	
4.1	<p>Our next meeting in July (16th) is normally a local evening walk. The group was asked if we wanted to do this or engage in another activity. If so, what and where?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roger Sym (absent today), who is our local tree warden (and TG member) has indicated that he would be willing to talk to us on the role and responsibilities of a Tree Warden, possibly combined with a walk around Tilehurst to update us on our local trees eg new plantings / any issues, where to plant more. Roger has yet to advise whether he can do this in July, or at a later date. • A suggestion had been received concerning the area at the back of the car park in Walnut Way, where grass was overgrown and some of the trees are struggling, including two young trees which were either leaning or fallen over. It was commented that it was probably not necessary to cut down the grass all over but perhaps just round the trees. • <i>Note: Following the meeting, Carol contacted the RBC Streetcare Team regarding the two problem trees and ongoing management of the site. No formal response has been received as yet, but the two trees of concern have been re-erected with new supports where necessary.</i> • Also, a couple of the trees by the junction Dunstall Close/School Road are struggling, and may need some TLC - perhaps replace them or add some nutrient/mulch in the short-term (available from the Tilehurst Horticultural Society?) It was suggested that Roger Sym be consulted about this. <p>The preference seemed to be for a walk, noting any possible locations for new tree plantings en route.</p>	
4.2	<p>Wild/Neglected Green Spaces</p> <p>Attention was drawn to the neglected area of ground opposite Downing Road (between The Prince PH and Beechwood Avenue) and it was queried whether (a) there were similar areas locally and (b) should TG attempt to tidy or improve them, eg introduce wild flowers/make them more attractive to insect life? None came to mind, other than the 'bunded' areas (eg Walnut Way/St Michaels Rd and Links Drive/Norcot Rd) where TG have planted some wild flowers and bulbs in the past. It was generally felt that these areas should be left 'wild' and</p>	

	not 'tidied up'.	
4.3	RBC Sponsor a tree scheme Pam Webb (TG member but absent today) wished to highlight this scheme and suggested this might be something for either individuals or maybe TG as a group to consider. More details can be found on :- http://www.treesforstreets.org/reading .	
5	September (17 th) Thames Valley Police will update us on local issues and their priorities. This will be followed by a short AGM.	
6	Reading Tree Wardens Network events: details were given of two upcoming events being held by the RTW, ie their AGM on Thursday 10 July and a guided Summer Walk in Sulham Woods on Saturday 26 July (places need to be booked - See details below)	
7	There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9pm.	

From: Reading Tree Wardens <rtwn2011@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, June 16, 2025 9:55:46 am

To: Reading Tree Wardens <rtwn2011@gmail.com>

Subject: RTWN AGM and Summer Walk

Dear Friends and Supporters

RTWN AGM Thursday 10th July, 6.15-7.30pm

You are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Reading Tree Warden Network, which will be held, as last year, at the Ridgeline Pavilion on Whiteknights Road. The Agenda for the meeting, and the Minutes of the 2024 AGM will be sent out nearer the date. There will be an opportunity to enjoy the delightful Ridgeline Trust gardens, and after the meeting we can walk through Whiteknights Campus, admiring their magnificent trees, and enjoying a drink and/or meal at Park House.

RTWN Summer Walk - Sulham Woods Saturday 26th July 2025 10.00 - 12.00

We are delighted to announce our Summer Tree walk, on Saturday 26th July 2025 10.00-12.00, to be led by Ailsa Claybourn. Sulham Woods are beautiful and varied woods on the slope of the hill to the west of Tilehurst, down to Sulham. Ailsa led our summer walk last year, around Moor Copse, which was very much enjoyed, despite the weather. Ailsa is very knowledgeable about trees, birds and all things related to wildlife. The walk will include some paths over rough ground, and some fairly steep slopes both up and down. As always, all our walks are free of charge, but we welcome donations. Places are limited, so if you are interested in joining the walk, please send an email to rtwn2011@gmail.com. Further details, including the meeting point, and suggestions for car sharing, will be sent out to those attending.

