

**TILEHURST GO LOCAL FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT (GLOBE)  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 17<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024  
AT THE METHODIST CHURCH HALL, SCHOOL ROAD, TILEHURST, RG31 5AN**

Present: Jenny Cottee, Jean Rainey, Carol McClellan, Pam Webb, Julie Alexander, Dave Granville, M Cripps, Pam Stepanek, Andrew Jones, C Burch, Midge Kenyon, Peter Weait, David Pick & Helen Wallace

**1. Apologies**

1.1 Apologies were received from Liz Ellis and Cllr Anne Thompson.

**2. Talk by Local PC and PCSOs on Avoiding Scams**

2.1 PC Elena Basse-Korff and PCSOs Lauren Jerrom and Kay Greenaway from our Thames Valley Police Local Neighbourhood Team took us through types of scams and ways to avoid them. These included postal, courier, doorstep, online, email & 'phone fraud. They provided several useful leaflets and items. *Please see documents and links giving details at the end of these minutes.* Everyone present enjoyed the talk, found it very informative and thanked the officers for attending our meeting.

**3 Litter Picking Event – April 6th**

3.1 Jenny reported that the Litter Pick on April 6<sup>th</sup> had been very successful with about 55 people getting involved. Luckily some Reading Borough Council workers were in the area in the morning so kindly took away all the rubbish; Jenny took the afternoon's pickings to the tip herself. Caversham GLOBE had loaned us some litter picking sticks – should we buy some more for the future? The path in Blundells Copse was no longer fully accessible; who should be maintaining it?

**4. Other Issues**

- 4.1 Leaflets – Carol had checked our stocks of the Walks and other leaflets; we did not yet need to re-order. Jean would check Mcllroys to see if the Walk leaflet for there needed updating; could someone check Lousehill Copse?
- 4.2 Car parking fees in the Recreation Road Car Park: two petitions had been started to reinstate free 30-minute parking; one could be found in the Butts Newsagents in the Triangle and one in the Tilehurst Cobblers with a QR code for online signing (also other places too). The Council contested that the new charges were necessary to cover maintenance costs; what were the figures for income versus costs for this car park? A GLOBE meeting on this subject would only be useful if we could get a representative from RBC to attend.
- 4.3 New bus service 'Buzz 18': what new routes/places/purposes had folk used this for? It would get you to Waitrose on Oxford Road, big Tesco on Portman Road & close to Tilehurst station (stops near care home on corner of Kentwood). Goes every 40 minutes.
- 4.4 A new beech tree had been planted at the Triangle, near where the kebab van parked; the new crab apple on the corner of Dunstall Close seemed to be doing well; should we get the plaque for our Queen Elizabeth Memorial tree now? What sort would be best? Jean would investigate this. Please let GLOBE know if you see any newly planted trees.
- 4.5 New planning rules under the Town & Country Planning Act became mandatory in January 'obliging developers to not only protect habitat on sites but to demonstrate measures to boost biodiversity by 10 percent'. But who assesses the biodiversity before and after development and if there had been any increase?
- 4.6 We had not yet decided upon a subject for May's meeting. For June Jenny suggested inviting the candidates for the new Parliamentary Constituency to tell us (individually so it did not turn into a party-political argument) how they envisaged serving a mainly rural but with parts if Reading (us!) constituency with not a single town in it. Jenny would see if she could arrange this. In July we would have a walk as usual but maybe combine it with a bat walk that Wild Tilehurst were planning.

