



CADRA News

Caversham & District Residents' Association

The Voice of Caversham since 1967



Primary Health Care

At a CADRA meeting in 2012, Dr Rod Smith, GP at Balmore Park Surgery and Chair of the local Clinical Commissioning Group gave a well-received talk on the subject, 'Is the NHS safe in the hands of local clinicians?' Since 2012, primary health services have faced a number of challenges. GP recruitment is a problem nationally, Accident and Emergency services have faced ever increasing demands and local practices have spent a period in special measures.

CADRA has therefore invited the current Chair of the local Clinical Commissioning Group (www.nwreadingccg.nhs.uk), Dr Andy Ciecierksi at Emmer Green Surgery, to talk about how the CCG is meeting the challenges facing Primary Health Care.

Healthwatch Reading (<http://healthwatchreading.org.uk>) – the independent consumer champion for health and social care – will also give a brief summary of its latest projects looking into people's experiences of GP and A&E services and explain how it



helps individuals to resolve their NHS complaints.

Everyone is welcome to attend. It is also a good opportunity to learn more about CADRA's work locally and to take out or renew membership. Healthy Associations always need a strong membership and local involvement. Do come and see us.

Helen Lambert

Help needed

We are very grateful to Mo Prins who, since 2009, has collated a monthly summary of all significant local planning applications and their progress through the system.

We would very much like to hear from anyone who would be willing to take on the preparation of the planning list each month – about four hours work for someone with moderate computer skills. It is an interesting way of keeping in touch with local issues – more so if you are able to attend some of the monthly meetings.

We would also like to hear from someone interested to track local issues in the press and social media and help to maintain the CADRA Facebook page as an important resource for Caversham.

As we plan for the 50th anniversary in 2017, we would value occasional help from a keen photographer.

Open Meeting

Tuesday 22 November 2016, 7.45pm
Thameside School Hall, Harley Road

Primary Health Care

Dr Andy Ciecierksi,
Chair of the local Clinical Commissioning Group,
with Healthwatch Reading.

Transport

Highmoor Road/Albert Road junction

On 14 May a pedestrian was fatally injured in Albert Road at the junction with Highmoor Road. On 15 June 2016 the Council's Traffic Management Sub-committee (TMSC) agreed that Reading Borough Council Officers should meet with CADRA and a local group, Highmoor Albert Road Campaign, to discuss the problems and possible changes to reduce the accident risk.

RBC stated that very few injury accidents have occurred over the last three years and that there is no justification for extensive measures to reduce the accident numbers. CADRA and HARC maintain that there are large numbers of damage-only accidents and that it is fortunate that most do not result in injuries. RBC agreed to implement experimental changes quickly. However, before the changes were made, another serious accident occurred on 9 August 2016. The experimental changes were made on 15 August.

It appears that the cause of accidents is drivers overrunning the Highmoor Road 'STOP' line and that the 'STOP' sign is shaded on sunny days when the road surface is brightly sunlit. CADRA and HARC believe that measures to lower vehicle speeds would help drivers see the 'STOP' line and reduce the impact of a collision.

At a second meeting on 22 August with CADRA and HARC, RBC suggested further changes, including removal of all parking in Highmoor Road between Buxton Avenue and Albert Road to improve visibility of the junction and more road markings. The TMSC agreed to advertise the restrictions formally and to consider the responses at a later committee.

Caversham 20mph zone

RBC is considering implementing a 20mph zone in lower Caversham and has agreed that Council Officers should meet with Ward Councillors and CADRA to discuss the

limits of the zone. RBC will complete the Eastern Area 20mph zone before proceeding with the Caversham proposals. If external funds become available, the Council will explore measures to improve the experience for pedestrians including footway level pedestrian crossings. This is compatible with the aims of *Sharing Our Streets – Achieving the Vision* promoted by CADRA and Caversham Traders Association.

New pedestrian crossing on Gosbrook Road

Reading Borough Council is proposing to install a zebra crossing over Gosbrook Road about 30 yards east of Patrick Road to provide a safe crossing for pedestrians and especially those who use the new pedestrian/cycle bridge in Christchurch Meadows. On 14 September the TMSC agreed to advertise the new waiting restrictions that are needed to allow a zebra crossing to be built.

