

From the Lookout Post November 2014

St Martin's Centre Caversham

The formal planning application for the regeneration of the precinct was submitted in June and is still available to view at www.stmartinscentre-caversham.co.uk. This coincided with many of the community events around Caversham and CADRA was able to display details and talk to several hundred local people. Drawing from comments received and local professional expertise, CADRA sent an initial response on a wide range of issues. The primary concern was that the Church Street frontage must be appropriate to local character and a rare opportunity taken to achieve a better balance between old and new. Council Officers also raised a number of concerns.

Revised plans have now been submitted. At www.cadra.org.uk/planning.php you can view some of the summary plans direct and also link to the full set on the Council website. Changes include:

- No service access on to Church Street by the Telephone Exchange
- 14 more parking spaces than current provision (50 more spaces were shown in earlier plans)
- Increase from 20 to 46 cycle parking spaces with better locations
- Some improvements to the new Market Square
- Revised planting scheme
- Changes in materials used for the extension above Boots and Costa and the new building adjacent to the Telephone Exchange. Some brick panels are introduced to match the colour of Caversham Library interspersed with metal coated panels in a zinc finish and some stone cladding.

Some of these changes are welcome but this is a large and complex scheme with a whole range of issues. It is currently expected that a decision will be made at the Planning Committee on 12 November 2014. The easiest way to view the revised plans is through the links at www.cadra.org.uk. Comments can be made up to the date of the committee hearing.

Sharing our Streets – Achieving the Vision

Joint Open Meeting with CADRA and Caversham Traders Association

Everyone is welcome at this meeting as we move forward to a more detailed proposal. With the planned development of St Martin's Centre, this work is timely and ever more important. Possible ways to improve the centre of the village will be presented at the meeting. The challenge will be how to get Caversham residents and traders, Reading Borough Council officers and Elected Members to work together to agree an approach and obtain the necessary funding.

**Wednesday 19 November 2014, 7.45pm
Caversham Baptist Centre, Prospect Street**