



CADRA News

Caversham & District Residents' Association

The Voice of Caversham since 1967



Avoiding Scams

New scams appear all the time and an alarming number of people face the stress of being defrauded. We are delighted that Steve Hambridge, a very experienced Trading Standards Officer, will speak at the open meeting in November. Steve last spoke at a CADRA meeting in 2013 and has successfully brought evidence to prosecute those attempting to defraud Caversham residents. Older people living alone can be seen as rich pickings, but we are all vulnerable to increasingly sophisticated scams.

We anticipate hearing some fascinating tales and about new methods being developed by criminals across the world. Steve will discuss scams and how to identify them, explain what scams are prevalent now and advise on additional sources of advice, help and education. He will report on what is happening in the background to protect consumers and what organisations, groups and useful websites can also help. As always, there will be time for questions, and some 'No Cold Caller' stickers will be available.

In the meantime, Steve recommends the *The Little Book of Big Scams, 4th Edition* (tinyurl.com/littlebookofbigscams) as the best general source of advice.

Helen Lambert

Avoiding Scams

Speaker: Steve Hambridge, Reading Trading Standards

Wednesday
9 November 2022

7.30pm

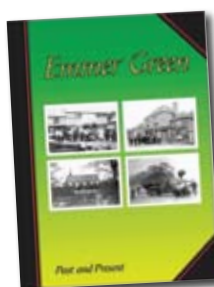
Highdown School Hall
Surley Row
Reading RG4 8LR

Good parking

A chance to meet
the author of
Emmer Green
Past and Present

ALL WELCOME

Emmer Green



We have been working with Margaret Ormonde, author of *Emmer Green: Past and present*, which was out of print for almost 20 years but is now available again in Fourbears Bookshop in Prospect Street for £12, or email emmergreenbookorders@cadra.org.uk to order a copy.

Margaret will be available to sign copies at the CADRA meeting on 9 November.

The CADRA Committee now includes members from Emmer Green (details on back page). CADRA is increasingly seeking to represent concerns in both Caversham and Emmer Green – particularly on major planning issues – and to maintain close links with other organisations.

Caversham Christmas



On Friday 2 December 2022, Caversham centre will be open late for shopping, entertainment, special market stalls and a visit from Santa.

That evening Fourbears Bookshop will host Father Christmas to receive gifts for children who would otherwise miss out.

Plan ahead on craft projects for Christmas! The free colouring project 'Happy Caversham Christmas' is still available to download at www.cadra.org.uk/en/Special-Projects

Planning

Between March and August, CADRA reviewed 49 applications and submitted 14 comments. As always, you will find links to the current applications in the latest summary at www.cadra.org.uk/en/Planning

Reading Golf Club

The builder, Vistry, has now issued their first newsletter, a link to which you can find at <https://www.cadra.org.uk/en/Planning>. CADRA will be meeting with them again to discuss the plans submitted for detailed design as well as the difficult and complex arrangements for construction and delivery which have still to be approved by the Council. This is a particular concern for residents in Kidmore End Road.

Caversham Park

The CADRA comments on the planning applications ([220409](#) and [220410](#)) and a number of the detailed documents can be seen at [Caversham Park & House](#). Significant concerns have been raised over the impact on the listed house and grounds and on the frontage to Peppard Road and CADRA was pleased to join Beechcroft for discussions on site. We have since been advised that they have listened to feedback and, with new specialist heritage advice, are revising the layout and design for the proposed dwellings and care home. We expect further discussions in November.

From the Station to the Thames

The **SSE site** ([200188](#)) by the river, refused by the Council, was approved at appeal. Next to the station, the **Old Mail Sorting Office** ([182252](#)) land was approved for 620 residential units with a mix of other uses, rising to 24 storeys by to the northern entrance to the station and reducing to eight storeys on Caversham Road. The design and landscape details will require a separate application. Between the two, stretching from TGI Fridays to The Range, is the application by **Aviva** ([200328](#)), which was heard at appeal in April but we await the outcome.

Following the refusal of the previous plans to demolish and replace the **Drews building**, a new application [220922](#) has been submitted which retains the frontage with new accommodation rising up behind.

Plans for the new **Riverside Academy** ([212061](#)) were approved by the Planning Committee. We were pleased to note that our concerns over the number of cycle storage places, the response to climate change and the extent of landscaping to the north were to be considered further and applications have now been submitted for condition details.

The first phase of the **new leisure centre at Rivermead** is due for completion by spring 2023. The existing leisure centre will remain open until the new centre is complete.

Local applications

The Moorings, Mill Green ([220591](#)), applied for a Certificate of Lawfulness for existing use as a commercial boat yard and also appealed the refusal for vehicular access ([210544](#)). Bids to buy or lease the triangle of land in Council ownership between Barclays and the Riverside Dental Centre with an option for a digital advertising display were received and considered but no planning application has yet been received. The triangle of land on the George Street and Gosbrook Road junction was sold and prompt local action prevented further trees from being felled.

