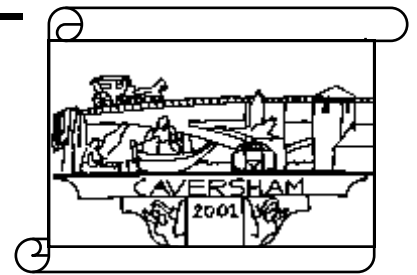


CADRA news

Caversham And District Residents' Association

The voice of Caversham for over 40 years



Volume 11, Issue 1, March 2011

www.cadra.org.uk

Caversham 100 years on

The year 2011 marks a special but in some respects controversial centenary for Caversham: the anniversary of the expansion of Reading Borough to include Caversham. With such a rich heritage in Caversham, perhaps the best way to protect that heritage is to share it and celebrate it. Out of that discussion, came the 'Caversham 100 years on' project. Working with Caversham Rotary and the Friends of Caversham Court Gardens, we have set up a loose framework for local involvement. It follows discussion with local groups, schools, museums, libraries, interest and creative arts groups.

A competition among local schools and Brownie packs to design a logo



..... more, on the
website
www.Caversham100YearsOn

produced over 50 entries. The winning entry is shown here but you can see several more on the website

www.Caversham100YearsOn.org.uk. Here you will find details of different events including plans for a Grand Caversham Garden Party on Saturday 10 September, part of Heritage Weekend. All sorts of entertainment is planned, with some commissioned specially for the event.

Mobile exhibitions, showcasing different aspects of local heritage,

will be available to book out from May to December.

On 5th April, following the brief AGM business, there will be an introduction to the project. Sarah Stuffs from BBC Monitoring, will then speak on the history of Caversham Park, its houses and owners and the work of BBC Monitoring. Sarah has worked at BBC Monitoring since 1985 and currently liaises with government departments.

To give more space for the meeting, the venue has been changed to Thameside School, a short walk from the Waitrose car park. We look forward to seeing you there.

At the meeting on 26 January 2011, members heard from Pat Baxter, Head of Transport about the emerging plans relating to the Reading Station See page 2 for more detail and the other issues covered at the meeting.

2011 Annual General Meeting

**Tuesday 5th April 2011
at Thameside School, Harley Road
at 7.30pm**

Caversham Park and its Owners

A presentation by

Sarah Stuffs, BBC Monitoring

Some parking by the school. 3 minutes walk from Waitrose parking.

Helen Lambert

Transport

Meeting 26 January

Following the station funding announcement before Christmas, plans for the new northern entrance are now confirmed and members were given a virtual tour. Over time, the northern entrance is expected to serve 40% of those using the station. It will have its own taxi rank and bus stops.

As well as discussion on the station, questions were raised on the impact of the Gravel Hill closure. From the surveys that were conducted prior to and after the trial closure there appears to be a slight increase in traffic on the Kidmore Road junctions with Oakley Road and Richmond Road. Those present agreed that the snow clearance this winter had been much improved.

Local Transport Plan

Consultation for the Reading Local Transport Plan (LTP3) for 2011–2026 closed on 12 November 2010 and the results were reported to Cabinet on 17 January 2011. CADRA's comments together with comments from neighbouring councils, residents and other local and national organizations were received and amendments are being made to the draft for consideration by the full Council. LTP3 is a statutory requirement and must be approved by Council so that it can come into effect in April 2011. Each year the Council produces an Implementation Plan for the Local Transport Plan (LIP). The LIP sets out the programme for the next three years with an outline for subsequent years. The Draft LIP was also reported to

Cabinet on 17 January 2011. It will define the programme for the next financial year but has been withheld until the budget has been set.

Work to replace Water Mains

A £2.7m project is scheduled from February to August replacing Victorian water pipes in central Reading. The streets affected include Caversham Road and The Forbury.

Traffic lights

As part of the review of traffic lights across the town, the lights at the junction of Westfield Road and Gosbrook Road were removed at the end of February. The junction of All Hallows Road with Henley Road is still under review.

Bus route changes

In preparation for the re-construction of Reading Station the Council is making alterations to bus routes in the centre of Reading. All buses will be removed from Station Hill and re-routed into Friar Street and Station Road. All buses between Caversham and the town centre will use Vastern Road. When The Station works are complete there will be new stops for buses from Caversham close to the new northern entrance to the Station.

Currently Station Road is closed for road works so buses have

been re-routed for the duration of the works. Some buses are using a temporary stop outside Apex Plaza adjacent to Reading station. In addition St Mary's Butts is being resurfaced and this is affecting bus services. Station Road is due to reopen April 17. There will then be a major switch in town centre traffic flows, scheduled to go live on April 18 with the overall works scheduled to be completed by May 2011.

CADRA is keeping an eye on bus services and will continue to bring issues to the attention of the Borough.

Mapledurham Pavilion

The 2009/10 Accounts show a net revenue cost to Reading Borough Council, who are the Trustees, amounting to over £36,000 for the year.

In addition to the Management Committee a new group known as the Sports Users Changing Facilities Bidding Team has been established to explore any grants available from sports bodies such as the Football Foundation.

Another new group known as the Fundraising Team has been set up to motivate local support to raise the money necessary to bridge the gap between the

funds available and either a modular prefabricated building with modern sports facilities and a small meeting/function room or a larger version with a hall similar in size to the existing one.

Both groups are supported by Officers from Reading Borough Council and our local Councillors. The tennis club is considering a number of options for its future accommodation.

The Council holds £100,000 of Section 106 monies from local developments earmarked for a replacement pavilion. This together with the £50,000

generously donated by Festival Republic gives £150,000 which it is hoped can be matched by grants from sports orientated organizations. However, the cost of the smaller new build option is estimated at £450,000 giving a shortfall of at least £150,000 and the larger new build option would give a significantly higher shortfall to be funded.

