



# CADRA News

Caversham & District Residents' Association

*The Voice of Caversham since 1967*



## Changes in Social Care

**A**pril 2015 sees changes introduced under the new Care Act, which updates over 60 years of law around adult social care in England. Changes in funding will follow in 2016.

The challenges of providing adult social care continue to increase and the issue has been much in the news. Reading's older population is growing steadily and older people represent over half of those receiving services.

Other groups include adults under 65 with learning difficulties, physical and sensory disabilities and mental health needs. As well as those receiving care, their carers need appropriate support. Many different organizations are involved and there are overlap issues with health care. It is a complex area which is of concern to us all, as we and our families grow older or have particular needs.

The Care Act placed new duties and responsibilities on local Councils. Reading Borough Council held a consultation and a series of community meetings November 2014 to February 2015 on a range of proposals for the



local approach to meet the changes to the law.

We are very pleased that Suzanne Westhead, who heads up the service, has agreed to come and speak at this critical time. We look forward to seeing members at the AGM and friends and neighbours are welcome. It is also a useful opportunity for a round up of the year and how CADRA should move forward in the year ahead.

*Helen Lambert*

## Sharing our streets

Following the launch of 'Achieving the Vision' in November 2014, CADRA met Reading Councillors in January 2015 to discuss possible ways to improve the centre of Caversham. The report was well received and CADRA was invited to make a presentation to the Transport Users' Forum and Traffic Management Sub-Committee on 12 March. CADRA was encouraged by the response to the presentation and members of the Committee offered to work with CADRA, Caversham Traders Association and Council officers to develop a plan for Caversham Centre. The Committee Chair, Councillor Page, indicated that financial contributions from the St Martin's Development would be available for transport related improvements in Caversham centre. See [www.cadra.org.uk/sharingourstreets.php](http://www.cadra.org.uk/sharingourstreets.php).

## Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 12 May 2015, 7.30pm  
Caversham Baptist Centre, Prospect Street

Following the brief formal business, there will be a presentation on

## Adult Social Care

by Suzanne Westhead,  
Head of Adult Social Care, Reading Borough Council

# Transport

## Third Thames Bridge

Wokingham and Reading Borough Councils, Oxfordshire County Council and South Oxfordshire District Council are providing £250,000, for detailed traffic modelling, of both sides of the Thames that would be affected by the proposed Third Reading Bridge. Wokingham Borough Council is leading the study. We await the results, which could have a positive effect upon the centre of Caversham and 'Sharing Our Streets'.

## Reading Station

Work at Reading Station and the railway through the town is still on target for completion in summer 2015. Track and signalling improvements, to promote reliable train journeys, and installation of overhead line structures to power electric trains will continue until Easter. Services to Reading will be disrupted 3–12 April 2015 ([www.nationalrail.co.uk/service\\_disruptions/89756.aspx](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/service_disruptions/89756.aspx)).

## Highmoor Road Albert Road Junction

Following a petition by residents in January 2014, Reading Borough Council Traffic Management Sub-Committee proposed to close the west side of Highmoor Road at the junction with Albert Road to general traffic, allowing access only for public transport. As a result of the consultation, this proposal was dropped and changing of the priorities (ie Albert Road would 'give-way' to Highmoor Road) was substituted. However, this was not implemented, as it is also unpopular. Double-yellow lines were installed in November 2014 to improve visibility at the junction. There is a proposal to remove a large tree to improve visibility further. The Council will monitor the junction to ensure that the modifications are effective.

## Reading Bridge Maintenance Closures

The Council has announced that Reading Bridge will be fully closed – to all traffic and pedestrians – for a maximum of two weeks from Monday May 18th, including the two weekends. The second week coincides with half term, when traffic levels are lower. The closure is necessary to allow essential maintenance to be carried out. During the two week closure, the bridge surface will be removed for specialist carbon fibre strengthening, followed by waterproofing and resurfacing. There will also be 24 hour lane closures for three weeks in April. See <http://beta.reading.gov.uk/bridges>.

## Thames Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge

Work on the new cable stayed bridge, construction site, the temporary compound and access road has been completed. Construction of the bridge structure itself has now begun. The access route for machinery and materials to the site is from the IDR and via the temporary vehicle entrance on George Street. Construction on the bridge will continue until early summer 2015. Reading Council has agreed to work with the contractors to improve the signing of footpath diversions in Christchurch Meadows and for Reading Bridge Maintenance.