## Fraud (scams) and how to avoid them (adapted from information from TVP referred to in April's meeting)

### IN PERSON

#### Post

SHRED ANYTHING THAT HAS YOUR PERSONAL DETAILS ON IT

- Find out more about different types of postal scams at Friends against Scams
- Never feel pressured to respond to mail received which suggests an urgent response is required
- Consider asking a relative or trusted friend to help check and screen the post
- Opt out of Open Voters Register
- Remove details from mailing lists by registering with MPS
- Stop getting junk mail by following guidance from CAB
- Scam Mail can be reported to Royal Mail
- Become a Scam Marshall for National Trading Standards
- Royal Mail can redirect mail in special circumstances (POA)

#### Doorstep

- Install a "no cold calling" sign. If they still knock then it's a good indication not to engage with them
- Consider a CCTV camera in the porch (with a warning sign)
- Consider purchasing a Smart/Ring doorbell (local Trading Standards can advise further in this area)
- Doorstep incidents can also be reported to CAB who will pass on the information to local Trading Standards

[Consumer reporting form \(datamotion.com\)](https://www.datamotion.com/consumer-reporting-form)

- liaise with local Trading Standards to discuss any additional safeguarding they may be able to offer
- Use a free support service offered by energy suppliers & network operators  
[Priority Services Register](#)
- Never disclose pin numbers or be persuaded to hand over bank cards, financial information or withdraw cash
- Never feel pressured or agree to hand over money at the door
- Take time to think and talk to someone you trust

### ONLINE

#### COMPUTER

- Consider changing e-mail address
- Use 3 random words, characters & numbers for a strong password (chatM!stdust513)
- Set up 2 factor authentication for all e-mail accounts
- Set up a Spam filter
- Ensure that the system Firewall is operating
- Install, update and use an anti-virus software

Further information and how to complete this can be found at: [Individuals & families - NCSC.GOV.UK](https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/individuals-families)

***Remember that anyone can pretend to be anyone they want to be online.***

***Just because someone says it's true, it doesn't mean that it is.***

***If it sounds too good to be true then it probably is.***

You can check how strong your password is at [How Secure Is My Password?](#)

You can also check if your email has been compromised [Have i been pwned uk?](#)

***Ask yourself would you give your banking/personal details to a stranger in the street?***

***Did you say NO? then why do it online!!***

***Want to check if a website is real? <https://check.getsafeonline.org>***

#### MOBILE SMS SAFETY

- SMS messages and phone calls can be made to appear genuine
- Never click on links provided in SMS messages or provide personal information
- Never provide Banking/Financial details
- If you don't recognise the number don't answer it
- [Spam texts](#) can be forwarded for free to "7726" which is run by Ofcom (This spells "Spam" on telephone key pad)
- Blocking numbers via keypad and/or marking them as SPAM

## **EMAIL**

- Have a different password for your e-mail account
- Use 3 random words, characters & numbers for your password (chatM!stdust513)
- Don't click on links within the body of the message
- Hover over the e-mail, this will show the actual address
- Report scam emails to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)
- Mark the e-mail as spam
- Change you e-mail address if you think it has been compromised

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

**Social Media Hacking is an increasing common type of Cybercrime**

**General advice for securing your social media accounts**

- Where possible use two-factor authentication
- Advanced security setting on some social media platforms includes encryption.
- Change your password regularly. A password that involves 3 random words is strongly recommended. For example (chatM!stdust513) **DO NOT USE PERSONAL INFORMATION**
- Stop any Apps you do not wish to provide permissions for
- **Facebook**
- Go to settings > and check your security and Privacy Settings
- **Instagram**
- You can choose emails and sms messages to which you are subscribed and can tick or untick any box depending on the information you want to receive.
- Manage your privacy and security setting – you can choose to make your account private or public
- You can look at account data Instagram holds on you.
- **LinkedIn**
- Adding a phone number to your login details adds security
- It is suggested you review who can see your account and who can 'discover' your profile
- You can check to see whether any applications are connected to your account and remove any you do not want
- **Snapchat**
- Save your 'Snaps' for 'your eyes only'
- It is recommended that you only allow 'My Friends' to contact you and view your story
- It is also recommend that for your location settings you have 'only me'
- **Twitter**
- Remember, once you tweet it will never be truly gone even if you delete it
- You can hide sensitive content and remove blocked and muted accounts

### **WhatsApp**

- The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) is warning the public about the continued increase in reports about scams where victims are targeted on WhatsApp by criminals pretending to be someone they know – typically their children.
- Criminals will usually begin the conversation with "Hello Mum" or "Hello Dad" and will say that they are texting from a new mobile number as their phone was lost or damaged. They will then ask for money to purchase a new one, or claim that they need money urgently to pay a bill
- The criminal will provide bank details for the payment to be made to, with some coming back with further demands for money.