If you would like to be involved or contribute please contact Carolyn.Jenkins@reading.gov.uk.

We wish everybody concerned success in this venture.

Neighbourhood Action Groups

After public meetings held in 2010 both, the NAGS have identified burglary and speeding as priorities. Burglary hot spots are being targeted with leaflet drops and a number of 'meet & greet' surgeries are in hand for February and March. Members of the NAGS trained in the use of speed guns assisted Police with speed checks on Rotherfield Way, Kidmore Road and Upper Woodcote Road. Letters are being sent to offenders. There have

been a number of burglaries around Henley Road, Galsworthy Drive, Geoffreyson Road and Kidmore Road. With spring around the corner, the Police again warn that 25% of burglaries are through insecure doors and windows.

Both NAGS are currently seeking a Chairman. If you can help, please contact Insp. Mackenzie on 0845 8 505 505.

Planning

Local applications

Applications refused by the Planning Committee include one to the rear of 4 and 6 Kidmore Rd. and another on the corner of Hemdean Rd. with Rectory Rd. The appeal for 'Outlands', Upper Warren Avenue was dismissed and in the light of the findings, the Council refused further applications for the same site. There is renewed developer interest in the land behind Caversham Centre between School Lane, Abbotsmead and Wolsey Rd where there is an existing approval for sheltered housing.

Helpful Hints

Thanks to Liz Killick for some careful research on the process of objecting to planning applications and affecting the appeals process. This is now available from the planning page of the website.

Planning Strategy

In the light of revised government policies, the Council have produced a revised draft of the document which sets out detailed policies for deciding planning applications, sites for future development and land protected from development over a 15 year period. Changes include new local policies on development of private residential gardens, the protection of local heritage and a revised Proposals Map and Sustainability Appraisal. All of these



have great relevance for Caversham as individual planning applications come forward. The new criteria for 'Local Listing' may be of particular interest. The consultation period lasts from 21st February to 4th April 2011. We would welcome comments from members as we consider a response .

Kings Meadow

Plans are progressing to build a sports pavilion and cafe and to restore the Edwardian open air baths for summer swimming, a winter an exhibition centre and ice rink. The campaign is making good progress with charity status granted, a not-for-profit company set up, a substantial donation from a major local blue chip

company and the offer of labour and materials from a civil engineering company.

For the Waitrose charity award scheme, the campaign received the most tokens that month. Whenever the doors are opened there is a steady stream of people offering support and encouragement for the success of the campaign.

On 20 March a 5km History Quiz/Walk from 12.00-15.00hrs starts at the pool. On the 26 March a Car boot/Table sale will be held at Mapledurham Pavilion. A fuller report is on the CADRA website, or see www.kingsmeadowbaths.org.uk. For details of the walk call Kay on 0789999265.

The Localism Bill

The Bill reached the Committee stage in February 2011. It includes:

Housing Targets: Regional strategies, aimed at building three million homes by 2020 would be scrapped.

Community Infrastructure Levy: Changes to the system of charges set on developers by local authorities would ensure some of it goes directly to areas where development has taken place.

Local Development: Changes to local plans could not be made by the Planning Inspectorate without involving the local authority. Neighbourhood plans would be introduced – Parish Councils and 'Neighbourhood Forums' could propose where shops, offices or homes should go, or which green spaces should be protected, which would then be voted on in a local referendum. They would also be able to define developments which should have automatic planning permission

Planning Permission: Local communities would be able to propose development which, subject to certain safeguards and 50%

support in a local referendum, could be built without planning permission.

Big developments would require early consultation with local people before plans were finalised. Developers would have to consider the issues raised before submitting planning applications. The Infrastructure Planning Commission would be scrapped and projects such as airports and wind farms decided by Ministers.

Housing waiting lists: More autonomy for Councils on managing the lists, changes to the "homelessness duty" and retention of rental income from council housing to spend on maintaining homes.

The Royal Town Planning Institute argues the need for coordination of planning at a national level, more emphasis on cooperation between neighbouring authorities and greater clarity on the scope and process of preparing Neighbourhood plans. CADRA will keep a watching brief on the progress of the Localism Bill and the potential implications for the planning process in Caversham.

Can you help?

We are looking for someone to gradually take on the role of editor for the CADRA website. With the very user friendly software and excellent technical backup

within the team, no more than normal office IT skills are needed. We need someone with a general interest in Caversham and a bent for editing and clear language. If this might

be of interest, please contact Helen.Lambert@cadra.org.uk

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 & NAG Lower Caversham:
Mike Gilbert, Notley Place
NAG Upper Caversham: Les James, Wincroft Rd
(co-opted)
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: Mo Prins, Haldane Road (co-opted)
Membership: Jacque Tomson, 121 Upper Wood-
cote Road, RG4 7LB Tel: 947 6984

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 5th April 2011 at 7.30 pm.**
at **Thameside School**
Harley Street, Caversham.

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

AGENDA

1. Minutes of 2010AGM
2. Chairman's Annual Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Election of Committee
5. Re-appointment of Chairman
6. Any Other Business (items advised in advance only)

Committee: Retiring and Co-opted Members

Under the rules of the Constitution, Stewart Bolton, Clair Drever, John Lee and Ruth Perkins will retire at the AGM. Stewart Bolton has indicated his willingness to stand for re-election. Les James and Mo Prins (currently co-opted members) and David Ferguson, who is currently assisting the committee, have also indicated their willingness to stand for election. The committee have recently co-opted Paul Matthews.

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.....