

FROM THE LOOKOUT POST
BY
EX LIBRIS

QUIZ EDITION

Question 1

What is NAASTY?

We live in a world of acronyms. So when I recently received a missive from the Council I could not help being rather naughty and coming up with my own snappy abbreviation. Perhaps I shouldn't be flippant. A lot of thought and work has gone into this Council document. But have you worked out what I am on about yet?

This is the quiz edition so here are more clues. It is about how the Council sees travel into, around and out of Caversham, and how it might develop over the next few years. It is something that will affect every one of us. Whether we use public transport or our own car, whether we travel mainly into Reading or venture into the northern wilds, whether we are worried by the increase in heavy goods vehicles through our village or past our house, whether we shop locally and want access to our shops or jet off to the bright lights of London and need reliable transport to the station; in fact if we move outside our own front door or even rely on others coming to us, this latest Council missive that came through my door yesterday morning will affect us all.

No excuses for not having guessed by now – surely! The consultation process started nearly two years ago in April 2005. There have been travelling roadshows and plans posted up in the local libraries. We have been repeatedly asked for our input and the Council planners have indeed taken many of our views on board. With such a complicated and emotive issue such as transport, it is probably impossible to please everybody. But the figures given in the document show that 84% of those who responded to the consultation agree that the North of Reading has traffic and environmental problems that need addressing. Even if you did not respond to the earlier consultations, all is not lost. The Council has divided its action plan into bite size stages or ‘packages’, as they call them. Package 1 entails yet more public consultation, leaflet drops and exhibitions together with reports on any works that are under way.

So how are you getting on with my first quiz question? Have you identified the missive? It can be no other than the snappily entitled ‘North Area Access Study’, hence NAASTY. I don’t think my attempt at an acronym does it justice. Quite the opposite. If anything the study is a valiant attempt to invest a lot of money into Caversham, to improve the environment and reduce the problems we face as we travel around. What I do urge every reader to do is to take a look at the plans and make your views known.

For those with access to the Internet then the website is www.reading.gov.uk/transportandstreets/transportstrategy. Full details can be viewed at the Council offices and, as I have said, more leaflets are on their way.

Question 2

How do you increase the types of school in Caversham without building a new school?

A supplementary question might be ‘how many different types of school can you think of in Caversham?’

I’ll give you some idea of the answer to the second question. Caversham at the moment has Community schools, Voluntary Aided Schools and Private schools.

Now it looks as if we can add one more category; Foundation School, to our list. And no, we don’t have to build on any of our open spaces to achieve this.

Highdown School is in the process of changing from a Community School to a Foundation School. The questions we need to ask are ‘how will this affect our community’ and ‘does our community include all of Reading?’ Perhaps readers will have other questions. One fact is certain

and that is that the Governing Body of a Foundation School has far more control of, and so responsibility for, its own management, in a word it is far more independent.

We should be rightly proud of Highdown School here in Caversham. It sets high academic and social standards, supports the community and is involved in Caversham life. Whichever way the decision goes I am sure all the readers wish the school, its staff and students, well.

Quiz item 3

This isn't a question but it is about a lot of questions. It is about a quiz. Many readers will remember Caversham Bookshop and Lindsay Mullaney's annual (well almost annual) quizzes. Since retiring she has done three and the latest was in aid of the Stroke Unit at the RBH, which by chance is connected with Caversham Ward.

The quiz has raised £1025.00, and extra donations are still coming in at the time of writing. For those of you who didn't get round to completing it but would like to know the answers, then they are available at WordPlay book and toy shop, 18 Prospect St. Chris or Julie will happily let you have a copy - for a small donation which will be added to the total. The money is going to be used on items which the hospital wouldn't normally fund but which are helpful to the needs of that particular ward,

where Lindsay works as a volunteer Chaplaincy visitor. Lindsay would like to thank those who helped in selling the quiz and of course those who made such generous extra donations.

She is already puzzling over the next quiz and would be interested to hear from anyone who wishes to become its beneficiary. She is thinking of possibly dedicating it to a smaller local registered charity where a similar sum would make a significant difference. She would also like some commitment to selling copies; warning - this is somewhat time consuming!

If you think you might be interested then her phone number is 9470478.

CADRA: 40 YEARS OLD

The Caversham and Districts Residents Association is 40 years old. We are hoping to mark the event later in the year. If anyone out there has any photos, documents or information about the first years of the association then we, at CADRA, would be most interested to hear from you. To contact us please visit our website <http://www.cadra.org.uk> or email the secretary at Linda.Watscham@cadra.org.uk or write to The CADRA Secretary, 159 Kidmore Road, Caversham, Reading, RG4 7NJ

1039 words.