### ***What you need to Know and Do***

- **STOP. THINK. CALL.** If a family member or friend makes an unusual request on WhatsApp, always call the person to confirm their identity.
- You can report spam messages or block a sender within WhatsApp. Press and hold on the message bubble, select 'Report' and then follow the instructions.
- Never share your account's activation code (that's the 6 digit code you receive via SMS)

## **Online Shopping**

A newer version of online shopping scams involves the use of social media platforms to set up fake online stores. Scammers open the store for a short time, often selling fake branded clothing or jewellery. After making a number of sales, the stores disappear. Scammers also use social media to advertise their fake website, so do not trust a site just because you have seen it advertised or shared on social media. The best way to detect a fake trader or social media online shopping scam is to search for reviews before purchasing.

### **Warning Signs:**

- A product is advertised at an unbelievably low price or advertised to have amazing benefits or features that sound too good to be true.
- The other party insists on immediate payment, or payment by electronic funds transfer. They may insist that you pay up-front for vouchers before you can access a cheap deal or a giveaway.
- The social media based store is very new and selling products at very low prices. The store may have limited information about delivery and other policies.
- An online retailer does not provide adequate information about privacy, terms and conditions of use, dispute resolution or contact details. The seller may be based overseas, or the seller does not allow payment through a secure payment service such as PayPal or a credit card transaction.

### **Romance/Dating fraud**

Romance Fraud involves people being duped into sending money to criminals who go to great lengths to gain their trust and convince them that they are in a genuine relationship. They use language to manipulate, persuade and exploit so that requests for money do not raise alarm bells. These requests might be highly emotive, such as criminals claiming they need money for emergency medical care, or to pay for transport costs to visit the victim if they are overseas. Scammers will often build a relationship with their victims over time.

#### **Signs your friend or family member may be involved in a romance scam:**

- They may be very secretive about their relationship or provide excuses for why their online partner has not video called or met them in person. They might become hostile or angry, and withdraw from conversation when you ask any questions about their partner
- They may express very strong emotions and commitment to someone they have only just met
- They have sent, or are planning to send, money to someone they have not met face-to-face. They may take out loans or withdraw from their pension to send money.

#### **How users can stay safe from romance scams:**

- Be suspicious of any requests for money from someone you have never met in person, particularly if you have only recently met online.
- Speak to your family or friends to get advice.
- Profile photos may not be genuine, do your research first. Performing [a reverse image search](#) on a search engine can find photos that have been taken from somewhere, or someone, else.

**It is important that no matter how long you've been speaking to someone online and how much you think you trust them, if you have not met them in person it's important that you do not:**

- Send them any money
- Allow them access to your bank account
- Transfer money on their behalf
- Take a loan out for them
- Provide copies of your personal documents such as passports or driving licenses
- Invest your own money on their behalf or on their advice
- Purchase and send the codes on gift cards from Amazon or iTunes
- Agree to receive and/or send parcels on their behalf (laptops, mobile phones etc.)

### **Courier Fraud**

#### **The Police, Bank or any Trusted Organisation will never:**

- Ask you to withdraw money or transfer money to a different account
- Ask you to reveal your full banking password or PIN
- Ask you to reveal your OTP (one time password)
- Ask you to purchase jewellery/expensive items or iTunes vouchers for an investigation
- Send a courier to collect money, cards or personal items
- Check cash for fingerprints

#### **Actions to Take**

- Report the fraud to your Bank
- Ensure Action Fraud have been informed (**they do not investigate**)
- Where applicable discuss how a co-signatory on an account may reduce fraud
- Discuss how appointing a Lasting Power of Attorney may help to help manage finances

