



CADRA News

Caversham & District Residents' Association
The Voice of Caversham since 1967



Our Response to Climate Change

The European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) recently reported that heat records across the world were shattered for nine months in succession. Reading has much to be proud of: the work of the Reading Climate Change Partnership (RCCP), which includes business, academia, community groups and statutory authorities; Reading University's top ranking in the latest UK People & Planet University League table; and, following the declaration of a Climate Emergency five years ago, its inclusion in the 'A' list of global towns and cities as measured by the Carbon Disclosure Project.

But getting to net zero requires a step change in action taken by every business and household as well as the authorities.

Following the brief formal business of the AGM and a round-up of the year, we are fortunate to welcome two speakers with decades of experience in this area. **Tracey Rawling Church** has been involved in the RCCP since its inception and has been co-chair of the Board for the last five years. She



has spent the last quarter of a century working to champion sustainable business, initially in-house for a global tech company and more recently as a consultant. She has represented the low-carbon agenda on the Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership for the past three years, develops and delivers training on Carbon Literacy, and is a Climate Reality Leader.

Tracey will discuss the major policy changes necessary to achieve Reading's net zero goal and how you can interact with the development of the new Climate Action Plan for 2025-2030.

Tricia Marcouse joined the Board in 2014 as representative of the Greater Reading Environmental Network (GREN). After a career as an Environmental Engineer in countries worldwide, she is now Chair of Econet and President of the Reading and District Natural History Society. She leads local practical environmental projects and contributes regularly to *Caversham Bridge*.

As coordinator of the nature and Green Spaces theme for the emerging Climate Action Plan, Tricia is well placed to tell us about community-based schemes and projects in the last five years and hopes to inspire us all to get involved.

Find out more about local action at <https://readingcan.org.uk/blog>

Helen Lambert

Monday 20 May 2023, 7.30pm AGM & Open Meeting

Caversham Baptist Church, 1 Prospect Street

Following the brief formal business:

Our Response to Climate Change

Speakers:

Tracey Rawling Church,

Co-Chair of Reading Climate Action Network

Tricia Marcouse, Lead for Nature and Green Spaces

ALL WELCOME - COME AND JOIN US

Planning

The committee reviews planning applications in Caversham and Emmer Green which may have wider significance. Progress is tracked and listed in the monthly planning list available on the website, including links to the detailed application.

Reading Local Plan

In response to the consultation on the Local Plan Partial Update, CADRA submitted detailed comments and provided a summary to assist anyone to send their own comments (<https://www.cadra.org.uk/en/Planning#block797>). Many of the policy changes are in response to the requirement on larger towns to increase their housing numbers by 35%. In view of changing national policy, the next stage of consultation has been delayed to November 2024 (<https://media.reading.gov.uk/news/revised-timetable-for-next-stage-of-consultation-on-readings-local-plan>).

Planning Applications

In Caversham centre, applications at different stages have still to be decided. These include the former Barclays Bank, 3 Prospect St and the Spice Oven. By the Thames, there is a retrospective application from the Persian Palace for an enclosed glass space on the river, and the Reading University Boat Club have applied to replace an existing sculling shed. An appeal decision has still to be given on the use as a commercial boatyard at the Moorings, Mill Green.

The car wash facility by Hills Meadow has been granted a further five years, subject to some improvements and new landscaping. The application to demolish and replace 92 Albert Road has been refused. Both Historic England and the Council's Conservation Officer have objected to the plans for Caversham Park; Beechcroft has just submitted a series of

modifications. Reading's Director of Education has objected to the application from The Heights Primary School to increase class sizes, citing a significant oversupply of places in the North of Reading. Applications to discharge planning conditions for Reading Golf Club continue to progress. A new application proposes a new house west of 25 Tredegar Road.

Across the Thames

Thames Lido has applied for an extension to its car park and to install solar panels on the roof. The SSE building on Vastern Road is subject to further changes to meet new fire regulations and has applied to add an additional storey towards Lynmouth Court. The Secretary of State has just overruled the Planning Inspector and has granted planning permission for Vastern Court (from TGI to The Range). The Great Brighams Mead third and fourth floor extension to provide 100 apart-hotel rooms is still being considered. Pre-application exhibitions have been held for Napier Court, Norman Place, and an outline application made for Forbury Retail Park.

