

Caversham and District Residents' Association

Annual General Meeting Tuesday 11 June 2019

Chairman's report 2018/2019

Planning

As both Reading and South Oxfordshire progressed their Local Plans over the past year, there have been many issues for Caversham. Neither Plan has yet progressed to adoption. Across the border, the Gladman case would have opened the way for substantial development on the Reading border with major impacts on traffic and local services. CADRA put in both funds and time to support the CAGE campaign which was ultimately successful in blocking that particular application. With the increase in the housing requirement for South Oxfordshire, potential development on Reading's border will remain a key issue.

Much of Reading's housing requirement will be delivered through new high-rise buildings and we have reviewed where there may be an issue for Caversham or an opportunity to work with the Conservation Area Advisory Committee (CAAC).

Further progress on St Martins has been slow and the latest application has still not been resolved.

Local Heritage

CADRA has four members on the CAAC who work for Caversham issues and across Reading. The CADRA team led the work on the first CAAC re-appraisal, St Peters Conservation Area. After almost three years work, this resulted in the formal adoption of the revised appraisal, including an extension to take in Bridge Street, Caversham Bridge and Church Street up to the petrol station. It also established a basis for all other reappraisals and the CADRA team is currently assisting with the review of the Russel Street/Castle Hill area.

Very sadly Liz Killick, who did so much for both Planning and Local Heritage, died just after the adoption of the revised appraisal for St Peters Conservation Area. Although four of the team are engaged in planning issues, we would welcome a new member to join us.

Transport

Summer 2018 saw plans for further changes to Caversham Bus Services and a public meeting called at short notice drew hundreds of local people. More recently, CADRA had a positive meeting with the new CEO to discuss future communication. We continue to monitor decisions taken at the Traffic Management Sub Committee. The draft Local Transport Plan 4 has been delayed but a consultation on public transport and traffic issues is expected. Although Paul Matthews continues to provide advice, we would welcome a new member to help keep track of transport issues locally.

Safer Caversham

The Caversham Safer Neighbourhood Forum (previously Neighbourhood Action Group) meets regularly with representatives from the Police, RBC and community members including CADRA. It is an important mechanism for a combined proactive approach to local problems. Police resources are limited, and local people can help by providing local intelligence and by reporting crime. The allocation of resources is largely determined by the pattern of recorded crime.

Flood alleviation scheme

The proposed scheme would have a major impact on the land along the Thames. We urge local people to follow the proposals and to express their views. <https://www.cabfas.org/>

William Marshal – Information Panel

William Marshal has always been an important figure in Caversham history, but this year marks 800 years since his death in Caversham. We would like to thank everyone who has helped to launch the project to create an information panel. Reading Civic Society kindly agreed to receive donations and claim gift aid. Mike Eggleton helped to get the campaign off to a flying start. Vickie Abel, Chair of the Friends of Caversham Court Gardens has been a continuing support. Martin Andrews has produced the artwork and Anke Ueberberg, who also designs the CADRA newsletter, has brought excellent graphic design skills.

Planning permission will take some time and the attachment of the panel in its frame to the historic bridge requires careful investigation and some additional cost. We are very grateful to everyone who has donated to the project. Donations at the AGM would be very welcome or sent as set out on www.cadra.org.uk.

The Caversham Village Sign

The sign is now with Stuart King for restoration and repainting. The cost will be met by Hermes.

Caversham Bridge Newspaper

Members of the committee continue to write copy for this monthly Church and Community newspaper. Copies are on sale from the Parish Office in Church House or subscribe for just £5.00 p.a. Call 947 1370 or email cemoloney@yahoo.co.uk. The paper is available online at <http://www.cavershambridge.org/>.

CADRA website and Facebook Page

The CADRA website was revamped over a year ago and we hope you find it a useful resource. You can find all about CADRA's activities, a monthly summary of the latest planning application, links to useful advice and information as well as different aspects of local history. The CADRA Facebook page is available to everyone from the Home page and covers more immediate news of local interest. It is an instant method of sharing information we receive from local organisations and the local press. With 370 'likes' this makes contact with over 2000 people per month. Together, the website and Facebook page continue to extend CADRA's reach across the local community.

Membership

A substantial membership keeps CADRA strong, so new members are always welcome. Subscriptions and renewals can be paid on line by Paypal or credit card, as well by bank transfer or standing order. We still accept cheques - where possible to cover three years to save time for both sides. Membership forms are available from the library or Waltons Jewellers. Email is the main method of communication so **please let us know if you change your email address and look out for CADRA messages going to Spam**. Members not on email receive copies of newsletters by post. Members on email receive an update each month and a link to the newsletter twice a year. If those are not reaching you, please let us know.

CADRA committee

I am extremely grateful to all members of the committee and the committee support team for all their work through the year. We are always keen to hear from anyone who could offer support in some way so that Caversham can always be *a Great Place to Live!*

This year, I want particularly to thank Stewart Bolton who has stood down as Treasurer after a remarkable 25 years – half the lifetime of CADRA. He leaves the funds in very good order and has successfully handed over to Colin Hall who will present the accounts for 2018/19. Stewart and his wife Pat have done a great deal for CADRA over the years and they will both be missed.