## **Money Mules**

**Do you think it is worth allowing a stranger to use your Bank account to make some easy money?**

**When you're caught:**

- Your bank account will be closed
- You will find it hard to access further student loans
- It will be difficult to get a phone contract
- You will have problems applying for credit
- **YOU COULD GO TO PRISON FOR UP TO 14 YEARS!!**

**Do you still think it is worth it?**

## **Loan Sharks**

**Not Sure What A Loan Shark Is?**

If you can answer yes to one or more of these questions you might be borrowing from a loan shark:

- Did they offer you a cash loan?
- Did they not give you paperwork?
- Did they add huge amounts of interest or APR to your loan?
- Have they threatened you?
- Are you scared of people finding out?
- Have they taken your bank card, benefit card, passport, watch or other valuables from you?

## **Investment Scams**

**Investment scam warning signs**

**Companies contact you out of the blue.** This could be through a cold call, text, message on social media, email or brochure.

**They pressure you into making a rushed decision.** This could be with a limited time offer, bonus or discount if you sign up before a deadline.

**They call or email you repeatedly or keep you on the line.** This is to try keep you engaged so they can pressure you to make a rushed decision.

**It seems too good to be true.** The old saying rings true - if they downplay the risks but the investment is high return, it could be an investment scam.

**They ask you to keep the investment quiet.** The scammer might tell you the investment opportunity is just for you and ask you not to tell anyone.

**They're not registered on the FCA website.** In the UK, a firm must be authorised and regulated by the FCA to do most Financial Services activities. See if they're [registered with the FCA](#).

**Will I get my money back?**

Sadly in many cases the answer is no, BUT there are some occasions where it MAY be possible

● If money was transferred via bank transfer and the victim's bank is signed up to the APP Scam code. [How to get your money back after a scam - Which?](#)

● If payment was made on a credit card (Section 75 of the Consumer Credit Act)

● If payment took place via PayPal check to see if you are eligible under their:

[PayPal Buyer and Seller Protection | PayPal UK](#)

(Please note that the "Friends & Family option is NOT covered)

**Please understand that any refunds/reimbursements are down to the bank/PayPal and the Police have no influence over this. In some cases even if the above applies, it can still mean that a victim is left out of pocket if it is proven they acted outside the specified parameters.**

**TILEHURST GO LOCAL FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT (GLOBE)  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024  
AT THE METHODIST CHURCH HALL, SCHOOL ROAD, TILEHURST, RG31 5AN**

Present: Jenny Cottee, Jean Rainey, Carol McClellan, Cllr Mark Keeping, Cllr James Moore, Stephen Okhide.

**1. Apologies & Introduction**

1.1 Apologies were received from Julie Alexander and Liz Ellis.

**2 Litter Picking Event – April 6th**

2.1 Jean had created the posters; Jenny would distribute them. All GLOBE members were very welcome and the local Guides & Brownies were going to join in the event at The Triangle and the Pang Valley Ramblers the one at Blundells Copse. Please see poster at the end of the minutes. James kindly logged the dumped mattress in Blundell's Copse on the Council website.

**3 Boundaries and Elections**

3.1 The meeting considered maps of the boundaries of the Thames Valley Police Commissioner, the new Reading West and Mid Berkshire County Parliamentary Constituency, Reading Borough Council and West Berks Council local councillor Wards and Tilehurst administrative Parish; Reading is Parishless (i.e. administratively; religious Parishes are a different thing and Reading does have those). James advised that Ordnance Survey maps were a good reference for boundary matters. Elections for the Thames Valley Police Commissioner and some local councillors would be held this year and a General Election by January 2025. Voters would need to take proof of identity with them to the polling station. Applying for a postal vote online was now easier. Unregistered voters needed to register asap. Voting hours would be 7am to 10pm and Reading polling stations would be the same as usual (info courtesy of the two Councillors present). James commented that there were no bank branches in the entire new Parliamentary constituency; he was trying to get a Local Banking Hub set up in Tilehurst.