At **205–213 Henley Road** ([220189](#)), the application for two standalone apartment blocks, providing 59 retirement living apartments with a mixture of 1 and 2 bedrooms, has still to be decided. Four applications for 15m telecoms monopoles for ground-based equipment have been refused, and one at Chiltern Road will require 'prior approval'. The mast at Kidmore End Road is now the subject of an appeal which could have wider significance.

26 Prospect Street, the Jennings building, is to be converted and a new frontage installed.

In **Lower Caversham**, the application for One House on **St Johns Road** was refused.

There are new applications for a demolition on **Wolsey Road adjacent to the historic Herbert Engineering building** and for **Tilbury Close**, a conversion to studio apartments behind the Henley Road shops.

A planning application for **Winter Wonderland at Hills Meadow** encroaches on the planted area and trees. The licence application has been approved for six years.

Six new information boards are planned for **Reading Hydro** at View Island.

South Oxfordshire

Following the refusal of a previous application for **Caversham Lakes**, off the Henley Road, a new application was submitted ([P22/S1691/FUL](#)). This fails to set out the various events being held in addition to the sporting activities, which have implications for traffic and for the nature reserve. Reading Borough Council, which is responsible for the road junction, has sent a formal objection on transport grounds, commenting that the traffic assessments fail to recognise the range of other activities on the site. Accidents continue near the junction.

The Caversham Golf Club application for four courts for Padel Tennis under a domed roof has now been withdrawn.

Chiltern Edge Secondary School in Sonning Common has applied to build 50 dwellings ([P22/S2180/FUL](#)), and in Woodcote there is an application for an EIA Screening Opinion regarding 30 residential dwellings and a car park ([P22/S2331/SCR](#)).

Safer Caversham

North Reading Safer Neighbourhood Forum (NRSNF) meetings are held every two months and include local councillors, PC Vince Moore (Neighbourhood Supervisor) and are chaired by local resident Nick Haskins. Jill Dibben and Neil Tayler from the CADRA committee are Forum members. Anyone interested to join should contact nikki.drury@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk.

PC Moore is continuing to manage despite reduced staffing levels. He has reported that crime is down by 6% from last year and 16% from the year before.

Anti-social behaviour continues to plague the Amersham Road and PC Moore is working with local agencies to tackle this issue. Useful links for reporting incidents are Streetsafe (www.thamesvalley.police.uk/notices/street-safe/street-safe) and the Reportable App, which is free to download from your smartphone's app store.

Some planned removal of graffiti has been delayed through lack of funds. Any resident wishing to help with the removal of graffiti can receive training and pick up removal kits from Reading Borough Council or GLOBE.

The Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service are offering free 'safe and well' visits for households (contact them on 0800 587 6679 or email SafeandWell@rfbrs.co.uk). They have increased signage in the Bugs Bottom area following a recent spate of fires during weeks of dry conditions. By the Thames promenade they are working with the NRSNF to address the lack of water safety equipment and give local training for the use of 'throw bags' along the north bank.

Community Speedwatch is targeting the Upper Woodcote Road when speed guns become available; and in Lower Caversham a survey is underway to establish whether a 20mph zone can be effected in Amersham Road.

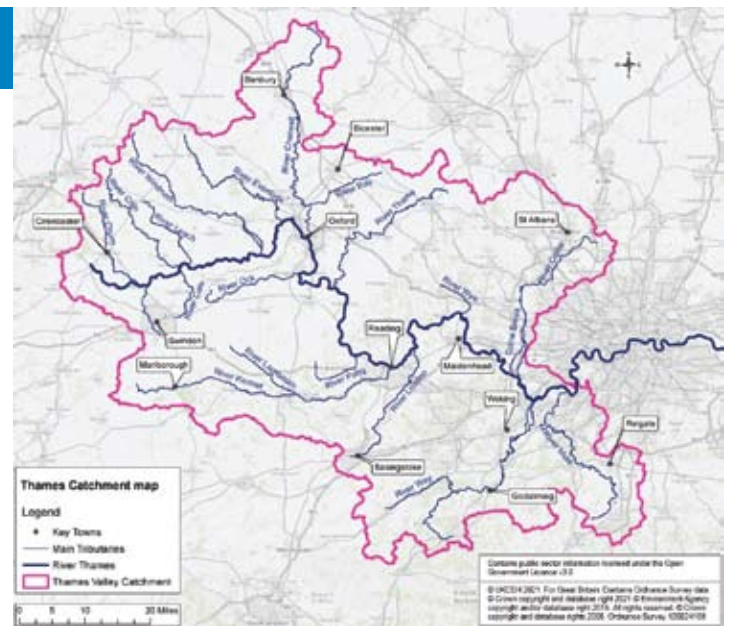
In the Upper Woodcote Road area there has also been a spate of 'Nottingham knockers', causing residents to request a 'No Cold Caller' zone. In the meantime, 'No Cold Caller' stickers are being made available.

In Mapledurham Playing Fields CCTV has been installed, although inspection of the footage is still an ongoing concern, particularly in the context of local vandalism.

