



CADRA News
Caversham & District Residents' Association
The Voice of Caversham since 1967



CADRA Round Up - August 2021

Your committee was able to meet 'in person' this month and prepare this update for you. As always, please share this with anyone who may be interested.

Membership Secretary

Jacque Tomson, our long-standing membership secretary, is preparing to move away from Caversham and we are looking for someone to take on this important role. The membership secretary acts as a first point of contact for members and assists those less able to use the online system. Basic spreadsheet skills are needed, but technical support is available within the team. If you might be interested or know of anyone, please reply to this email and we can arrange a convenient time to talk.

Open Meetings

We are very grateful to John Painter for his excellent talk on Reading Abbey and Reading Gaol. Our two online events reached over 180 people. If you were not able to join, you may be interested in a [WEA Day Course on Reading Abbey](#) on Saturday 16 October.

We are reviewing options for an open meeting in the autumn, either in person or online.

Planning

Changes in planning law continue as we anticipate what the [Government's proposed planning bill](#) may bring. From 1 August 2021 new [Permitted Development Rights](#) were introduced. These allow change of use from commercial, business or services to residential. Only a light touch application for prior approval is required and this also applies within Conservation Areas.

The application for housing on **Reading Golf Club** was considered by the Planning Committee in July. KEG, EGRA and CADRA spoke to raise concerns and the committee voted unanimously to refuse. Adjacent to the building work for **82 care units on Henley Road**, there are plans for another 60 retirement apartments. The application number is [210975](#), CADRA is reviewing the plans and would welcome comments. We worked with the previous owners of the **Priory Avenue Surgery** to achieve a conversion to apartments which would preserve the exceptional Arts and Crafts interior. The wonderful stained-glass window will remain, but sadly a revised application has been approved which removes the original staircase. As always, you can find links to current significant applications on our Latest Planning List at [CADRA Planning List](#).

Council Consultations

<https://consult.reading.gov.uk/> lists the ongoing Council consultations. There is a very welcome draft **Shop Fronts Design Guide** on how planning applications will be decided. This closes 24 September. Another important consultation concerns the future goals for **Reading's libraries**. This closes 17 September. Please do respond if you can.

Reading has more to offer than first appears

[Reading UK](#), Reading Borough Council, The University of Reading and partners are working to develop a marketing approach and ways to celebrate the best of the town. Could you help by responding to some [Questions in this Survey?](#)

Local Safety and Policing

The Community **Speedwatch** programme will launch soon and will be seeking local volunteers. We will keep you updated.

You will be able to speak to the local police team at the [Have Your Say Meeting](#) tomorrow - Friday 20 August, 3-4 pm in St. Martins Precinct.

Heritage Open Days

There is an exciting range of events during September - see [Heritage Open Days 2021](#). Those with limited places are already booking up.

Reading Festival

The festival takes place from Friday 27 to Sunday 29 August. There is useful information on the Council website at [Reading Festival Returns](#).

Covid Precautions

Cases in Reading remain at high, with a current weekly rate of 346 per 100,000 population, so caution remains important. The Department of Health updated the rules on [Self-Isolation](#) from 16 August.