



CADRA News

Caversham & District Residents' Association

The Voice of Caversham since 1967



Energy saving in the home

CADRA has always followed the issues of energy conservation with interest. Energy conservation and microgeneration have been much in the news over recent months and there is now a wealth of knowledge and expertise alongside some sharp practices to avoid.

Following discussion with members of the Reading Climate Change Partnership we have put together a panel of speakers for the open meeting. Recognising that Caversham has a large proportion of older buildings which have particular issues in relation to energy efficiency, we also sought advice from the Society of Protection of Ancient Buildings (www.spab.org.uk).

Ian Gough is Director of Reduce Energy Ltd (www.nrgreduced.com) whose aim is to help organisations and homeowners to achieve significant energy and carbon reduction. With his long experience in energy management with local government, project management and consultancy, Ian is ideally placed to give an overview of the range of options and some potential pitfalls.

Tony Cowling, a former research



chemist who ran a local building firm, is now involved with both community hydro and solar PV projects. After retiring from his business he built himself a very low energy home and will introduce its design concepts (www.tonyshouse.cowlings.org.uk). He will talk about the Reading DraughtBusters project and more generally about saving energy in the home.

Richard Oxley, a Chartered Surveyor, established the Oxley Consultancy on the conservation of historic buildings (www.oxleyconservation.co.uk). Richard leads a homeowners' course on energy efficiency in traditional buildings and is highly regarded in the field.

After the presentations, the panel will split up to take questions. We will also be joined by representatives of Citizens Advice at Reading. They have a long-running project providing impartial advice on energy saving and switching suppliers, particularly to those who have difficulty with their bills (<http://rcab.org.uk/energy-bills>).

Members of the CADRA Committee will be available to discuss other issues of local concern. This meeting will be a good opportunity for members to renew subscriptions and new members to join up. Your friends and neighbours will be very welcome.

Helen Lambert

Open Meeting

Wednesday 21 October 2015, 7.45pm
Caversham Baptist Centre, Prospect Street

Energy saving in the home

Presented by a panel of speakers:

Ian Gough, Director of Reduce Energy Ltd
Tony Cowling, Sustainability Consultant &
Builder of an Eco Home

Richard Oxley, Oxley Historic Buildings Conservation

Transport

Pavement Parking

Parking on pavements causes obstructions and damage to both the area and vehicle. Police action is limited by a quirk of the law but Highway Authorities are able to introduce Footway and Verge Parking Orders that allow civil enforcement. CADRA has been asked to compile a list of streets where residents are plagued by footway parking. Please let us know the streets where footway parking is causing you difficulties.

Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge

The new pedestrian/cycle bridge opens at 10am on Wednesday 30 September. CADRA has been assured that the poor finish of the flood compensation areas in Christchurch Meadow will be rectified by the contractor.

Reading Car Club – Co-Wheels

The Council, with Co-Wheels, has secured funding of £48,800 from the Department for Transport for two additional car club spaces. One of the hybrid cars may be located on Rectory Road in Caversham.

Vehicle Activated Signs

Petitions about speeding in Shepherds Lane and Briants Avenue and surrounding roads were considered by the Traffic Management Sub Committee. These areas will be monitored and the Vehicle Activated Signs used when possible as part of the annual sign rotation programme.

Reading Station Works

The upgrade of Reading Station and railway is nearing completion and installation of overhead equipment for new electric trains is in progress. Road and footway works at Cow Lane Bridges start in October 2015, lasting about six months. The Council has confirmed that there will

be footways on both sides of the road and a cycle way. Additional parking for about 300 cycles on the north side of the station is due for completion this autumn.

Waiting Restrictions

The bi-annual review of parking in Caversham includes Hemdean Road, Heron Island, Mill Green, Westfield Road, Henley Road Ward, Donegal Close, Champion Road, Blenheim Road, Oakley Road, Picton Way, All Hallows Road, Marshland Square and Queensway. See agenda item 9 at <http://tinyurl.com/obqshfg>.

Sharing our Streets - Achieving the Vision

The Achieving the Vision initiative was launched at the joint CADRA/CTA meeting in November 2014. Councillor Tony Page, indicated that financial contributions from the development of St Martin's Precinct, would be available for transport related improvements in Caversham centre. CADRA will continue to monitor the project as plans for St Martin's become clearer.

