



CADRA News

Caversham & District Residents' Association

The Voice of Caversham since 1967



Transport in North Reading 2040

Reading Borough Council (RBC) has recently launched a consultation on what transport in Reading should look like in 2040. The draft strategy outlines the challenges and opportunities to achieve a cleaner, greener area, where it is easy to leave our cars at home: <https://consult.reading.gov.uk/dens/reading-transport-strategy-2040-statutory-consulta>. Responses are invited up to 11 December.

Achieving this in North Reading will be far from easy. We are all aware of the downward spiral of traffic congestion that leads to unreliable public transport, which leads to lower usage, reduced takings and further reductions in service.

We are therefore delighted to welcome Chris Maddocks, Strategic Transport Manager for RBC and Robert Williams, CEO of Reading Buses, to speak about the Reading Transport Strategy 2040 and the issues for North Reading. This open meeting will take place at 7.30pm on Monday 6 November in Caversham Baptist

Church. To ensure a good cross section of questions on the night, we invite you to send questions in advance. Please **email your questions** to info@cadra.org.uk by **Thursday 2 November**. This promises to be an interesting evening on a subject which affects us all. Everyone is welcome.

Helen Lambert

Sad news

We record our appreciation to Les Killick who died in July having supported the CADRA team over many years. His late wife Liz was a major contributor to the work on St Peters Conservation Area.



Reading Bridge Centenary

Through 2023 we have been working with councillors, RBC officers and Reading Museum in preparation for the centenary of Reading Bridge on 3 October. We are delighted that the original plaques have been cleaned, the final lampstand replaced and the bridge has now been locally listed, giving it the same protection as Caversham Bridge, which now lies within the Conservation Area.

We were pleased to join the Mayor's party on the morning of the centenary, when a new commemorative plaque was unveiled.

Reading Bridge is a remarkable example of its time, using new materials and techniques to achieve a simple, striking appearance. Read more about its history in our booklet, available from Fourbears Books, or online at www.cadra.org.uk/en/Special-Projects#block763

Planning

Every month, the CADRA team updates the Latest Planning List of significant local applications, noting additions and new applications. This allows the committee to review and decide on any comments needed. As always, you will find links to the current applications in the latest summary at www.cadra.org.uk/en/Planning

Reading Golf Club

Work continues to discharge the list of conditions. Those still to be discharged include ground water abstraction protection, sustainable drainage, hard and soft landscaping and habitat enhancement. Owing to a shortage of grid capacity, the majority of homes will be fitted with gas boilers instead of heat pumps. The Council is pressing the electricity company to increase capacity so that more heat pumps can be fitted.

Following a meeting with Vistry where both Ward Councillors and CADRA pressed for a meeting for residents, a public meeting was held on Thursday 12 October. Council planners and the Vistry team responded to questions from an audience of over 100. The parking restrictions in the Temporary Traffic Restriction Order (TTRO) are creating real problems for residents. A new temporary entrance to the site is hoped to be complete in November. Monitoring of the traffic will then be able to establish whether the restrictions can be lifted.

Caversham Park

As expected, **revised plans** are now available online (**220409** and **220410**). Changes include revised internal layout of the main house, new design of the care home, new designs for the new housing, an interpretation hub explain the history of the site, additional footpaths and revised car parking.

Around Caversham

Approval was given, subject to legal agreements and a list of conditions, for the provision of 55 age-restricted residential units adjacent to the Signature Care Home on Henley Road.

An application to provide new EV charging stations in the Service Station on George Street would have involved significant tree loss and has been withdrawn.

The application to increase class sizes at the Heights Primary School from 25 to 30 has still to be decided.

Permission was granted for one year for the temporary erection of ice rink and other stalls on Hills Meadow for Winter Wonderland.

The application in Caversham Park including felling The King's Spy Oak was withdrawn (**221909**). The oak is thought to be 700 years old, the oldest survivor from Caversham Park and the oldest tree in Reading with an exceptionally important ecosystem.

Caversham Centre

Work is already underway on the approved applications on the corner of Prospect Street and North Street. A retrospective application for the shop front to Chilis is being considered. A new application for the Spice Oven (**231257**) seeks to divide the frontage into two separate businesses with changes to the rear. We hope this will enable important restoration of this prominent frontage. Minor applications continue to convert upper floors across the centre to residential.

Applications for tree work include the Magnolia on the corner of Priory Avenue and work at St Peter's Church.

There are as yet no planning applications for either triangle of land by Gosbrook Road or Bridge Street.

5G masts

To date, no applications in Caversham have been successful. The mast in Caversham Park Road (**230071**) is awaiting appeal. There have been two successful appeals in Reading.

South of the Thames

A proposal to demolish and replace Napier Court with 570 'build-to-rent' residential units over 11 storeys will not require an Environmental Impact Assessment but we can anticipate a planning application.

The plans to demolish the Carters buildings were approved and application are being made to discharge the list of conditions.

A new application has been submitted for 820 residential units on the Forbury Retail Park opposite St James' Church.

The application to add third and fourth storeys to Great Brighams Mead to provide 100 apart hotel rooms has still to be decided.

The Ministry of Justice reported that the sale of **Reading Gaol** could be completed in the coming months but has not confirmed the purchaser.

South Oxfordshire

Work continues to develop a new Joint Local Plan for South Oxfordshire and the Vale of the White Horse. As part of this work, a new study was launched to better understand, protect and enhance the unique landscapes across South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse. We await the results of this welcome initiative. Early in 2024, they expect to publish a Joint Local Plan 'Preferred Options' consultation document that will set out proposed policies and any proposed sites for development. Views will then be invited on these 'Preferred Options'.