Third Thames Bridge

The study into the Third Thames Bridge, led by Wokingham Borough Council, is updating a transport model to estimate the impact on the road network and to produce a business case for the bridge and linking roads. We are still awaiting the initial results, which were expected in Spring 2016, to provide information for the next steps.

Rotherfield Way/Surley Way pedestrian crossing

RBC Officers are designing a zebra crossing over Rotherfield Way at Surley Row. There has been a concern for the safety of pedestrians, particularly school children, crossing Rotherfield Way at this point for some time. A statutory Notice will be published and a crossing installed if it is possible. If it is not, a further report will be submitted to a future meeting of the Traffic Management Sub-committee.

The Heights Primary School

The Education Funding Agency made a formal offer to Reading Borough Council, the Trustees of Mapledurham Playing Fields. This was considered by the Council's Heights Free School Sub Committee on 12 July 2016 who agreed to consider the offer further. The report to the committee indicated that the offer includes 'a payment of £1.36m, of which the EFA have attributed £30,775 to the value of the part of The Trust Land which they wish to purchase for

the school.' The full report is at www.reading.gov.uk/media/5622/Item-4/pdf/Item_4.pdf.

Since then, the Mapledurham Playing Fields Action Group have established a new charity called Mapledurham Playing Fields Foundation and have set out an initiative called Fit4all (www.protectmpf.uk).

CADRA supports the need for a school in the area but remains neutral on the decision for a permanent site.

Safer Caversham

August marked the retirement of Sergeant Nigel Scarratt, who has headed up the Neighbourhood Police Team. We would like to pay tribute to his excellent work for Caversham. The team liaise with the single Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) north of the river. This working link, with CADRA represented, is a key function in the policing in the area. Their work focuses on the priorities identified after consultation with the local community.

The rolling 12-month crime trend for the area is marginally up overall, with a marked increase in the number of house burglaries in Emmer Green, Caversham Park and Lower Caversham. The Police Team have continued their checks on vehicle speed, mobile 'phone usage and cycling on pavements, and daily patrols around local schools to counter inconsiderate parking.

There has been evidence of motorised scooters/quad bikes creating a nuisance on Mapledurham Playing Fields.

A Neighbourhood Initiatives Team is working with young people to deter such nuisance.

The Warren has been experiencing anti-social behaviour and criminal activity stemming from the river. 'No Mooring' signs have been erected and this now has the continuing attention of the police and local community.

Deterring fly-tipping is an important activity. Residents are encouraged to report such incidents to the Police on 101 or the Council on 0118 937 3787. Suspected hazardous material should be reported to the Environment Agency on 0800 807060.

Local residents have carried out a litter pick in an area behind Peel Close below the Lower Henley Road. The intention is to create a more defined natural wildlife area in the future. Reportedly, litter control has much improved over the recent Reading Festival period, with good co-operation on the whole from the local major food stores.

Planning

St Martin's Centre

The application for St Martin's Centre and its phasing are approved and we are waiting information on a start date. CADRA commented on the phasing plan in respect of car parking during construction and the proposals for the cutback of the Holm Oak. We obtained a concession for the phasing of the cutback which should improve visual amenity on the frontage.

Arthur Clarke Extra Care housing

There was substantial local concern about this scheme. Whilst the principle of extra care housing on the site was welcomed, we made detailed comments on the bulk, height, massing and resultant overlooking of the

proposals for this site. Unfortunately only minor adjustments to the height of parts of the building were obtained.

Three Guineas

Comments from CADRA and Reading Civic Society have led to changes to the proposed high level signage, which will not now obscure the iconic clock tower.

Hemdean Road

Following comments, a revised scheme of reduced density was submitted for houses opposite Caversham Primary School.

Bodrum Grill

Signage was erected without planning permission and we await news of enforcement action.

South Oxfordshire Local Plan

CADRA responded to the latest consultation for the South Oxfordshire Local Plan on the location of development until 2031. CADRA stressed the need for strong policies to protect against speculative development in small settlements, and also to protect the rural edge of Caversham and Emmer Green. These issues in the South Oxfordshire Local Plan should be an important factor for the recent proposal by Gladman Land to build 270 new homes on the edge of Emmer Green. Gladman expect to submit a formal application late October; pre-application views can be submitted at www.your-views.co.uk/emmer-green.

