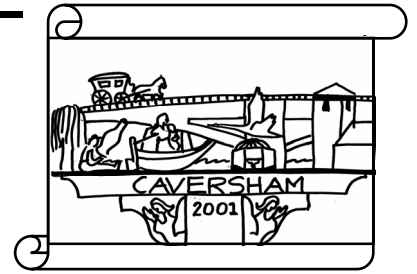


CADRA news

Caversham And District Residents' Association

The voice of Caversham for 40 years



Volume 10, Issue 1, March 2010

www.cadra.org.uk

The Streets of Caversham

Strategic Planning is often a dry and bewildering area but we are seeing its impact in many ways. It is an obvious area for communities to work together to pool resources and share local knowledge and expertise.

The involvement of CADRA and other associations has been critical in achieving protection for sites in Caversham. Subject to the final stages of the process, this will be effective to 2026 (see page 3). Maps showing the sites will be available to view at the CADRA AGM.

The Development Framework for the Caversham Lock Area was central to decisions made for that area. The campaign to restore the Kings Meadow Pool is making progress

'...protection for sites in Caversham....'

with seeking funding. We are now seeing the start of a Development Framework for the area around the station reaching as far north as the river. See page 3 inside.



Photograph courtesy of RBC website

In 1999, Bracknell Wokingham and Reading formed the **re3** partnership for the management and disposal of waste with a shared strategy.

The kerbside collection remains part of Reading Council's Street Care Services along with street cleansing, public toilets, verge maintenance, and trees, as well as enforcing aspects of Environmental law. This links with the work of the police and the newly updated Neighbourhood Action Groups. See page 2 inside.

Following a brief AGM, we look forward to hearing more about the work of **re3** and Street Care services and their plans for the future.

The state of roads and pavements during the cold weather brought a host of comments. St Peter's Hill was closed for the first time in over 30 years and the icy pavements in Caversham Centre were a common concern. The widely anticipated carol singing event in Caversham Court gardens coincided with the first major fall of snow and the enormous disruption that night.

Though sadly the event had to be cancelled, the gardens looked magnificent in the snow which was followed by a magnificent display of snowdrops under the old yew tree. Do look out for the other spring bulbs as they come into season.

And finally, from the review of the 2009 Reading Festival with serious problems on the last night, it is clear any similar incidents at the 2010 festival will be dealt with severely.

Helen Lambert

2010 Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 21st April 2010
At the BAPTIST CHURCH, PROSPECT ST.
at 7.45pm

Our Rubbish, Our Streets

A presentation by

Oliver Burt, re3 Project Manager

Pete Thompson Street Care Manager RBC

Transport

TIF – Transport Innovation Fund

The £300m+ TIF bid to government from Reading and adjacent authorities is apparently ‘on the Ministers desk’.

TIF funding was tied to some form of congestion charging but this aspect has recently been dropped and TIF is to be superseded by UCF (Urban Challenge Fund). This may be opportune for Reading with a bid waiting which may comply with both criteria, though with government spending cuts looming we’d better not be too hopeful.

Funding could bring a whole range of measures: buses, walking, cycling and maybe (last on list) a third Thames Bridge. The proposals are roughly in line with the current Local Transport Plan.

Local Transport Plan

The existing Reading Local Transport Plan LTP(2) will expire in 2011 and a new TLP(3) 2011-2014 plan needs to be produced for government funding assessments. Reading has just started on a consultation process so look out for opportunities to comment. CADRA will be scrutinising proposals and responding where appropriate. The timescale will give a chance to consult with members and to feed back in the next Newsletter.

Reading Station

The station and major developments to the south appear to have received most of the necessary approvals but finding details of these proposals is not easy. Some artists impressions and plans are visible in a shop window by the bus-stops

at Western tower and also by trawling the internet. Details are elusive, particularly for the transport interchange, including buses, taxis and drop-off/pick-up. For Caversham the intention is that ultimately these will be to the north of the station with access probably via Vastern Road. A low level (subway) path linking north to south should make access to the station and town-centre easier than at present (remember twenty years ago?). CADRA is trying to obtain more details.

Reading’s Transport User Forum has a CADRA representative which allows us to comment and hear other views. At the last meeting there was widespread concern about the interchange proposals at the station which may not reap the benefits of the £500m station investment.

Neighbourhood Action Groups

Since the introduction of neighbourhood policing, there have been parallel groups for policing and safety issues. For Caversham this has meant the Safer Caversham Forum, a Neighbourhood Action Group for Lower Caversham including Caversham Centre and another for North and West Caversham.