The glory and colour of summer is all around us, and most of our young trees seem to be coping with the unusually dry weather. The 'green bags' provided by the council are helping, but please continue to be aware of any tree that may be struggling, and give it a helping hand with a bucket of water! The high temperatures forecast for the next week will be an additional challenge for them.
with best wishes

Caroline Starkey

RTWN Events Coordinator



TILEHURST GO LOCAL FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT (GLOBE)

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19TH OF FEBRUARY 2025

AT THE METHODIST CHURCH HALL, SCHOOL ROAD, TILEHURST, RG31 5AN

Present: Jenny Cottee, Richard Buckingham, Cllr Raj Singh, David Milne-Buckley, Dave Glanville, Pam Webb, Liz Ellis, George Solly, June Alexander, Phillip Griffin, Richard Swift, Cllr Anne Thompson, Carol McLellan

1. Updates Since Last Meeting

- 1.1. It was ascertained that the local Turkish barber took down the Globe poster because it had smudges, will give the Turkish barber poster in plastic pocket to solve the problem.

2. RAYS Scheme and Litter

- 2.1. Apologies were sent from the representative of the RAYS scheme, who had hoped to be at the meeting in person but was unable to attend. The representative sent information about the scheme that was read out at the meeting, and there were a few attendees at the meeting who had great knowledge about the scheme.

2.2. RAYS

The following points were made:

RAYs doesn't need you to limit yourself to one street despite asking on signup, they do ask that you tell them where you have picked litter though RAYs send you PPE and bags, volunteers can contact council to resupply All bags are labeled with RAYs logo, so can be put in ordinary litter bins and collected by council from there

Love Clean Streets app or website can be used to notify overflowing litter bins and flytipping

Scheme makes it sound more restrictive than it actually is

Question - are RAYs people obligated to do certain number of trips?

No, originally had to specify place and it would be mandated, which is why GLOBE stopped doing scheme, this is no longer the case

RAYs blurb was put on GLOBE website long ago, info may not be accurate anymore

Richard has recruited 5 people by giving them bags with logo

CLLR talks about risk assessment, needles can be found in litter, so caution must be taken

Acknowledgement from RAYs never happens, CLLR says he'll pass that back

2.3. General Litter

Richard did some cleaning up at Tilehurst RHS shed next to bottle bank (hotspot), took photo to send to Love Clean Streets, cleared up within 2 days,

Richard says don't be afraid to report it, because the more people who report the better, App shows if its been reported already or not, RBC have always responded really well,

Litter counts as posters that companies do everywhere, I.E. telephone boxes, companies can be fined £1000

Question about how to use Love Clean Streets app , consensus is that it's simple to use, when doing on desktop have to manually confirm address on a map

Liz does not have smartphone so taking pictures to send is difficult, difficult to find people to walk with to help

Email address can be used to report, as well as phone (go to Reading Council website, Love Clean Streets, choose reporting issue has all options)

Liz commented that there are lots of small bits of litter everywhere, didn't used to be like that, kids mostly doing it, far more education needed for children

Parents become aggressive if you tell children to stop littering, most people think it's council business to pick up, not true

Council or councillors could be asked to go into schools and talk to children about this behaviour

The point was made that talking to children require more DBS checks to access, parents don't

Posters can be put up, but most people are fine

Schools could be asked about their approach to litter, how they're tackling, ask if there's anything we can do to help

KFC litter talked about again

2.4. **Organised litter picks**

Reading Council used to have a thing called Rescue, encouraged lots of people to take part once a year, stopped doing it quite some time ago

When GLOBE organises clear up, has to organise people to clear up, hazardous things must be reported for council to clear up themselves

Rodway road to Kentwood alleyway, lots of flytipping, council says it's not council land and they have no responsibility (no mans land)

CLLR says he is trying to start petition for council to adopt land.

GLOBE litter pick was done last year, traditional time before birds do nesting, some clearup could be done within fortnight on Saturday

For Saturday picking, anywhere that really needs picking up?