**4 Other Issues**

4.1 Leaflets – Carol would check with Julie Alexander and Liz Ellis how many we had of the Walks and other leaflets then we would decide what ned re-ordering and revising. She undertook to keep stocks of the leaflets topped up in Tilehurst and Battle Libraries.

4.2 Due to changes in Government policies the timetable for the development of the revised Local Plan had changed. RBC would update when they knew what the new policies were.

4.3 Two Representatives of TG had been invited to a community workshop on 'Shaping Berkshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy' to be held in April in Wokingham, Hungerford, and Dee Park in Reading (25<sup>th</sup> April) and online (30<sup>th</sup> April). Jean would go if possible and anyone else interested should let Jenny know.

4.4 Residents were not please that the car parking fees in the Recreation Road Car Park were now £1 minimum with no free parking. James agreed that notifying users had been poorly done but he and Mark explained that the cost of maintaining the car park and the machines had risen a lot. One of the machines accepted cards only, the other cash and cards. Users could still park behind the small Co-op in the Triangle for free. James was trying to ensure that at least one machine in the Dunstall Road car park accepted cash as well as cards.

4.5 Battery collection points – Carol had collected the battery recycling box from C&G Hardware and cleaned it up. Cotswold Sports Centre had agreed to have it and she would empty it. She had emailed the main Co-op and the smaller Mid-Counties one about battery recycling boxes in those stores (the big one had one, but it was hidden behind the counter).

4.6 Jenny, Jean & Carol would arrange a time to spruce up the TG noticeboard by the Library.

4.7 Mark said that the sinkhole repair in Oak tree Road had been delayed because before a special cementitious material could be injected into it, the nearby sewers and drains had to be surveyed to ensure that the material did not end up in them instead of the hole. The survey revealed that some repairs to the sewers and drains were needed. Once they had been done, the sinkhole could be filled. The sinkhole in Dudley Close was being surveyed and then an action plan for its repair would be drawn up.

- 4.8 Mark also mentioned that a new bus service the 'Buzz 18' would be starting on 2<sup>nd</sup> April going every 40 minutes from the Water Tower down Kentwood Hill, along Portman Road, via Rivermead and to Reading Station.
- 4.9 The Councillors reported that some railings had been put up around the Walnut Way/Triangle green area to stop children using it as a BMX track, although the railings only went part way due to funding restraints. The 'course' had also been levelled. James would log the removal of the rotten stump by the 'phone box outside the Triangle shops on the Council website.

## 5 Future TG Activities /Meetings

- 5.1 The April meeting would feature a talk by local PCSOs on scams. We did not have a subject for May yet; June might cover local nature following on from the Berkshire Local Nature Recovery strategy workshop in April. July would be a walk, possibly to places referred to in the Local Plan but that depended on the revised timings of the revision of same. We had no subject for Sept and Oct yet; Nov might be the Local Plan – again depending on the revised timetable.
- 5.2 As well as the loss of C&G Hardware the picture framers on Park Lane had also closed. However, Tilehurst Vets had offered to be a TG sponsor.
- 5.3 Jenny had been in contact with the West Reading Safer Neighbourhood forum who felt that we shared some similar aims. They were planning a Litter Pick in Lousehill Copse/Dee Road in June and invited us to join in.

**TILEHURST**   
Go Local On a Better Environment

 **Spring** 

**Litter Pick**

**Help us to clear rubbish  
from central Tilehurst**

(Areas that get left out by RBC. e.g. hedge bottoms, behind green area in Walnut Way,  
hedge near Co-op, alleyways near British Legion & in School Rd etc)

**10:00am - 12noon**

**Meet at the Triangle War Memorial  
and Blundells Copse**

**2:00 - 4:00pm Meet at Calder Close entrance**

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April**

*Join in at any time for as long as you like  
Adults and accompanied children welcome  
Rubbish bags & picker sticks provided but bring your own gloves*

For further information about this or any GLOBE activity go to our website  
[www.tilehurst-globe.org.uk](http://www.tilehurst-globe.org.uk) visit our Facebook page or 'phone 9425169

**TILEHURST GO LOCAL FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT (GLOBE)  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 21<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 2024  
AT THE METHODIST CHURCH HALL, SCHOOL ROAD, TILEHURST, RG31 5AN**

Present: Jenny Cottee, Jean Rainey, Pam Webb, Carol McClellan, Cllr Mark Keeping, Cllr Anne Thompson, Emily Darby, Dave Glanville, Julie Alexander, Sally Ward, Erin Marsh.