The appeals against enforcement action at Caversham Lakes are still in process as well as the appeal against refusal for two dwellings at the Old Piggery.

Safer Caversham

We are grateful to PC Vince Moore for his work in leading the Neighbourhood Police Team in North Reading. We wish him well in his new role and look forward to working with the new members of the team.

The Reading Neighbourhood Policing Team have issued the first of their quarterly newsletters: <https://members.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk/AlertMessage/Attachment/8BA6BF6E628957FDoD8310D7E2AC73DF>. This gives updates on e-bikes and e-scooters, seizure of a boat and work with the Environment Agency to tackle thefts and ASB on the river. The team is speaking with residents and the local schools about ASB in the Amersham Road. You can download the Home Security Guide and prevention advice on residential burglary, or sign up for Thames Valley Alerts with crime updates relevant to your local area.

The latest scam warnings ask us to look out for emails saying your TV Licence has expired, and for courier fraud where a criminal impersonates a trusted organisation, suggesting a problem with a bank account or legal issue. Further links can be found at www.cadra.org.uk/en/Safer-Caversham.

There have been several reports of car doors being tried at night. Doorbell footage, if you have it, is useful to the police.

The parents of Olly Stephens encourage us to take all young people (in Year 6 and above) to one of the shows about child exploitation on 28 October on the concourse of Reading Football stadium: www.justiceinmotion.co.uk/show/code.

Christmas

Reading Family Aid (RFA) has for many years asked for **donations of toys and gifts for children** who would otherwise receive no Christmas presents. The list of children exceeded 3000 last year but donations were down. Please help if you can: www.readingfamilyaid.org/toys--teens-appeal.html

After the recent installation of flower baskets around the centre, Caversham Traders are now preparing for the annual **Christmas late-night shopping event** with

Emmer Green

The noticeboard in the shopping precinct is much valued and we are grateful to the team of volunteers who keep it tidy. The wooden frame and one of the posts are showing signs of decay. We have been working out a means of repair and the costs involved and would welcome donations.

Following the considerable success of the reprinted book, *Emmer Green Past and Present*, we have funded a second reprint to make sure that copies remain available in Fourbears bookshop.

On 12 October, over 100 people joined a lively meeting about the development on Reading Golf Course, chaired by Ward Councillors and attended by Council planners and the Vistry team (see also Planning – Reading Golf Club). There were many questions about the various payments due within the legal agreement. CADRA pressed Vistry to make regular use of their Facebook page to notify significant events, in addition to more general information via Vistry newsletters, which are also posted on the CADRA website.

A proposed list of names for the streets within the development on Reading Golf Course was considered by the Planning Applications Committee, which deferred the decision to allow additional names to be reviewed for possible inclusion.

We congratulate the volunteers who secured funding for 280 new hedging plants to infill the Kidmore End Road hedge ready for a community planting task at the end of November.

entertainment, market stalls and much more, to be held on **Friday 8 December**.

The very successful **Concerts in Caversham** (www.concertsincaversham.co.uk/concerts) will hold their Christmas concert on **Saturday 9 December**.

Friends of Caversham Court Gardens (<https://home.fccg.org.uk>) are preparing for the **annual open-air carol singing** on Monday 18 December to be held in the gardens (or in St Peter's Church in bad weather).

Other News

A **review of Reading Festival** is underway, and CADRA and other groups are providing feedback. The combined efforts to clean up the area went well and thanks are due to volunteers from Caversham GLOBE.

The most recent update for the **Thames Valley Flood Scheme** is available at www.cadra.org.uk/en/

Local-Environment#block764

The **Reading Climate Action Network** (<https://readingcan.org.uk>), set up by Reading Borough Council, the University of Reading and other local groups and businesses, co-ordinates the town's response to the climate emergency. You can sign up for updates at <https://readingcan.org.uk/introducing-readingcan-updates>.

org.uk/introducing-readingcan-updates.

The latest Building Berkshire Together monthly newsletter on the New Hospital Programme for the **Royal Berkshire Hospital** can be downloaded at <https://buildingberkshiretogether.co.uk/newsletters>.

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, www.cadra.org.uk, as well as two FB pages: www.facebook.com/cavershamresidents (also shown on the CADRA website) and www.facebook.com/CADRAforEmmerGreen.

Contacting CADRA

Please write to the Secretary or better still, email us at info@cadra.org.uk.

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.

Please let us know if you change your email address.

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

COMMITTEE SUPPORT

Transport: Paul Matthews, Albert Road

Planning: Kim Pearce (past projects), Goring; for Emmer Green, Harvey Smith, Kidmore End Road

Website: Lloyd Pople, 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

Emmer Green Noticeboard: Sue Drayton

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The opinions expressed are those of the contributors.

Useful contacts

HEALTH

NHS Health Advice: <https://111.nhs.uk> and Tel: 111

NHS App: <https://www.nhsapp.service.nhs.uk/login>

NHS Help with coronavirus (COVID-19):

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

Tel: 119

Healthwatch Reading:

<https://healthwatchreading.co.uk/newsandreports>

Tel: 0118 214 5579 (Monday to Friday)

GP practices:

www.balmoreparksurgery.co.uk

www.emmergreensurgery.co.uk

Public Health data for Reading and Berkshire:

<https://berkshireobservatory.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 Reading:

<https://rcab.org.uk>/Tel: 0800 144 8848 (freephone)

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