South Oxfordshire

The Preferred Options' Consultation for the South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Joint Local Plan 2041 closed in February. The preferred option set out is to guide new development to areas of employment and to locations in the highest tiers of the settlement hierarchy.

The appeal against enforcement action at Caversham Lakes was dismissed, citing nature conservation and highway safety. Consultation on the draft neighbourhood plan for Eye and Dunsden closed in January. The Parish Council is reviewing comments received and making changes to the draft plan before formally submitting it to the district council.

Safer neighbourhoods

North Reading Safer Neighbourhood Forum, chaired by Nick Haskins, works hard to tackle local concerns. Thanks to the persistence of Nick Haskins, the police have now allocated PC Graham Amundsen, PC Adriana Bilanska and PCSO Daniel Mellor as neighbourhood policing officers to Caversham and Emmer Green. With the reintroduction of Have Your Say days, their presence should become much more visible in the coming months.

Forum attendees include police, local community groups such as Caversham Globe, WADRA, CADRA, Deans Farm and Heron Island Residents Association,

and local councillors. Together, they try to resolve issues as they arise.

Considerate Parking leaflets are shortly to be issued following a build-up of parked vehicles around Reading Golf Club.

Residents living in Upper Woodcote Road, Caversham, who have suffered from a spate of hawkers on their doorsteps, have been put in contact with Trading Standards to ensure that they have 'No Cold Call' leaflets to act as a deterrent.

Anti-social behaviour in the Amersham Road area and shoplifting (particularly at the local Co-op) has been reported to the police, resulting in

the arrest of an offender. Reports to the police support them in apprehending criminals and planning Have Your Say Days in problem areas.

There has been a spate of thefts by the Thames, including boats and outboard motors, but thanks to the vigilance of Forum members it has been possible to identify those involved and take action. Car thefts continue to be an issue. Ring doorbell footage enabled the arrest of one prolific offender, but please be mindful about locking vehicles.

The Forum meets six times a year. For further information, contact Jill Dibben via the CADRA email.

Transport

Following the November open meeting on RBC's Transport Strategy, CADRA sent comments stressing the need for improvements around North Reading, including bus services. The Strategy aims to cut carbon emissions, encourage use of public transport, promote walking and cycling, thus creating a healthier borough. The Council has approved a revised Air Quality Action Plan for submission to DEFRA and has adopted an Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy. New funding will enable up to 2,700 public charging points and up to 150 pavement gulleys for on street charging.

Public requests for transport measures supported by the Traffic Management Sub-Committee for North Reading are listed on the CADRA website at www.cadra.org.uk/en/Traffic-and-Transport#block818. Sadly, inclusion on the list does not imply funding.

Road and utilities works have been a regular issue. The interactive map at www.reading.gov.uk/vehicles-roads-and-transport/roads-and-streets/current-roadworks provides road closure searching. The Council is also seeking to introduce a Street Works Permit system for all works on the public highway, allowing fines when planned works are not completed on time.

Residents can report potholes by using the Love Clean Streets app, contacting RBC at www.reading.gov.uk/vehicles-roads-and-transport/roads-and-streets/report-a-road-or-street-problem, ringing their customer contact centre or email highway.inspectors@reading.gov.uk. Each reported pothole will be attended and assessed.

Flood scheme

As climate change brings more intense rainfall and more frequent flooding, the Environment Agency is investigating how to slow the flow of water and create more space for water upstream of communities at risk of flooding. With support from a range of organisations, they have found that flood storage supported by natural flood management could work at a large scale to reduce flood risk and improve the environment across the Thames Valley. Over 700 potential locations have been narrowed down to 17 locations – in areas of existing floodplain on tributaries of the River Thames - which might be suitable to store flood water and reduce flooding to communities downstream.

Investigation is still at an early stage. As with any large project, it will go through a series of approvals and will need funding from government and partners at each stage. More information can be found at <https://engageenvironment-agency.uk.engageenvironmenthq.com/latest-news> including the most recent newsletter issued in February.

Emmer Green

Following the October residents meeting about construction on Reading Golf Club, CADRA has been following up on agreed actions as detailed in this summary: https://bit.ly/ResMeetingSummaryOct_Updated We sent a summary of residents' concerns about the temporary traffic regulation order on Kidmore End Road and are pleased to report that officers have now recommended it should be revoked. We are waiting to learn the process for this.

We made representations over the delayed and confused notification from Thames Water for the road closure.