# Police and Safety

The Neighbourhood Police team and the Neighbourhood Action Groups (NAGs) continue to focus on the locally agreed priorities. Operations have taken place on cycling on pavements, speeding and using a mobile phone or failing to wear a seatbelt while driving. Members of the team have visited schools and youth clubs and have been present near schools to monitor parking issues. 'Have your say' meetings have been held in the precinct. Arrests have been made following shoplifting in Caversham Centre and investigations are continuing on drug issues. The team is now at full strength with four PCs and four PCSOs.

There have been some burglaries in the Caversham area and patrols in those areas have been increased. Please keep your eyes open and your doors locked!

Surveys will be taking place after spring which will form the basis of the priorities for the NAGs and will also help to inform the new neighbourhood working patch groups. The new way of patch working is laid out in the RBC document 'Working better with you in Neighbourhoods' <http://beta.reading.gov.uk/media/1240/The-Neighbourhood-Strategy/pdf/The-Neighbourhood-Strategy.pdf>.

There are opportunities to get involved through Neighbourhood Watch, Community Speedwatch and the Neighbourhood Action Groups which are also seeking to link with Traffic Management. Thank you to the members who responded to our appeal for help with the link between CADRA and the NAGs.

++ TECHNOLOGY NEWS ++ TECHNOLOGY NEWS ++ TECHNOLOGY NEWS ++ TECHNOLOGY NEWS ++

CADRA now has a Facebook page linked from [www.cadra.org.uk](http://www.cadra.org.uk). Anyone can see the page without having to be a Facebook user. It is a quick and easy way to show links to Caversham issues.

CADRA subscriptions can now be paid via the CADRA website. New members can join online without needing further documentation. Renewals can also be made online. Payment is through PayPal but you do not need a PayPal account if you use a credit or debit card.

# Planning

## St Martin's Centre

After seven months of discussion, the planning application was finally approved on 11 February. The scheme will upgrade the precinct, with a link to a new public square – Caversham Square – and provide a larger Waitrose, a total of 40 flats, a cinema and improvements to the parking area.

CADRA welcomed the opportunity to regenerate this dilapidated area and to provide new facilities. We hoped this once-in-a-generation opportunity could achieve a design which fits well in the historic heart of Caversham. There are some welcome changes to the initial application, particularly in the use of materials and the provision of an additional tree to the front of the precinct. We also secured limited help to protect the future of the Holm Oak next to Costa, an important feature in Church Street. A new Community Noticeboard will also be provided.

We were disappointed not to secure a better design for the new building by the Telephone Exchange and proper space for the canopy of the Holm Oak. However, there was healthy discussion on the proposals and CADRA's contribution was praised by the Planning Committee.

The developer will contribute £430,048 towards local Transport Schemes which could progress parts of 'Sharing Our Streets' and help to improve the relationship between traffic and pedestrians in central Caversham.

## South Oxfordshire Local Plan

With the continuing national housing crisis, South Oxfordshire has been reviewing where to site new homes to meet its housing need to 2031. CADRA is pleased that the option of locating around 3000 houses on the edge of Caversham has been rejected. The additional homes will be sited in the towns and larger villages in proportion to their size (<http://tinyurl.com/q7drkeb>).

The inclusion of Dysons Wood Farm in South Oxfordshire as a possible site for the Heights School has focussed attention on the beautiful rural edge of Caversham.

## Illuminated adverts

CADRA has been monitoring the increase in applications for illuminated advertising signs. LED lights offer strong colour combinations and could change the character of Caversham centre. We have commented on some applications, though with limited success.

## Current planning applications

[www.cadra.org.uk/planning.php](http://www.cadra.org.uk/planning.php) shows a list of current significant planning applications in Caversham, updated monthly, as well as details of plans for three tall towers by the Vastern Road roundabout and for St Martin's Centre.

# The Heights Primary School

Details of the consultation on a permanent site for the school are now available at <http://beta.reading.gov.uk/PRHeightsConsultation>. After an information period at the end of March, the consultation runs from 30 March to 1 May 2015. Responses can be submitted on line or on forms available at Caversham Library. An Information Pack with a wide range of information including the views of local groups can be read on line or at Caversham Library.