Flood defences

The **Reading and Caversham Flood Alleviation Scheme** (tinyurl.com/floodalleviation) was found not to be viable owing to an increase in costs and a reduction in the potential benefits; the risk of local flooding remains. If you live in affected areas, you may find help with insurance at FloodRE (www.floodre.co.uk). You are strongly advised to sign up for flood warnings at www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings or by calling Floodline on 0345 988 1188, and to plan for what you might need during a flood (www.gov.uk/government/publications/personal-flood-plan).

The primary purpose of the new **Thames Valley Flood Scheme** (tinyurl.com/thamesvalleyfloodscheme) is to support climate change adaptation by reducing flood risk at scale throughout the Thames Valley, and to boost resilience for communities, businesses and infrastructure. It takes a catchment-wide approach to managing flood risk along the length of the River Thames from Cirencester to Teddington as well as the rivers that flow into the Thames. At this early stage, it is not clear whether this would benefit our area.



Source: <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/thames/tvfs-approaches>

Following consultations and appraisal of viable options, the EA hopes to develop outline designs to support a business case due in 2027.

Tackling knife crime

As part of a series of initiatives, a working group was set up with representatives from Caversham churches, schools, voluntary and community organisations, the local authority and other interested parties. CADRA is also represented.

The group meets monthly to look at how they can utilise community spaces, mobilise community support and organisations, volunteers and professionals to begin to

deliver hyper-local support for young people. The current plans are to utilise spaces such as libraries and community centres to run community-based Hubs for young people as safe spaces with drop-in mental health support, mentoring, information and advice and activities.

Carly Newman at No5 Young People would welcome your interest: carly.newman@no5.org.uk or 07342 355 425.

About CADRA

Our aim is to *preserve and enhance the quality of life in Caversham and the surrounding District*, or, in other words, that Caversham should always be...

...a great place to live!

We work closely with Reading Councillors and Officers, other local groups, the Police, companies and individuals, always avoiding party political bias.

Together, we can make it better.

We issue two newsletters a year, hold two public meetings, write columns for the *Caversham Bridge* local newspaper and maintain a website with information on local issues and links to relevant official websites. The Facebook page (shown on the CADRA homepage) gives up-to-the-minute local news. You do *not* need to register with Facebook.

Contacting CADRA

Please write to the Secretary or better still, email us at info@cadra.org.uk. Please let us know if you change your email address.

Membership

Membership of CADRA is just £3 per year per household. Leaflets are available from Caversham Library or Waltons, Prospect Street, or from the Membership Secretary, Tel: 0789 415 0023. Join or renew and pay online at www.cadra.org.uk/en/Application-Form.

The Committee

Chair: Helen Lambert, 5 Derby Road, RG4 5HE,
Tel: 947 3165

Treasurer: Jill Dibben, 31 Winterberry Way, RG4 7XA,
Tel: 948 3736

Secretary: Linda Watsham, 159 Kidmore Road, RG4 7NJ,
Tel: 947 8744

Membership: Adrian Goddon, Nire Road,
Tel: 0789 415 0023

Planning: John Nicholls (co-opted), Sandcroft Road;
Malcolm Pemble, Shepherds Lane; (for Emmer Green)
Neil Parker, Kidmore End Road

Safer Caversham: Jill Dibben, Winterberry Way;
(for Emmer Green) Neil Tayler, Highdown Avenue

Facebook: (for Emmer Green) Annette Fairweather,
Stuart Close

COMMITTEE SUPPORT

Transport: Paul Matthews, Albert Road

Planning: Kim Pearce, The Mount

Website: Lloyd Pople, Upper Woodcote Road

Project Support: Les Killick, Upper Woodcote Road

Informal Links: Jo Munday, South View Avenue;
Mo Prins, Haldane Road

Facebook: Mo Prins, Haldane Road

General support: John Roach, St Peter's Avenue

Newsletter Editor: Helen Lambert

Design by Anke Ueberberg. Printed by Herald Graphics, Tel: 931 1488.
The opinions expressed are those of the contributors.

Useful contacts

HEALTH AND COVID-19

NHS Health Advice: Tel: 111

NHS Help with coronavirus (COVID-19):

www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19

Tel: 119

Healthwatch Reading:

<https://healthwatchreading.co.uk/news-and-reports>

Tel: 0118 214 5579 (9am–5pm, Monday to Friday)

Reading Borough Council (Covid-19):

www.reading.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19

Tel: 0118 937 2707

Berkshire Public Health:

www.berkshirepublichealth.co.uk/covid-19

GP practices:

www.balmoreparksurgery.co.uk

www.emmergreensurgery.co.uk

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Switchboard: Tel: 0118 937 3787

Planning: www.reading.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control (see also www.cadra.org.uk/en/Planning for links, advice and the latest planning summary)

Councillors and Council papers: www.reading.gov.uk/the-council-and-democracy (papers to committees are attached to the meeting agenda 7 days ahead)

Reading Services Guide: <https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/home.page> (find Caversham in the A to Z)

OTHER

Citizens Advice:

<https://rcab.org.uk>/Tel: 0808 278 7819 (freephone)

Police and antisocial behaviour: Find all the information on reporting at www.cadra.org.uk/en/Safer-Caversham