B478 through Sonning Eye

CADRA was invited to a presentation by Oxfordshire CC on solutions to the flooding and road closures. Following an unsuccessful funding bid earlier in 2015, a scheme is being examined to reduce road closures from flooding without exacerbating flooding in the area. The intention is to prepare a bid to the DfT Challenge Fund 2017/18.

Third Thames Bridge

Following completion of repairs to Reading Bridge, data collection can now begin, which will be necessary in order to develop an accurate traffic model. This should determine the effect of a Third Bridge on the wider local area.

Safer Caversham

Neighbourhood Action Groups were reviewed earlier this year, and there is now a single group for north of the river which rotates between different locations. Following the neighbourhood consultation in the summer, the group will shortly be reviewing the priorities to be tackled.

Many of the issues raised relate to traffic. Simon Beasley Network Manager joined the June meeting and responded to a range of concerns including pedestrian crossing, speeding, bus routes and parking on pavements.

The Neighbourhood Police Team were busy over the summer with a spate of local burglaries and shoplifting incidents. They will continue the campaign against cycling on pavements through Caversham Centre. Warnings have been issued over internet scams including tickets for the Rio Olympics. Contact details for Action Fraud are on www.cadra.org.uk/safercaversham.php as well as links to advice on cold calling and a free 'no cold calling' sign.

Facebook and Website

In addition to the updates on www.cadra.org.uk, CADRA posts local news items on www.facebook.com/cavershamresidents. This can be viewed like any web page, with no need to register with Facebook. You will also find a link from the CADRA home page.

Mapledurham Playing Fields

The consultation on five different sites for the Heights Primary School showed that, overall, Mapledurham Playing Fields was the first choice and had the least opposition. The Education Funding Agency announced in August that they had decided to pursue this site for the school and to start the work necessary to put forward a proposal to RBC. RBC do not own Mapledurham Playing Field. They are the trustees for the donated land, held in a charitable trust. The prime objective of the Trust is the provision of recreational facilities and any proposal agreed between the EFA and RBC will require the consent of the Charity Commission. Detailed plans will also require planning permission. In the meantime, any refurbishment work on the dilapidated pavilion is in abeyance.

With regards to the school's temporary site on Gosbrook Road, a planning application has been made for a first floor addition and a time extension up to 31 August 2018.

Developing proposals alongside sports and community facilities will be complex. The EFA have pledged to continue working with the steering group on which many local groups, including CADRA, are represented. Rob Wilson MP set out four commitments (http://www.robwilsonmp.com/sites/www.winwithwilson.com/files/rw_to_efa.pdf) that he believes would help frame a positive and constructive dialogue. CADRA will remain neutral on the choice of site. If the decision is to be for a school on the playing fields, we will press for good community and sports facilities (including during school hours) to be maintained and improved.

A very successful Summer Fete raised £3113.38 towards refurbishment. Following a muddy clear-up after Reading Festival, some excellent camping equipment will be on sale at the Christmas Fayre on Sunday 6 December 2015 in the pavilion (see www.cadra.org.uk/events.php)

Planning

Albert Road Xtra Care

Following the 18 August update on www.cadra.org.uk/planning.php, we are still waiting to hear back from the Council and a2dominion on how plans are changing. In addition to the concerns on the building design and scale, CADRA has continued to press its concern that this new provision should make a real difference to the care services available to local people.

Swan Heights

Following the refusal of the previous application, a Scoping meeting was held in July so a further application may be expected.

St Martin's Centre

Following the planning approval granted in February, an announcement

of a start date had been expected. However we have just been informed that Waitrose is no longer progressing plans to extend the Caversham store as part of the proposal to redevelop St Martin's Centre. The scheme will not therefore continue as planned. We understand that Hermes is currently reviewing the plans with the aim of still redeveloping part of the site.

Caversham Traders plan their usual Christmas activities and late night opening for Friday 11 December 2015.

Conservation Areas

CADRA has been working with other groups across Reading to try and address the deterioration in many Conservation Areas. Meetings have been held with the Head of Planning, Lead Councillor and Historic England.