Norcot Road needed picking up, but has been done recently

It was suggested delaying the annual GLOBE clean up until after Easter when weather is better, Sunday preferable to Saturday

Event suggested to meet up and find places / after meeting go for a walk and find things to report

3. **Parking on Verges**

- 3.1. Discussion turned to the continued problem of cars parking on verges, especially grass verges. New regulations have been proposed by RBC whereby cars would be outlawed from parking on pavements or verges on selected streets, including but not limited to Westwood Road, School Road and Park Lane. Such roads will be marked with orange lines painted on the curb. It was pointed out that this was first proposed in a consultation back in 2014, before the red route along the 17 bus was introduced, however this was shelved and forgotten by RBC.
- 3.2. Discussion was had about the proposal. Cllr Raj pointed out that only the Thames Valley Police currently have the power to issue statutory parking fines, with RBC trying to get the power to issue these fines themselves. There was concern that the proposed new markings on the curb might not be visible enough, and if drivers would understand what the markings would mean. It was noted that there are far more delivery vehicles on the road than back in 2014. It was agreed that something must be done about parking on verges, especially on grass verges, as there are many examples of grass verges turning into mud, especially along the Oxford Road in Kentwood.
- 3.3. Parking more generally was briefly discussed. It was pointed out that there are an increasing number of cars on the road, which all need to park somewhere. Residential parking permit areas have been expanded in Reading over the years, however it was pointed out that this generally just pushes people to park in streets without permits, moving the problem elsewhere. It was suggested that residents could be permitted to park in local high-rise parking lots, as they are mostly empty during the night. It was agreed that more time at a future meeting would be given to further discussion on parking generally.

4. Plan for Future Meetings

- 4.1. Discussion turned to the subject matter of the upcoming meeting in March.
Next meeting, REMAP
REMAP is a voluntary charity which has been running since 60s, they make custom equipment for people with some form of disability or special need
Very much customised, tailor made equipment, always made for individual and their needs
As Globe don't have access to a working projector it was decided to ask if REMAP can bring their own for presentation. Carol to liaise with them on this.
Carol had asked if they normally charge a fee, fee isn't charged but donation would be nice
Precedent when ambulance service was here that donation of £50 would be made, could and should do again, and agreed that it will done
Healthy money reserve has been built up by GLOBE thanks to local and private sponsors, so money isn't issue

Design on poster, Philip will do again, takes time to design, comes out 2 weeks ahead of next meeting generally

Anne has had dealing with REMAP, Carol feels that presentation is short, 20-30 minutes including Q&A depending on how many people turn up, so will need other things to talk about in next meeting as well

Liz suggested workshop for people with poor computer skills / more vulnerable to scams, however 19:30 is a poor time of day for target demographic

PCSOs came last year to give talk on subject

Another thing to talk about during next meeting that compliments REMAP, things that people have found to help them around the house (Bring your favourite gadget / aid, or bring information about it to tell us)

What would you like as an aid / what would you need as an aid; Don't have to be elderly to need physical aid

How do we get all this in a poster? Everyday problems / gizmos and gadgets in the home (diplomatic wording needed)

"Do you have difficulties in household tasks?"

4.2. **Rest of the year**

Rest of the year program taking shape, what else could be done?

Planting bulbs, done in autumn, should monitor where they are currently, and where they are doing well to plant new ones in autumn

One meeting about where to plant bulbs in autumn bulb planting session

Logging where natural bluebells are going in Blundells Copse

It was suggested that when planting bulbs on verges a childrens sticker / poster could be put up saying "Please do not park on our flowers"

Anne will ask, council used to mark bulb verges, council will sometimes plant tree or bush to stop parking

Chair says look at Blundells, what accessible path maintenance should be done, contact related, apply for grant

CROW have cleared path alongside Calder close, was once overgrown is now cut back ~10ft, another session there in McIlroy park, opposite doctors surgery, cutting down overgrowing holly trees

Blundells Copse, Pickett Road to Teviot Road, hole in bridge, yellow thing over it (eyesore, doesn't help)

Overflow drain in Teviot Road overflowing, getting worse and worse wrecking path, council haven't done anything

Path that runs alongside moor, path has collapsed into badger set, causing CROW volunteer to fall, Blundells Copse is urgently not wheelchair friendly

Chair suggests large project with grants, Philip suggests talking to people from CROW to collab, also ask council officers to make Blundells wheelchair friendly

Contact Pedro (Anne's contact) to ask what council will do about the collapsing drain

