

From the Lookout Post

CADRA AGM

The Caversham and District Residents' Association Annual General Meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 5th April, at Thameside School on Harley Road (from Gosbrook Road, turn into Wolsey Road). There is some parking at the school or it is a short walk from the Waitrose car park. Following the brief AGM business, there will be an introduction to the programme, 'Caversham 100 years on', followed by a talk on Caversham Park including the history of the park, the houses and their owners. Thanks are due to BBC Monitoring for providing speakers and material. Non members are also welcome and will be able to join at the meeting.

Planning Policy

In the light of revised government policies, the Council have produced a revised draft of the document which sets out detailed policies for deciding planning applications, identifying sites for future development, and protecting land from development over a 15 year period. Changes include new local policies on development of private residential gardens, the protection of local heritage and a revised Proposals Map and Sustainability Appraisal. All of these have great relevance for Caversham as individual planning applications come forward.

The consultation period lasts from 21st February to 4th April 2011. Full copies of the documents can be viewed on the Council website. The page can most easily be found from a link on

www.cadra.org.uk or you can enter:

<http://www.reading.gov.uk/environmentandplanning/planning/localplanningpolicy/localdevelopmentframework/General.asp?id= SX9452-A7849023>

Public exhibitions were held around Reading, including in Caversham Library, shortly after the copy deadline for this column.

Bus changes

In preparation for the re-construction of Reading Station the Council is making alterations to bus routes in the centre of Reading. All buses will be removed from Station Hill and re-routed into Friar Street and Station Road. All buses between Caversham and the town centre will use Vastern Road. When the station works are complete there will be new stops for buses from Caversham close to the new northern entrance to the Station.

Currently Station Road, Reading is closed for road works so buses have been re-routed for the duration of the works. Some buses are using a temporary stop outside Apex Plaza adjacent to Reading station. In addition St Mary's Butts is being resurfaced and this is affecting bus services. Station Road is due to reopen on 17 April. There will then be a major switch in town centre traffic flows, scheduled to go live on 18 April with the overall works due to be completed by May 2011.

Look out for other road works for Thames Water to replace the Victorian water mains in central Reading. This is a £2.7 million project, scheduled for completion in August 2011. It will include Caversham Road and The Forbury.

Local Transport Plan

Consultation for the Reading Local Transport Plan (LTP3) for 2011–2026 closed on 12 November 2010 and the results were reported to Cabinet on 17 January 2011. Comments from neighbouring councils, residents and other local and national organizations were received and amendments made to the draft for consideration by the full Council. LTP3 is a statutory requirement and must be approved by Council so that it can come into effect in April 2011.

Each year the Council produces an Implementation Plan for the Local Transport Plan (LIP). The LIP sets out the programme for the next three years with an outline for subsequent years. The Draft LIP was also reported to Cabinet on 17 January 2011. The three tables that outline the Plan have been withheld until the budget has been set and will define the programme for the next financial year.

You will find links to the documents from www.cadra.org.uk.

Local Traffic Lights

As part of the review of traffic lights across the town, the lights at the junction of Westfield Road and Gosbrook Road were removed at the end of February. The junction of All Hallows Road with Henley Road is still under review.

Mapledurham Pavilion

The 2009/10 Accounts for the above show a net revenue cost to Reading Borough Council, who are the Trustees, amounting to over £36,000 for the year.

In addition to the Management Committee a new group known as the Sports Users Changing Facilities Bidding Team has been established to explore any grants available from sports bodies such as the Football Foundation.

Another new group known as the Fundraising Team has been set up to motivate local support to

raise the money necessary to bridge the gap between the funds available and either a modular prefabricated building with modern sports facilities and a small meeting/function room or a larger version with a hall similar in size to the existing one.

Both groups are supported by Officers from Reading Borough Council and our local Councillors. The tennis club is considering a number of options for its future accommodation.

The Council holds £100,000 of Section 106 monies from local developments earmarked for a replacement pavilion. This, together with the £50,000 generously donated by Festival Republic gives £150,000 which it is hoped can be matched by grants from sports orientated organizations. However, the cost of the smaller new build option is estimated at £450,000 giving a shortfall of at least £150,000 and the larger new build option would give a significantly higher shortfall to be funded.

If you would like to be involved or contribute please contact Carolyn.Jenkins@reading.gov.uk.

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