



Round Up April 2024

Thank you to members who shared our last monthly summary or encouraged others to join. A warm welcome to those who have just joined. Please continue to think of others who may be interested to join CADRA.

This month our roundup is a bit longer as there are two complex planning decisions to report.

AGM and Open Meeting Monday 20 May

We look forward to welcoming Tracey Rawling Church and Tricia Marcouse to their talk entitled **Our Response to Climate Change**. They bring a wealth of different experience on the subject. Full details are covered in the [Spring Newsletter](#), which includes the AGM agenda and the committee nomination procedure.

We are seeking new committee members and helpers behind the scenes, to provide new input or skills. Please let us know if you might be interested.

Planning

The big news at the end of March, was the decision by the Secretary of State to grant outline planning permission for a mixed development, with up to 1000 units of accommodation on land owned by Aviva, from **TGI Fridays through to The Range**. The application ([200328](#)) was first submitted over four years ago. CADRA repeatedly stressed the important relationship between this site called Vastern Court, the adjacent Royal Mail sorting office site and the SSE site between Vastern Road and the Thames. The Aviva application was refused by the Council and the appeal was dismissed by the Planning Inspector, but it was finally overturned by the Secretary of State. The context is the increasing pressures for the majority of new housing to be provided on brownfield sites in large towns and cities.

The loss of the retail units when the leases expire will be felt by many people in Caversham. We should remember that the principle of development on all three sites was established many years ago in planning policies and successive Local Plans.

The scheme on the **SSE site** ([200188](#)) was refused by the Council but approved at appeal. To meet changing fire regulations, a new application ([231673](#)) was submitted with a number of changes including an impact on residents of Lynmouth Street and on the river frontage. The Planning Applications Committee concluded that there were insufficient grounds to refuse the application.

Further modifications have been submitted by Beechcroft for the scheme at **Caversham Park** ([220409](#)). Changes include removal of two blocks from the northeast area, fewer mezzanines in the main rooms in the house, and a new pedestrian footpath to Lowfield Road. Following concerns from Sports England, it is proposed to reinstate the cricket pitch used when BBC Monitoring were still active. We are working on a further response to submit.

In **Caversham centre** there is a new application for a **tattoo parlour** on the first floor between Church House and Waitrose which raises concerns for internal security and noise disturbance. An application from the **Spanish Delicatessen** at 8 Prospect Street seeks permission to see hot food and eat on the premises. It is not yet clear where a skip can be located. A **telecom mast** on the north of Woodcote Road was erected without a planning application and planning Officers are pursuing enquiries.

Local issues in Emmer Green

We were pleased to receive confirmation that Officers have recommended the Temporary Traffic Restriction Order on Kidmore End Road should be revoked. We are pressing for a response on the process and timescale.

We have received a few suggestions for nominations for local projects funded by the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy from the Reading Golf Club development. These include restoration of the

Emmer Green Pond, refurbishment of the Clayfield Copse car park, improvements and replanting on St Barnabas Green. If you have comments on these, or suggestions for others, please let us know.

The Emmer Green Community Noticeboard is currently at the Silvers Workshop for restoration. Please look out for posts on Facebook once a date is confirmed for it to be replaced.

Police UK App - Neighbourhood Support

A new [smartphone](#) app has been launched. It mirrors the functionality on the website of the same name, allowing the public to report crime, look up crime prevention advice and information about local policing teams.

Berkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy

The Berkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy team are looking for residents, community groups, charities, businesses, schools and colleges to get involved in shaping important plans for protecting and improving natural habitats in the county. Workshops are being run across the County:

Reading: Dee Space Community Centre, RG30 4YH, 25 April, 12-3pm

Online workshop (Berkshire-wide): Zoom, 30 April, 6.30–8pm

Full details and links to book are at: [Berkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#)

And Finally

We look forward to seeing members at the meeting on 20 May. Everyone is welcome.

We make these monthly updates freely available. If you find them useful and value what CADRA does please encourage others to join, and of course keep your membership going - it's just £3 a year for the household. [To Join or Renew Membership](#)