**1. Apologies & Introduction**

1.1 Apologies were received from Liz Ellis. Erin & Sally, Head Vet & Head Nurse at School Road Vets introduced themselves and said that, as part of the parent company's environmental engagement policy, their practice wanted to help with local environmental issues.

**2 Previous Meeting - Reading Local Plan Partial Update Consultation on Scope & Content**

2.1 It seemed unlikely that the land off Kentwood and Armour Hills would be removed from the list of sites for development as there was no precedent. There was information about the proposals for the Broad St Mall area on the notice-board near the toilets in the Mall. Further consultations on the Plan were due in late summer.

**3 Trees**

3.1 Tilehurst GLOBE had funded the planting of a more robust type of crab apple tree on the corner of Dunstall Close, next to the other young trees. Carol asked how long it would take to establish. Jenny would ask Roger Sym, the local Tree Warden.

3.2 Jenny guessed Roger needed helpers to monitor, water and maintain trees. What would this entail? Jenny would ask and advise.

**4 Future Events & Meetings**

4.1 We noted GLOBE had no officers, just key members. We looked at a table showing Tilehurst Globe activities, and people who currently undertake related leadership roles e.g. Jenny or Liz lead meetings, Carol does the accounts, Jean posters & minutes, Pam handled room bookings but we were short of people taking an active role in activities. Without new people and more sharing leadership the future of Tilehurst GLOBE was uncertain. ASK to see the table, you will be helped to learn the ropes. Many hands...

4.2 Planting - too late for spring planting; should we do some autumn planting? What & where? Crocus in Victoria Rec? GLOBE would supply the bulbs if we could find people to share leadership and do the planting. Any planting should be where lots of people could get the benefit of it.

4.3 Litter Picking event: Later finalised to be Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup> 10 am-12 and 2-4 pm, with morning centred on the Triangle, streets and alleyways, afternoon Blundells/Moor Copse. Jenny would contact youth groups; Jean would do posters. The vets offered to take part.

4.4 17 July Walk - Local sites mentioned in updated Local Plan? To be finalised when consultation paper published. Who would organise it? Jean would do posters.

4.5 March meeting subject: the various Parish, Ward & Parliamentary Constituency boundaries in Tilehurst as there were many upcoming elections. Other possible subjects: Scams (Anne would contact Police for a potential speaker); Clear Access on Pavements.

**5 Other Issues**

5.1 Leaflets - needed updating/printing/distribution. The vets offered to have some in their reception.

5.2 Local sponsors: C&G Hardware, long-time sponsors were closing. Erin & Sally said that their vet practice would be interested in becoming a sponsor. Jenny would email them to discuss this.

5.3 Christmas tree lights: the big pine tree in front of the Triangle shops was getting too tall to put lights all the way to the top: should we have lights on the lower part or nominate a smaller tree?

5.4 In email discussion it had been agreed that Tilehurst GLOBE should not buy a projector since speakers at meetings who needed one generally had one of their own.

5.5 Blister pack recycling - Superdrug in Broad Street. The vets would look into doing it too.

5.6 Battery collection points - Reading BC residents were Ok as they could put them on top of the red bin for collection and several shops on School & Park Roads had collection bins but not W Berks residents. We needed to find a local business in the W Berks part of Tilehurst to have a collection bin. Carol would try Cotswold Sports Centre. She would also collect the bin from C&G Hardware and speak to the Triangle Co-op about their bin being hidden behind the counter now. Cllr Keeping emphasised the danger of throwing any kind of battery or things containing batteries into the recycling or rubbish - several fires had occurred in waste centres as a result.