Across Reading, it has been proposed that Safer Forums and NAGs should merge to avoid duplication and ensure that all groups have some formal support. The Council proposed that there should be one amalgamated group for all of Caversham. Local associations and Caversham’s Inspector Penny MacKenzie raised concerns that it would be impractical for a single group to address detailed problems across such a wide and diverse area. Following their representations, it was agreed that, provided there was demonstration of community involvement, the Council would support two groups for Caversham.

Inspector Mackenzie and the local associations worked together to publicise an open meeting at Highdown School. This was well attended and those present took part in establishing the key priorities for North and West/Upper Caversham. These will

include burglary, road traffic and environmental issues which contribute to crime and cause concern locally. The inaugural meeting of the newly reformed NAG met on 23 March.

An open meeting will also be held in Lower Caversham and key priorities established there to carry forward the excellent work done by the existing NAG.

The NAGs identify the areas which cause problems for local people and try to tackle these issues with the help of the police, local Councillors and Reading Borough Council. RBC will provide logistical and financial support but each group will be chaired by a local resident. The groups do need local support. One way you can help is to ensure that any crime, no matter how minor, is reported to the police.

If you would be interested to join either of the two NAGs, please contact Inspector Penny MacKenzie on 0845 8 505 505.

Overall reported crime in Caversham has significantly reduced over the last twelve months, by around 25%.

A Vision for Caversham

CADRA has been active in helping to re-establish the Caversham Traders Association, now known as the Caversham Retailers Association. This momentum has been enhanced by the helpful assistance of local MP Rob

Wilson who recently held a meeting of interested parties. The meeting heard about the successful concepts of the Business Improvement District adopted by Reading and the Town Centre Manager in place in Woodley. These are

longer term possibilities and an obvious starting point for Caversham is to address, with the owners, the state of the precinct pavements and buildings and the issue of unmonitored parking.

Mapledurham Pavilion

The Management Committee is not currently considering any of the options to rebuild/refurbish the Pavilion as they are unaffordable within the current budget. However it remains active and has recently agreed new Terms of Reference with Reading Borough Council who are the Trustees. It has also agreed a new

charging structure for users. Minor repairs and redecorations have been made to the Pavilion and discussions continue with Festival Republic, who run the Reading Festival, on their possible future investment in the Pavilion.

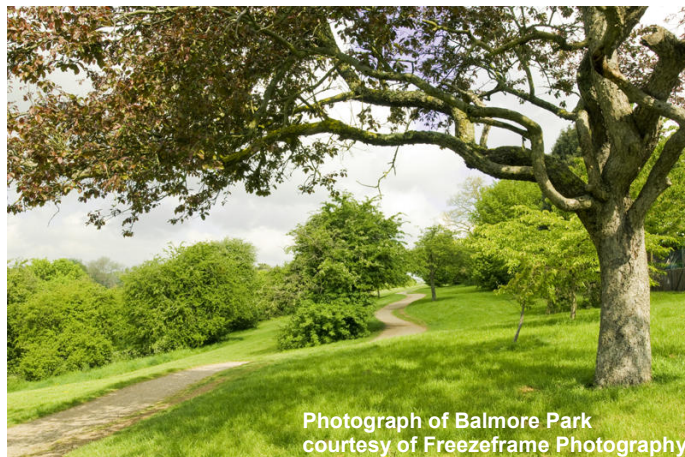
Sites and Detailed Planning Policies

The process of allocating sites for development, change or protection is drawing to an end. The final public consultation closes 2 April and after consideration by the full Council it will go to the Secretary of State for approval.

Working with other local associations, CADRA has secured long term protection for many of the green spaces north of the river and influenced many of the detailed planning policies for dealing with planning applications. It has been a major task and we were complemented in Council for being 'assiduous'. Many thanks to all concerned..

Full details and maps can be found on www.reading.gov.uk/consultations/2010consultations. Some of the development sites in Reading remain controversial. North of the river, the only site earmarked for development is at Lowfield Road for 21 to 34 houses with the proviso to take account of the potential for contaminated land and not be detrimental to important landscape nearby.

A significant change is the provision for much needed affordable housing. Developments of five or more units will be required to provide a percentage of affordable housing within the scheme. This percentage will increase for larger schemes. Schemes for less than five units will make a financial contribution towards affordable housing elsewhere. The site of the former Caversham Laundry on George Street was also considered. Following revision of the flood map, this is now not suitable for housing. While CADRA have long opposed over development of this important site, we have raised concerns that it could now suffer planning blight.



