

## From the Lookout Post December 2011

### **22 bus route**

From Wednesday 9 November the 22 to Caversham bus will again turn left along Kidmore Road and the right along the Mount and on to Albert Road. These changes have been contentious in terms of the loss of service to Priest Hill and The Mount and of the concerns from people living in Kidmore Road about the suitability of the route for large vehicles.

The temporary change from 8 October to 9 December was due to a refusal by the Traffic commissioner to permit a change at short notice. We understand that the route via Kidmore Road is the planned permanent route but James Freeman, Chief Executive Officer, Reading Transport Ltd has pledged to keep this under review. CADRA would welcome any comments via [info@cadra.org.uk](mailto:info@cadra.org.uk).

The Community Link routes 28 & 18 is not affected by these changes and will continue to operate via The Mount and Priest Hill as they have been since 26 September.

### **Gravel extraction east of Henley Road**

The closing date has now passed for comments on the Oxfordshire County Council draft planning strategies for minerals and waste development. This includes proposals to extend the area of extraction as far as Shiplake. Local people are very concerned about additional lorry traffic through Henley and Caversham and about the potential impact on flooding. Since gravel extraction started to the north of the B478 to Sonning, flooding of that road has been more frequent. For more information see <http://seag.blogspot.com/>

### **Reading RESCUE**

On 15 and 16 October, 113 volunteers were out in the sun tidying up Reading's waterways and towpaths. A total of eight shopping trolleys were pulled from the river, a metal spring bedstead was found and countless discarded plastic bags.

For the past 22 years the RESCUE event has taken place in March. This year, Thames Water supported this additional autumn event. To register an interest in taking part in next year's RESCUE event (8th to 11th March 2012) call 0118 9372100, or go to [www.readingrescue.org.uk](http://www.readingrescue.org.uk).

## **Blue Badge Scheme from January 2012**

Following growing concerns about the fraudulent abuse of blue passes, the Department for Transport (DfT) is introducing a new assessment process to ensure badges only go to those people who meet the disability criteria. A central nationwide database of all blue badges is being issued to help prevent fraud and abuse.

Northgate Public Services have been appointed to manage the new scheme, and local authorities will have to pay them £5.52 for each badge. Councils are permitted to charge up to £10 for each badge. Reading Borough Council's Cabinet on 31 October was recommended only to pass on the £5.52 cost of the badge itself (this lasts for three years) and to cover other costs internally. The Council is also considering ways to step up enforcement to prevent fraudulent use of Blue Badges in the town.

Under the new scheme, Blue Badges should be almost impossible to reproduce, tamper and amend.

## **Policing Matters**

The roll out of a new non-emergency phone number for the police has extended across the Thames Valley Police area. **101**, the new national single non-emergency number will replace the 0845 8 505 505 number. Both will run concurrently until March 2012. When you call 101, the system will determine your location and connect you to the police force covering that area. A recorded message will announce which police force you are being connected to. There is a charge of 15p for these 101 calls regardless of time of call or duration of call.

The Caversham Neighbourhood Police Team can also be e-mailed on: [CavershamNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:CavershamNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

The clock going back, unfortunately usually corresponds with an increase in domestic burglaries. To reduce the chance of your home becoming the next target, you can use a 24 hour timer to turn on a light, radio or TV and you can register your valuables on [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com). This is a free service and takes only a few minutes. If your valuables are stolen it will allow you to give details of your property to the police and your insurer which can make the difference in recovering your property and catching the thief.

## **Green Garden Waste Collection**

The Council should be congratulated for reversing the policy to charge for green garden waste and in particular a more flexible approach by the curb side collectors. When curb side collection of green garden waste was implemented the proportion it formed of waste jumped from 3% to 9%. Some 6,000 tonnes of Reading's green waste is annually composted to form a soil additive and mulching material. The green material is not going into land fill and having a negative environmental impact. It is a win win outcome to encourage Reading residents to easily participate in a green garden waste composting scheme.