Amersham Road

The newly formed Amersham Road Estate Neighbourhood Association (ARENA) has been awarded funding to develop a community plan. It will focus on activity around the community centre, which is due to be extended next year, funded by the Earley Charity. Local residents involved in ARENA, Caversham Children's Fund, the *Caversham Compass* and Craft Group as well as residents not currently involved will all have the opportunity to contribute to the community plan so that action is driven by local needs. To get involved or find out more, get in touch with Rachel at amershamroad@gmail.com/0118 973 2054.

Since 2010 the fruit and vegetable community garden by the community centre has been run by Food4Families (www.food4families.org.uk), working with Amersham Road Cooking Club, Caversham Children's Fund, Caversham Children's Centre and more recently the 1st Amersham Road Caversham Brownie group. Free public sessions run every Saturday from 10.30–12.30. Contact Sandra on agough4060@aol.com.

RBC Budget Consultation

The Consultation on substantial cuts and changes to Council services closes at 5pm, Friday 16 October – details at <http://beta.reading.gov.uk/budget> or from Caversham Library. Services affected include Social Care, Housing, Arts, Libraries, Museum, Streetcare, Voluntary Sector funding and more. We urge you to express your views on the significant changes ahead. Caversham Library is likely to see changes from a £600,000 cut in library services. Look out for more detailed consultations to follow.

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 with a wide range of information on local issues and links to relevant detail on official websites.

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 for the household. Leaflets are available in Caversham Library and Delicious in Prospect Street, or from the Membership Secretary, Tel: 947 6984.

You can join and pay online at www.cadra.org.uk/application_form.php.

The Committee

Chairman: Helen Lambert, 5 Derby Road, RG4 5HE,
Tel: 947 3165

Treasurer: Stewart Bolton, 11 Graveney Drive, RG4 7EG,
Tel: 948 2687

Secretary: Linda Watsham, 159 Kidmore Road, RG4 7NJ,
Tel: 947 8744

Membership: Jacque Tomson, 121 Upper Woodcote Road,
RG4 7LB, Tel: 9476984

Website: Lloyd Pople, Upper Woodcote Road

Transport: Paul Matthews, Albert Road

Planning: Mo Prins, Haldane Road; Liz Killick, Upper Woodcote Road; Kim Pearce, The Mount

COMMITTEE SUPPORT

Safer Caversham: Michael Howes, Knowle Close

Transport and footpaths: John Lee, Hemdean Road

Planning support: Ray Emmett, Westdene Crescent

Informal Links: Jo Munday, South View Avenue

General support: John Boucher, Highmoor Road; Les James, Wincroft Road; John Roach, St Peter's Avenue

Newsletter Editor: Helen Lambert

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The opinions expressed are those of the contributors.

Useful info

Ward Councillors

MAPLEDURHAM

Isobel Ballsdon

CAVERSHAM

Rachael Chrisp, Richard Davies,
Claire McDonald

PEPPARD

Clare Grashoff, Simon Robinson, Jane Stanford-Beale

THAMES

Ed Hopper, Jeanette Skeats,
David Stevens

Individual contact details at
<http://beta.reading.gov.uk/councillorinformation>

Caversham Neighbourhood Police

Inspector Beverley Pearse
Sergeant Nigel Scarratt

Call 101 to report non-emergency crime or suspicious incidents or to contact the local team.

Call 999 in an emergency or if a crime is being committed.

For non-urgent issues email
MapledurhamandthamesNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk or
PeppardandcavershamNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk
but not to report a crime.

For neighbourhood information go to
www.thamesvalley.police.uk and enter your post code.

Reading Borough Council

<http://beta.reading.gov.uk>

See links to specific services from
www.cadra.org.uk

Switchboard and out-of-hours emergencies: 937 3737

Customer Services (including Environmental Health, Highways and Street Cleaning, Pest Control, Planning, Refuse): 947 3787

Electoral Registration: 937 3717

Council Tax and Business Rates: 937 3727

Adult Social Care: 937 3747

Parking: 937 3767

School Admissions: 937 3777

Licensing: 937 2678

Building Control: 937 2449

More details at <http://beta.reading.gov.uk/contactus>