



Round Up - November 2021

Your committee met as usual this month and would like to keep you updated on the issues covered. As always, please share this with anyone who may find it useful.

Planning

Reading Golf Club (see the [Reading Chronicle Report](#)) and Beechcroft the retirement home provider and developer of [Caversham Park](#) have both held exhibitions on proposed plans, but formal planning applications have yet to be submitted. A revised application for the conversion of the Old Priory Avenue Surgery ([211625](#)) would leave all the bins at the front of the property, which is a Building of Townscape Merit within St Peters Conservation Area. A 20m lattice tower for 5G mobiles on a corner of the George Street laundry site is proposed ([211623](#)). This would require foundations near to the Christchurch Meadows Lombardy Poplars and to trees close to George Street. We have expressed concern for the trees. You may have noticed that the lights on Caversham Bridge have now been converted to LED. Further adjustments are being made. Refurbishment and conversion of the Reading Bridge lights is taking longer to resolve.

Bus Services

The Council's [Reading Bus Service Improvement Plan 2021-26](#) has just been issued. The overall vision is to deliver a comprehensive bus network in Reading, making travel by bus the natural choice for both residents and visitors. We have yet to study it in detail but the intention to work with neighbouring authorities and bus services is very welcome.

Licensing

The review of the 2021 Reading Festival takes place early December and CADRA will be represented. A licence for Winter Wonderland on Hills Meadow from 12 November 2021 to 3 January 2022 was granted on 9 November. There are conditions which require the operator to prevent undue disturbance to local residents, to monitor and record sound levels and to be available to respond to nuisance-related complaints. The licence is for one year only and the success or otherwise will influence decisions on future applications. We advise that any nuisance should be reported by email to Environment.ProtectionTeam@reading.gov.uk.

Or you can contact Licensing@reading.gov.uk.

Local Safety

We encourage you to respond to the [Community Safety Survey](#) which is held every two years to determine priorities. **Community Speedwatch** is a traffic monitoring scheme coordinated by Thames Valley Police in partnership with local councils and other stakeholders but managed and run by neighbourhood teams and community volunteers. It will be introduced on key roads in Caversham early in the new year. If you are interested in being trained as a volunteer for the scheme or know someone who would be interested, please reply to this email and we can put you in touch. It is open to anyone over 18. **Online crime** is a major issue. The [National Security Cyber Centre's Public Survey](#) report exposes worrying gaps in online security and includes a list of most hacked passwords.

CADRA Autumn Meeting

The online talk, Climate for Electric Cars, was well attended on Wednesday. Phil Coker and Anthony Simpson gave a fascinating insight into the issues for electric cars and energy supply. The talk was recorded and there will be a link from the website.

CADRA Membership

As our Membership Secretary Jacque Tomson prepares to leave Caversham, we are delighted to welcome Adrian Goddon to the committee. Jacque is in the process of handing over her duties to Adrian.

Other News

The [Christmas in Caversham](#) late night shopping event is on Friday 3 December from 5pm until late. It is a great way to support our independent traders and there will be plenty to keep everyone entertained. Santa will be welcoming guests and accepting gifts from visitors to be distributed to local children, who don't have much to look forward to this Christmas. Matt Rodda MP is inviting your [Nominations](#) for the **Reading East Small Business Competition 2021**, open until Friday 3 December. The winners will be announced on Small Business Saturday 4 December.

[Reading Family Aid](#) urgently need our donations to provide gifts for the growing number of children who would otherwise receive nothing this Christmas. You can donate at [Gofundme Toys and Teens 21](#). As-new gifts can be taken to pop up collection points:

- Saturday 20 November 11:00-15:00 Woodley Town Centre Precinct, Headley Road, Woodley, RG5 4JZ
- Sunday 14 November 11:00-15:00 Big Yellow Self Storage, Rose Kiln Lane, Reading, RG2 0JZ
- Saturday 27 November 11:00-15:00 Tesco Extra, Portman Road, Reading RG30 1AW.

Councillor David Stevens' extended term as Mayor comes to an end next week when the new Mayor and Deputy will be agreed at a **Mayor Making Ceremony** on Wednesday 17 November. The nominations are for Councillor Rachel Eden to serve as Mayor until May 2023 and for Councillor Ayo Sokale to serve as Deputy Mayor until May 2022, when a new Deputy Mayor will be elected for a full Municipal Year in 2022-23.