

Caversham Bridge May 2015

From the Lookout Post

941 words

### **Swan Heights**

A planning application to build three tall towers on the Coopers site by the Vastern Road roundabout has been submitted. This would provide 352 apartments in three blocks of 28, 26 and 24 floors. The Coopers site is at the edge of the 'Station Area Cluster' which has been formally identified for tall buildings. The issues are therefore, 'how tall' and 'what style' would be most appropriate on that site.

There are already mixed views about the development but there is no doubt that the application will change the skyline from many areas of Caversham as well as from the river and the meadows. You will find a link to the full application from [www.cadra.org](http://www.cadra.org) as well as direct links to the summary in the 'Design and Access Statement' and to a document showing the views of the towers from different parts of Caversham.

### **The Heights School**

The consultation on the permanent site for the school closed 1 May. An information pack was prepared to give more background and the well attended public meeting at Rivermead was a civilised occasion. The Education Funding Agency will receive an analysis of the results of the consultation to support their decision, prior to any formal procedure required for the site chosen. After detailed design and planning, a planning application will follow. Additional EFA funding should enable an expansion of the facilities at the temporary site off Gosbrook Road.

### **Conservation Areas**

Community groups in different areas in Reading have expressed concern about the care of a number of conservation areas. Following a formal report from Council Officers, we await news of a working party to address these concerns, which will include community groups. There are two conservation areas north of the river – St Peter's Conservation Area and Surley Row Conservation Area. Maps and further details of those areas can be found at [beta.reading.gov.uk](http://beta.reading.gov.uk) if you type 'Conservation Areas' in the search box. If you would like to contribute to this work, please contact

[Helen.Lambert@cadra.org.uk](mailto:Helen.Lambert@cadra.org.uk)

### **Arthur Clarke site, Albert Road**

A2Dominion held a public consultation on 1 April for their plans to provide Extra Care Housing in partnership with the Council on the site of the former Arthur Clarke Home and Albert Road Day Centre. The scheme provides 44 extra care apartments for people aged over 55, spread over four floors. 16 would be available for rent and the Council has the right to nominate tenants. 28 would be for private sale. Communal facilities on the ground floor would serve residents and provide some facilities for non residents by arrangement.

Although it is now too late to comment to A2Dominion on this pre-application stage, you can view the exhibition panels at [www.cadra.org](http://www.cadra.org). The team are now developing detailed plans for the planning application.

### **CADRA AGM and Adult Social Care**

All are welcome at this event at **7.30pm Tuesday 12 May 2015 at the Baptist Centre**. Services for Adult Social Care are of concern to us all and we look forward to hearing from Suzanne Westhead who heads up the service in Reading.

### **Caversham Centre**

After a series of changes over many months, the planning application for St Martins Centre was approved in February. We await news of a start date for a phased building programme which will allow all businesses to remain open. Hermes will contribute £430,048 towards local transport schemes and it was confirmed at Planning Committee that funds would be made available for transport related schemes in Caversham centre. Following a CADRA presentation to the Traffic Management Sub-Committee in March, Transport Officers are considering the proposals outlined in 'Sharing our Streets' and a local consultation is expected.

### **Thames Bridges**

Reading Bridge will close to all traffic for two weeks from Monday 18 May, including the two weekends. A later announcement confirmed that a narrow route will remain open for pedestrians and dismounted cyclists.

Construction of the structure for the Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge has begun. Work is due for completion early summer.

The four Councils with an interest in a third Thames bridge have provided £250,000 for detailed traffic modelling of both sides of the Thames that would be affected by the proposed bridge and we await the results.

### **Neighbourhood Working**

Every two years, the Neighbourhood Action Groups undertake a survey to gather local opinion on a range of issues such as: crime; traffic and parking; litter; graffiti; pot holes; anti-social behaviour and more. The purpose is to gather detailed information about local areas which can inform the work of the neighbourhood teams. The survey will run from 25 May to 5 July 2015. Look out for information on where to collect and return paper copies or complete the survey on line.

Following a review of Neighbourhood Action Groups across Reading, it is proposed that there should be one group north of the river which would meet every six weeks, rotating between venues in different areas. Concerns around the Amersham Road estate will be addressed separately, linking with the developing Community Association for that area. Joanne Anderson, RBC Neighbourhood Initiatives Officer will continue to coordinate this work. She will work in conjunction with two Neighbourhood Officers (Public Realm), responsible for street care, EVAs, litter, graffiti, fly-tipping, grass cutting and maintenance of public spaces. Julia Naughton will cover Thames and Mapledurham Wards. Bill Robertson will cover Caversham and Peppard Wards.

### **Caversham Festival**

The 2015 festival will be held at Christchurch Meadows 11 July at 12noon to 12 July at 8pm. The free festival includes live music and performances from local bands, comedians, poets and artists, family workshops, tasty food, the traditional festival parade and more.