Conservation Areas

A new, voluntary-led Conservation Area Advisory Committee was formed earlier this year to care for Conservation Areas across Reading. There are several Caversham members of the team, which is pushing forward a range of initiatives, including a review and update of the formal appraisal paper for the 15 individual areas. An event in July in St Peter's Church involved local residents and businesses in the issues for St Peter's Conservation Area.

This, along with door-knocking of all the local businesses, provided important feedback, including the case for a boundary extension, which we feel is a strong one and needs to be got right as part of the revision of the appraisal.

In agreement with the Council, further information has been collated for St Peter's and Surley Row Conservation Areas for inclusion on the Council website (www.reading.gov.uk/conservationareas).

About CADRA

Our aim is to *preserve and enhance the quality of life in Caversham and the surrounding District*, or, in other words, that Caversham should always be...

...a great place to live!

We work closely with Reading Councillors and Officers, other local groups, the Police, companies and individuals, always avoiding party political bias.

Together, we can make it better.

We issue two newsletters a year, hold two public meetings, write columns for the *Caversham Bridge* local newspaper and maintain a website with information on local issues and links to relevant official websites. The Facebook page (shown on the CADRA homepage) gives up-to-the-minute local news. You do *not* need to register with Facebook.

Contacting CADRA

Please write to the Secretary or better still, email us at info@cadra.org.uk. Please let us know if you change your email address.

Membership

Membership of CADRA is just £3 per year per household. Leaflets are available from Caversham Library, Delicious or Waltons in Prospect Street, or from the Membership Secretary, Tel: 947 6984. You can join and pay online at www.cadra.org.uk/application_form.php.

The Committee

Chairman: Helen Lambert, 5 Derby Road, RG4 5HE,
Tel: 947 3165

Treasurer: Stewart Bolton, 11 Graveney Drive, RG4 7EG,
Tel: 948 2687

Secretary: Linda Watsham, 159 Kidmore Road, RG4 7NJ,
Tel: 947 8744

Membership: Jacque Tomson, 121 Upper Woodcote Road,
RG4 7LB, Tel: 9476984

Website: Lloyd Pople, Upper Woodcote Road

Transport: Paul Matthews, Albert Road

Planning: Liz Killick, Upper Woodcote Road; John Nicholls,
Sandcroft Road; Kim Pearce, The Mount

COMMITTEE SUPPORT

Safer Caversham: Alan Wright, Upper Warren Avenue

Transport and footpaths: John Lee, Hemdean Road

Planning support: Ray Emmett, Westdene Crescent

Informal Links: Jo Munday, South View Avenue;
Mo Prins, Haldane Road

General support: John Boucher, Highmoor Road; Les
James, Wincroft Road; John Roach, St Peter's Avenue

Newsletter Editor: Helen Lambert

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The opinions expressed are those of the contributors.

Useful info

Ward Councillors

MAPLEDURHAM

Isobel Ballsdon

CAVERSHAM

Rachael Chrisp, Richard Davies,
Claire McDonald

PEPPARD

Clare Grashoff, Simon Robinson, Jane
Stanford-Beale

THAMES

Ed Hopper, Jeanette Skeats,
David Stevens

Individual contact details at
[www.reading.gov.uk/
councillorsbyward](http://www.reading.gov.uk/councillorsbyward)

Caversham Neighbourhood Police

Acting Inspector Ashley Smith

Call 101 to report non-emergency
crime or suspicious incidents or to
contact the local team.

Call 999 in an emergency or if a crime
is being committed.

For non-urgent issues email
[MapledurhamandthamesNHPT@
thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:MapledurhamandthamesNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk) or
[PeppardandcavershamNHPT@
thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:PeppardandcavershamNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)
but not to report a crime.

For neighbourhood information go to
www.thamesvalley.police.uk and
enter your post code.

Reading Borough Council

<http://www.reading.gov.uk>

See links to specific services from
www.cadra.org.uk

**Switchboard and out-of-hours
emergencies:** 937 3737

**Customer Services (including
Environmental Health, Highways
and Street Cleaning, Pest Control,
Planning, Refuse):** 947 3787

Electoral Registration: 937 3717

Council Tax and Business Rates:
937 3727

Adult Social Care: 937 3747

Parking: 937 3767

School Admissions: 937 3777

Licensing: 937 2678

Building Control: 937 2449

More details at

www.reading.gov.uk/contactus