CADRA is one of the groups represented at the Stakeholder Meeting. We have always been clear that, in

view of our membership across all areas north of the river, it would be wrong for us to support or oppose particular sites for the school. We are aware of the real pressure on school places and pleased that the local consultation will inform the selection of a site by the Education Funding Agency. Finding the right site to educate local children was never going to be easy and we are concerned to minimise potential negative impacts. The school opened in its temporary location off Gosbrook Road in September 2014 and may have to remain there longer than first envisaged.

# Mapledurham Pavilion

The architectural drawings for the refurbishment of the pavilion have been completed and a draft specification prepared by a Quantity Surveyor. This has been issued to a number of contractors to establish firm costs to identify which elements of the work are deliverable.

Funds from Section 106 monies, Festival Republic and fundraising total about £200,000. Improvements by the Tennis Club, funded by Sports England, are almost complete. Fundraising, led by WADRA, continues with

Metal Recycling in March 2015 and a Fete on 25 July 2015.

The playing fields are one of five possible sites for the Heights Free School included in the consultation by RBC. The Trustees of Mapledurham Pavilion & Playing Fields are Reading Borough Council, with delegated authority to the Policy Committee. If the Education Funding Agency wishes to consider the playing fields further, RBC will delegate authority to a new sub-committee to avoid conflicts of interest in any discussions or negotiations.

# About CADRA

Our aim is to *preserve and enhance the quality of life in Caversham and the surrounding District*; 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](http://www.cadra.org.uk)) with a wide range of information on local issues and quick links to relevant detail on large official websites.

We are always keen to hear local news and views from CADRA members.

## Contacting CADRA

Please write to the Secretary or better still, email us at [info@cadra.org.uk](mailto:info@cadra.org.uk)

## Membership

Membership of CADRA is just £3 per year for the household. Leaflets are available in Caversham Library and Wordplay in Prospect Street or from the Membership Secretary, Tel: 947 6984.

## 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 Rd, RG4 7LB, Tel: 9476984

**Vice Chairman, Licensing & NAGs:** Mike Gilbert, 4 Notley Place, RG4 8PW (resigned Dec 2014)

**Website:** Lloyd Pople, Upper Woodcote Road (co-opted)

**Transport:** Paul Matthews, Albert Road

**Planning:** Mo Prins, Haldane Road, Liz Killick, Upper Woodcote Road (co-opted) and Kim Pearce (co-opted)

**Safer Caversham:** John Roach, St. Peter's Avenue (standing back at the AGM)

### COMMITTEE SUPPORT

**Transport and footpaths:** John Lee, Hemdean Road

**General support:** John Boucher, Highmoor Road; Ray Emmett, Westdene Crescent; Les James, Wincroft Road; Jo Munday, South View Avenue

**Newsletter Editor:** Helen Lambert

**Design:** Anke Ueberberg

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The opinions expressed are those of the contributors.

## The Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 12 May 2015, 7.30pm  
Caversham Baptist Centre, Prospect Street

**Note: Only paid-up members of CADRA may vote at the AGM**

### AGENDA

1. Minutes of 2014 AGM
2. Chairman's Annual Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Appointment of Chairman
5. Election of Committee
6. Any Other Business (items advised in advance only)

### COMMITTEE:

#### RETIRING AND CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Under the rules of the Constitution, Paul Matthews will retire at the AGM and is willing to stand for re-election; Mike Gilbert has moved away; John Roach is standing back. Liz Killick, Lloyd Pople and Kim Pearce, co-opted members, are willing to stand for election. New co-opted members and support to the committee are welcome.

### NOMINATIONS FOR THE COMMITTEE

Any member may be nominated for election to the Committee at the AGM, subject to the conditions in the Constitution. The Nominee must have a proposer and seconder who are both members. Please use the form below and return the completed nomination to the Secretary no less than 14 days before the AGM.

**NOMINEE:** I am willing to serve on the Committee of CADRA, carry out duties as agreed and act at all times in the best interests of CADRA and its members.

**Name** .....

**Signature & Date** .....

**Proposed by** .....

**Seconded by** .....