Photograph of Balmore Park
courtesy of FreezeFrame Photography

Another far reaching strategic decision will be the Development Framework for the area around the station. This will be visible from Caversham and comes as far north as the river. There are some exciting ideas included. The framework anticipates the areas coming available for development and includes guidance on heights and massing for individual developments. It also covers civic open spaces, public art and green and pedestrian links. This is a shorter document and worth a look at www.reading.gov.uk/saf. The consultation closes 2 April 2010.

All of these documents are also available at Planning Reception at the Civic Centre and currently in public libraries.

Tree Strategy

RBC has published a draft tree strategy for Reading and would like to receive comments by 2 April 2010. The strategy recognises the importance of trees and sets out a number of policies and priorities for protecting, managing and

enhancing Reading's tree cover. These include identifying the locations for prioritising the protection and planting of trees and replacement of trees that have been removed. An overall target of an increase of 10% of the tree canopy area in

the Borough is proposed. You can view a copy of the draft tree strategy at the Civic Centre, public libraries or online at www.reading.gov.uk/treestrategy.

Fresh Food

On 3 and 4 June during half term, the Oracle will be presenting its Fresh Food Festival on the Riverside with celebrity chef James Martin, hosted by Ready Steady Cook Lesley Waters, as well as a traditional farmers market, live jazz, exotic cocktails and wine tasting.

On 5 and 6 June Reading Abbot's Fair is a new two-day festival '*fusing the traditional, rural aspects of Reading's food heritage with its modern, urban heart.*' Live music and food stalls run by local restaurants will add to the festivities.

True Food Cooperative

More locally, the True Food Cooperative shop selling organic food at Grove Road, Emmer Green is now open:

- Monday 12noon –8pm
- Tuesday to Friday 11am-5.30
- Saturday 10am-4pm

Reading Voluntary Action

Based above the Volunteer Centre at 8 Cross Street, RG1 1SN, RVA aims to promote strength within Reading's voluntary sector. It provides information, access to resources, volunteer recruitment and training to people who work in or with charities, community groups and voluntary organisations. Their advice

services cover all aspects of running an organisation from start up, through fund raising, recruitment, management and governance. Contact RVA at 957 4123 or info@rva.org.uk.

You can also contact the Reading LINK (Local Involvement Network) tasked with finding out what local people like and

dislike about local health and social care services.; investigating and reviewing these findings and bringing these to the attention of the people that commission and manage health and social care services. Call 958 4849 or email info@readinglink.org.uk and take part in a current survey.

About CADRA

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
Website: Clair Drever, Rotherfield Way
Voluntary Liaison: James Frost, Gurney Drive
Licensing & Neighbourhood Action Groups:
Mike Gilbert, Notley Place
Footpaths & Traffic: John Lee, Hemdean Road
Link to Committee Support & Newsletter:
Ruth Perkins, Woodcote Road
Safer Caversham: John Roach, St. Peter's Ave
Planning: Jennifer Millest, Mill Green (co-opted)
Planning Research: Mo Prins, Haldane Road
(co-opted)
Membership: Jacque Tomson, 121 Upper Wood-
cote Rd, RG4 7LB Tel: 9476984 (co-opted)

Committee Support

Planning Research: Liz Killick, Upper Woodcote
Road
Local Correspondent : John Mullaney, Derby
Road
Informal Links: Jo Munday, South View Avenue

Contacting CADRA

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

Our aim is to:

“preserve and enhance the quality of life in Caversham and the surrounding District”

We follow planned changes relevant to Caversham and look for opportunities to improve or protect our shared environment. We avoid party political bias, working closely with Reading Councillors and Officers, other local groups, the Police, companies and individuals.

We issue two newsletters a year, hold two public meetings, write columns for the Caversham Bridge local newspaper and maintain a website with a wide range of information on local and current issues.

Membership

Membership of CADRA is just £3 per year per household. Membership leaflets are available in Caversham Library and Wordplay in Prospect St. or from the Membership Secretary, tel. 0118 9476984. The stronger our voice, the more impact we can have on local decisions. Please encourage your friends and neighbours to join!

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting
on **Wednesday 21st April 7.45 pm.**
at the **Baptist Church Centre**
Prospect Street, Caversham.

Note: Only paid-up members of CADRA may vote at the AGM

AGENDA

1. Minutes of 2009 AGM
2. Chairman's Annual Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Appointment of honorary member for long service
5. Election of Committee
6. Any Other Business (items advised in advance only)

Committee: Retiring and Co-opted Members

Under the rules of the Constitution, Helen Lambert, John Roach and Linda Watsham will retire at the AGM. All three have indicated their willingness to stand for re-election. Jacque Tomson (currently co-opted member) has also indicated her willingness to stand for election.

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.

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.*

Name Signature & Date

Proposed by..... Seconded by.....