



Round Up January 2024

A very Happy New Year to all our members. At this week's CADRA Committee meeting, we welcomed some of our Support Team, which was an opportunity to keep them in touch. The Committee thanks all the Team for their work done behind the scenes, over the last year. The Committee welcomed Sarah Stuffins and agreed to co-opt her to the committee.

Reading Local Plan

The main focus of the meeting was to progress a CADRA response to the consultation on the [Partial Update of the Local Plan](#). The closing date is 31 January.

Many of the updates are driven by changes in national policy, of which the most significant is the requirement on larger towns to increase their housing numbers by 35%. Associated with this are requirements for minimum densities. With so many of the town centre schemes providing mainly one and two bed units, the main local need is for family housing. The updates try to address this but we believe changes are needed to support facilities for family life in the town centre.

There are relatively few changes specific to North Reading but some important general policy changes to consider. We encourage you to comment, where you feel appropriate, and you may like to refer first to the [CADRA Summary](#). Sites near North Reading put forward for development include:

1. Crowne Plaza and car park
2. Norman Place, Vastern Road
3. Reading Bridge House
4. Tesco Extra car park, Napier Road.

More details of what is proposed are in Appendix II.

Planning Updates

Following the objection from Historic England to the application at **Caversham Park** ([220409](#)), the Council's Conservation Officer has also recorded an objection to the latest plans. This concludes that the development within the registered park and garden and the proposed conversion of the main house would cause harm to the heritage and outweigh any benefits.

A decision from the Secretary of State on the appeal for the **land between TGI Friday and The Range** is expected by the end of January. The appeal hearing regarding Caversham Lakes was held in December and we await the outcome. A site visit by the Planning Inspector is planned for the **Moorings, Mill Green**.

Following feedback on the **Hills Meadow Carwash** ([231306](#)), mentioned in last month's Round up, we have included a link to the application, for members who might be concerned about it.

Flooding

Many people have been significantly affected by the local floods, including the Weller Centre where outside areas have been severely impacted by the floodwater. They hope to resume normal activities next week. At some future date, they will be glad of help to restore the garden, the sheds and other outdoor facilities.

You may like to see the latest update on the [Thames Valley Flood Scheme](#). The project remains in its early stages and will need to pass approvals and gain further funding in order to progress. Among other things, it is looking into potential locations for flood storage, likely be on rivers that flow into the Thames, reducing the amount of water flowing downstream.

Emmer Green Noticeboard

CADRA has been developing plans to repair the well-used noticeboard in Emmer Green. [The Silvers Workshop](#) completed temporary repairs before Christmas. The necessary permissions and quotations are now in place so, in the spring, the board will be removed to the Silvers Workshop for a full restoration. The board will then be put back in place with a replacement post. Many thanks to all concerned and to Vistry who have agreed to cover the associated costs.

Reading Golf Club CIL Funding

15% of the £1.9 million CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) funding for Reading Golf Club will be applied to local projects. The [Council website](#) sets out how this is considered. We would welcome suggestions for local schemes.

Westfield Park

Residents are invited to vote on the [Design For New Westfield Road Recreation Ground Play Area](#), which has a planned investment of £200,000. A consultation on three alternative designs runs from 10 January to 14 February 2024.

RABBLE Theatre Company

With so much in the news about the Post Office, you may be interested to know that RABBLE, based in the Caversham Court stable block, are planning another production based on a local story. Working with Reading University, a new play: Glitch - The True Story of the Post Office Horizon Scandal, is based on the true story of a local postmistress.

South Oxfordshire Local Plan

The South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils have opened a consultation on their [Joint Local Plan 2041](#). CADRA will review it for the impact on our area and whether we need to comment.

Bet Tickner

We are very sad to report the death last week of Bet Tickner. Bet is known to many as a Caversham resident, former specialist at BBC Monitoring Caversham Park, long term Councillor for Abbey Ward and campaigner on many issues including local healthcare and support for refugees. Those with long memories will know that, following her term as Mayor in 2006, Bet gave the tribute to Molly Casey when the windvane on the Caversham Court Gazebo was dedicated. See page 2 of the [40th anniversary newsletter](#).

And finally

We make these monthly updates freely available. If you find them useful and value what CADRA does please encourage others to join, and of course keep your membership going - it's just £3 a year for the household. During 2024, we intend to look ahead at how CADRA can remain a thriving organisation in future years. No organisation can stand still, and we would welcome your suggestions. Please keep your comments coming.