

**Caversham and District Residents Association  
Annual General Meeting Wednesday 29 April 2009  
Chairman's Report on the year 2008/09**

**Caversham Court**

The refurbishment of the garden and its structures is nearing completion and will be open in time for St Peter's Fete on 11 July 2009. CADRA has established close links with the newly formed Friends of Caversham Court and congratulates them on a very successful start. The replica wind vane, which CADRA commissioned jointly with Reading Civic Society and the Caversham Court Gazebo Trust, will be erected prior to the opening of the gardens. Inside the gazebo, there will be a board explaining the background to the commissioning of the replica in memory of the late Molly Casey, former CADRA President as well as a board commemorating all those remembered in the gardens.

**Caversham Centre**

CADRA takes a particular interest in Caversham Centre and links in with the Council, the traders and with the managing agents of St Martin's Precinct. We are pleased to report that the new Traders' Association has now held two meetings, further improvements are planned for the precinct and it is confirmed that Iceland will be re-opening in the space vacated by Marks & Spencer.

**Planning**

We continue to review the published lists of planning applications and to comment on proposals of significance to Caversham. A monthly summary is produced, which is also available on the CADRA website. A major task this year, has been a close examination of the sites proposed for development or for protection within the Local Development Framework and also the Development Management Document which considers the detailed policies against which individual planning applications should be considered. We have continued to work in collaboration with the other local associations.

Caversham Residents have been very active in opposing applications for new housing in Upper Warren Avenue, Chazey Road and St Peter's Avenue as well as a telecom mast on Woodcote Way. CADRA maintains contact with these informal groups and has provided support where possible.

**Caversham Lock Area**

We were invited to the initial presentations from the Kings Meadow Campaign and from Askett Hawk. Given the range of views locally, we decided against supporting one proposal but spoke at both the Scrutiny Panel and Cabinet highlighting particular issues. We will continue to follow this closely and to highlight the importance of the agreed Development Principles for this area.

**Mapledurham Pavilion**

CADRA and The Warren and District Residents' Association (WADRA) met the Leader of the Council and the Lead Councillor to discuss a range of issues and have been in correspondence with them. The Mapledurham Management Committee, to which we are invited as observer, has reluctantly accepted that, as the cost estimates for re-providing changing facilities far exceed the available funding, building projects should be shelved for the foreseeable future and minor repairs undertaken as necessary.

**Safer Caversham and Neighbourhood Action Groups**

CADRA attends the quarterly Safer Caversham Forum with a range of RBC staff, Police, other residents and housing associations, representatives of traders and Councillors, to discuss issues to promote a safe and attractive environment. With the work of the two Neighbourhood Action Groups in Caversham, this represents a substantial commitment and Mike Gilbert has joined John Roach in covering this area.

The Neighbourhood Action Groups are in the process of adapting their mode of operating to ensure their continuing success and CADRA is pressing for support from the agencies involved.

## **Transport**

The current major issues are the bid to the Transport Innovation Fund – the subject of this evening's meeting and the redevelopment of Reading Station. CADRA is now in contact with Network Rail and will be encouraging both Network Rail and the Borough Council to make available regular updates on the relevant website.

## **Reading Buses**

Revised timetables started on 20 April for the number 9 (now 22) and the 137/8 (now Vitality 2). The evening and weekend service is much improved. Please encourage your family and friends to make use of the service to ensure it continues. CADRA has made comments throughout the review by Reading Buses and continues to be a regular member of the Transport Users Forum.

## **Licensing**

We continue to monitor any new or revised applications. We would like to thank both John Mullaney who first took this on following the introduction of the new licensing laws and Mike Gilbert who has now taken over this role. With WADRA, we continue to meet the organisers of Reading Festival before and after each Festival to ensure that local concerns are taken into account. This year, we were involved in initial discussions for the Heavenly Planet Festival which was to have replaced WOMAD but sadly has had to be cancelled.

## **Information for Members**

The CADRA website aims to provide up to date information on a range of issues in Caversham with an easy link for further information. Keeping it fresh and up to date is a substantial commitment and Clair Drever has recently taken this over from Ruth Perkins. We hope gradually to introduce more pictures on relevant pages. Edge Impact Consulting continues to host the site and provides the software for us free of charge.

Membership continues at around 560 households. An increasing proportion of members are on email and this gives us the opportunity to contact those members as issues arise and to seek members' views. If you have email and are not receiving emails from us, please contact us at [info@cadra.org.co.uk](mailto:info@cadra.org.co.uk).

The two newsletters each year are available on the website. Paper copies are now being sent by post. This gives us the flexibility to provide more up to date information. We would like to thank everyone who helped with delivery and particularly Jo Munday who organised the distribution each time.

Mick Simmons, Membership Secretary has done a great deal to improve the arrangements for enrolling new members and renewing existing members. Mick would like to stand down before the end of the year and we would like to thank him for all his work.

New members can now complete membership details on line on the CADRA website. New and existing members can now pay by annual standing order or by electronic transfer. To coincide with this, the Committee has agreed an increase in the subscription to £3 p.a. per household. This is the first increase for over 10 years

## **Thank you**

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the members of the committee, the team of committee support and all those who help CADRA to serve the community north of the river. We are also grateful to anyone who can encourage new members and keep a strong voice for Caversham. Membership leaflets are available on request or from the Library and Wordplay.

Helen Lambert, Chairman