

From the Lookout Post September 2016

Highmoor Road/Albert Road

Following the tragic, fatal accident at the Highmoor Road/Albert Road crossroads on 15 May, Caversham and District Residents Association and the Highmoor Albert Road Campaign met with Reading Borough Council officers. Cllr Tony Page, Chairman of the Traffic Management Sub-committee agreed to implement an experimental scheme, devised at the RBC/CADRA/HARC meeting.

The scheme consists of: removal of the centre of carriageway hatched markings in Albert Road, replacement with a simple centreline, moving the Highmoor Road (west) 'Stop' line forward by up to 1.0 metre, inclination of the Highmoor Road centrelines on the approach to Albert Road and installation of additional 'SLOW' markings in Albert Road.

It is hoped that these experimental measures will increase visibility, make the presence of the junction more obvious and slow Albert Road traffic.

CADRA and HARC are due to meet Council officers again on 22nd August to review the changes.

St Peter's Conservation Area

Local people and members of the new Reading Conservation Area Advisory Committee gathered on 16 July in St Peter's Church. Karen Rowland, Chair of the CAAC explained the importance of community involvement in the process or re-appraising Conservation Areas. A presentation on the Oxford Toolkit explained the different factors which can make up the special characteristics of an area "which is desirable to protect or enhance." Groups set out around different sections of the area to record their assessments. They returned to St Peter's for delicious cakes from the Ways and Means Trust. Everyone shared in a second presentation showing the importance of old maps and photographs in tracing the history of the area. The assessments recorded, the results of a short survey and the growing collection of historical information will all contribute to the preparation of the revised appraisal document for the Conservation Area.

The two presentations and further information are available at <http://www.cadra.org.uk/conservation-areas.php>.

Extra Care Housing on Albert Road

The Planning Committee on 20 July heard representations from neighbours, CADRA and Councillors. After some debate, the committee voted by a small majority to approve the scheme. After a concerted campaign to highlight the problems with the scheme, there was disappointment locally that the Committee was unwilling to request further changes to reduce the impact on the local area.

Local health services

In May 2012, CADRA invited Dr Rod Smith, then Chair of the local Commissioning Group to give an insight into how clinicians in hospitals and local surgeries have been able to shape the ways patient services are provided. Since then, health care and particularly primary health care has been much in the news. Growing demand for GP services and a shortage of GPs have created significant pressures. Patients report problems in getting appointments. A local surgery has been in special measures. Pressure has grown on Accident and Emergency services and Mental Health services have struggled to meet patients' needs.

CADRA has invited the Chair of the North and West Reading Clinical Commissioning Group, now Dr Andy Ciecierski from the Emmer Green Surgery, to speak at an Open Meeting in November this year. He will be accompanied by managers from the Commissioning Group and Healthwatch Reading.

Healthwatch is the name of the independent 'consumer champion for health and social care' launched by the Government in April 2013. <http://healthwatchreading.org.uk>. The recent AGM in Reading focused on the future of Primary Care in Reading. Speakers explained the developing roles of nurse prescribers, prescribing pharmacists and the new profession, Physician Associate, being taught at Reading University. Each of these professions, working within their area of competency, can free up time for the GPs and provide better access for patients.

The CADRA Open Meeting will take place at **Thameside School Hall, Harley Road at 7.45pm** on a date in November – still to be confirmed.