5.7 Carol reported that the new bank signatory formalities had been sorted out.



**TILEHURST GO LOCAL FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT (GLOBE)  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 10<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024  
AT THE METHODIST CHURCH HALL, SCHOOL ROAD, TILEHURST, RG31 5AN**

Present: Jenny Cottee, Mark Worringham, Liz Ellis, Jean Rainey, Pam Webb, Carol McClellan, Ian Duddle, Julia Cooper, Julia Waters, Cllr Mark Keeping, Cllr Glenn Dennis, Cllr Anne Thompson, Kathryn Solly, George Solly, Deborah Catherall, Robin Rimmington, Heather Chiswell, Philip Allen, K Fullerton, Martin Bourne, Dave Griffiths, J Kirton, R Embling, C Mackay, L Mackay, W Swarbrick, M Swarbrick, Cllr Raj Singh, Philip Bunce.

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Jenny welcomed everyone, gave a brief overview of GLOBE's role and introduced Mark Worringham, Reading Borough Council's Planning Policy Manager to give an overview of the Local Plan Partial Update Consultation on Scope and Content and answer questions on it.

**2 Reading Local Plan Partial Update Consultation on Scope and Content**

- 2.1 Mark explained that the Local Plan was the main document influencing development in Reading Borough. The number of homes that the national Government required Reading Borough to provide was the key reason for the update. This had been raised from 689 to 800ish (more work had to be done to refine the figure) per annum. 83% of new homes built in Reading in the last ten years had been 1 or 2 bedroom, mostly flats. RBC had identified a strong need for family housing of 3-4 bedrooms which they would try to push developers to include. Affordability, density, sustainability and infrastructure (e.g. roads, electricity) were all issues to be considered in new development. RBC were limited in their control of development by Government rules e.g. that allow developers to claim they can't afford to include affordable homes.

- 2.2 Mark took questions on issues covered so far:

Q: Neighbouring authorities e.g. Wokingham and W Berks - same new homes required as Reading? Could help Reading? A: No, lower and No, for various reasons.

Q: Multiple tower block developments - fire risks? A: RBC consult with Fire Service on such developments. Fire safety in high rise buildings is part of the Building Regulations which were updated following the Grenfell fire.

Q: Roads can't cope with increase in resident numbers. A: Much of development will be in Town Centre because that's all the space Reading has; residents are expected/tend to use public transport so unlikely to increase road traffic significantly. There is a Transport Strategy covering traffic issues. Transport assessments would be in a later stage of the Partial Update.

Q: Do developers tend towards larger 'executive houses' in Reading?

A: No, due to space limits, most developments in Reading are now blocks of 1-2 bed flats.

- 2.3 Mark then spoke about development sites which had been put forward by RBC and developers in addition to those already included in the current Local Plan. Most were on sites which have or recently had, existing buildings e.g. Central Library, Reading Link Retail Park, Aquis House in Forbury Road. Most were in central Reading and none were very big - the largest was 200 homes (though what developers wanted and realistic numbers were often quite different).

- 2.4 There was then a lively discussion on two of the 'existing sites' already marked for development in the current Plan: namely the land off Kentwood Hill and Armour Hill owned by the Tilehurst Poor's Land Charity. Many of those present wanted this land to be removed from the Local Plan and designated protected Local Green Space to protect the wildlife there. Mark said that there was a question in the Consultation asking if that's what we wanted but warned that the Government's Planning Inspector would reject the removal unless there were sufficient grounds i.e. that it could be shown to meet certain criteria (see Consultation Document for details). Mark confirmed that the new Plan would not be in place until at least 2025 and that planning applications could be made until then, based on the existing Plan.

- 2.5 All there thanked Mark for attending and answering our questions.

*Please note: these minutes are a brief summary of the discussion and do not include everything that was said, please refer to RBC's website for all information on the Plan, Consultation document and other documents mentioned in these notes.*