We are inviting suggestions of local projects to be funded by the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy. Suggestions received so far include restoration of the Emmer Green Pond and refurbishment of the Clayfield Copse car park. Submissions must be made by November but will require some months to prepare.

Closure of the Fairfield golf course in South Oxfordshire has raised questions over the future of this part of Reading Golf Club.

Temporary repairs were made to the community noticeboard in the Emmer Green precinct. We are removing the board to the Silvers Workshop for full restoration. It should be back in place with new posts around mid-April.

The Facebook page is attracting increasing interest (www.facebook.com/CADRAforEmmerGreen).

The **CADRA constitution** needs to reflect increasing involvement with issues in Emmer Green. Detailed proposals will be discussed as part of the AGM agenda (point 6) shown on page 4.

Chilterns AONB

Along with all the other Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in England and Wales, the Chilterns is now known as a 'National Landscape', placing it alongside National Parks and National Trails to highlight their equal importance in protecting the landscape and public access, addressing climate change and delivering nature recovery.

National Landscapes work with and for nature in the UK – enhancing the beauty of the landscape, restoring ecosystems, providing food, storing carbon to mitigate the effects of climate change, safeguarding against drought and flooding, while also nurturing people's health and wellbeing.

What does this mean for the Chilterns?

- The region has become Chilterns National Landscape – a new name and new identity.
- It is still a designated area of outstanding natural beauty.
- It will continue to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Chilterns, increase understanding and enjoyment of its special qualities, and foster the social and economic well-being of local communities.

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 and Emmer Green 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 for the *Caversham Bridge* newspaper and maintain a website with information on local issues and links to relevant official websites. We maintain two Facebook pages, one shown on the CADRA homepage, and the other www.facebook.com/CADRAforEmmerGreen.

Contacting CADRA

Please write to the Secretary or better still, email us at info@cadra.org.uk.

Membership

Membership of CADRA is just £3 per year per household. Leaflets are available from Caversham Library and Waltons or Fourbears, Prospect Street, or from the Membership Secretary, Tel: 0789 415 0023. Join or renew and pay online at www.cadra.org.uk/en/Application-Form.

Please let us know if you change your email address.

The Committee

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

Treasurer: Jill Dibben, 31 Winterberry Way, RG4 7XA,
Tel: 948 3736

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

Membership: Adrian Goddon, Nire Road,
Tel: 0789 415 0023

Planning: John Nicholls (co-opted), Sandcroft Road;
Malcolm Pemble, Shepherds Lane; for Emmer Green,
Neil Parker, Kidmore End Road

Safer Caversham: Jill Dibben, Winterberry Way;
for Emmer Green, Neil Tayler, Highdown Avenue

Wider engagement: Sarah Stuffins (co-opted),
Washington Road

COMMITTEE SUPPORT

Transport: Paul Matthews, Albert Road

Planning: for Emmer Green, Harvey Smith,
Kidmore End Road

Website: Lloyd Pople, Upper Woodcote Road

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

General support: John Roach, St Peter's Avenue

Emmer Green Noticeboard: Sue Drayton

Climate Change: John Murdoch, Fernbrook Road

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The Annual General Meeting

Monday 20 May 2023, 7.30pm • Caversham Baptist Church, 1 Prospect Street

NOTE

Only paid-up members of CADRA may vote at the AGM. One household subscription carries one vote.

AGENDA

- Minutes of 2023 AGM
- Chairman's Annual Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Appointment of Chair
- Election of Committee
- Amendment to CADRA constitution
- Any Other Business (items advised in advance only)

NOMINEE: I am willing to serve on the Committee of CADRA, carry out duties as agreed and act at all times in the best interests of CADRA and its members.

COMMITTEE: RETIRING AND CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Under the rules of the Constitution, Adrian Goddon and Helen Lambert will retire at the AGM and are willing to stand for re-election. Sarah Stuffins, currently co-opted member, is willing to stand for election. John Nicholls wishes to continue as a co-opted member. To remain active, CADRA needs both new co-opted members and more support to the committee. Please let us know if you might be interested.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE COMMITTEE

Any member may be nominated for election to the Committee at the AGM, subject to the conditions in the Constitution. The Nominee must have a proposer and seconder who are both members.

Please use the form below and return the completed nomination to the Secretary no less than 14 days before the AGM.

Please email ahead of the 14 days if you would like to explore this.

Name

Signature & Date

Proposed by

Seconded by