TILEHURST GO LOCAL FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT (GLOBE)

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15TH OF JANUARY 2025

AT THE METHODIST CHURCH HALL, SCHOOL ROAD, TILEHURST, RG31 5AN

Present: Jenny Cottee, Liz Ellis, Richard Swift, Philip Griffin, Mark Hazelton, Pam Webb, Seonaid Hull, Janet Mcfall, William Macphee, Julie Alexander, Carol McLellan & Emily Talib

1. Future of Tilehurst GLOBE

- 1.1. Jenny welcomed everyone to the meeting, and noted the new faces at the meeting. Jenny and Liz gave an explanation for them as to what the GLOBE's mission is, and what activities it has been involved in previously.
- 1.2. Jenny invited all attendees to write down their personal priorities for the new year, as well as what they thought the priorities for the GLOBE should be going forward. From these, two areas of interest were identified and discussed at length during the meeting.

2. Highway Blockages

- 2.1. Many people brought up the issue of cars parking on verges and pavements, as well as overhanging bushes blocking pavements and roads alike. Liz tried bringing this up with the council a while ago, who did not do anything. It was agreed that the best way to make the council act was for all attendees to report pavement blockages when noticed directly to the council, as the more people telling the council that it's an issue, the more likely they will be to act.
- 2.2. There was also discussion about antisocial / dangerous behaviour on pavements and roads, such as E-Bikes going too fast on pavements, and cars parking on or too close to school crossings, with both issues causing danger especially towards the more vulnerable, namely young children and pensioners. It was suggested that working with the local West Reading Safer Neighbourhood Forum, who meet a few times a year, could help solve these issues. Related to this, Liz brought up RBC's new planning forum, and how they were looking for community input, giving another avenue to raise these and similar issues. It was suggested and agreed that the minutes of the meeting would be sent to the RBC planning forum, highlighting the issues raised by attendees.

3. Litter

- 3.1. The problem of litter was brought up, especially on the Norcot hill and Bates hill footpaths, and the Oxford Road Recreation Ground. It was asked if the councils RAYS scheme was still in place, the scheme allowing volunteers to take responsibility for a section of council land to regularly litter pick on. Emily confirmed that the scheme was still active, having spoken via email to someone from the council. Emily suggested that she forward the contact

details of who manages the scheme at the council to Jenny, so that the GLOBE could invite them to answer questions about it at a future meeting, which was agreed by all.

4. Updates Since Last Meeting

- 4.1. Liz brought up events that have happened since the last meeting in December, the first one being posters getting removed. Two locations have been noticed specifically, one at the Turkish barbers and another at the local shops. In the case of the barbers, it was noted that it was the manager taking it down when he visits, as all of the workers in the barbers consented to the poster and were all really nice. It was suggested that the manager might think the poster is for a political group, which would effect the insurance of the barbers. It was suggested that an attempt should be made to contact the manager to discuss the poster removal. Discussion was also had about where else posters could be put up, with it being decided that attendees were free to download posters relating to future meetings of the GLOBE, and put them up in in public spaces with permission from the premises.
- 4.2. Discussion was had over the continuing issue of the GLOBE's email address being blocked. Liz, who set up and manages the email, managed to unblock the email briefly, however emails can still only be sent from the account via Jenny's mobile phone, to which 2 factor authentication codes are sent. It was suggested as a solution by Phillip to send emails via the 3rd party service Mailchimp. This was agreed upon, with Phillip agreeing to set up and manage the system.

5. Future Meetings

- 5.1. For future meetings, it was agreed that more independent speakers should be invited to speak, like in the meeting that took place in December. Several suggestions for future speakers emerged, namely local charities and organizations, the head of the RAYS scheme, and more generally people from the council. It was decided that the next two meetings would be dedicated to the 2 major issues that were discussed at this meeting, with a meeting on RAYS and litter taking place on 19th February 2025, and the meeting on highway blockages taking place on 19th March 2025.
- 5.2. A brief discussion was held about the future of the chairing of the meetings. It was suggested that at future meetings, the chair could be roving between the attendees. It was decided that further discussions on this would be made at the meeting in February.