



CADRA News

Caversham & District Residents' Association

The Voice of Caversham since 1967



A vision for the future

Traffic through Caversham Centre is always a contentious issue. With its enviable location between the Thames and the South Oxfordshire countryside, Caversham inevitably sees considerable through traffic. At the same time, Caversham is an important local centre serving a population equivalent to the combined population of Henley, Marlow and Wallingford. It is a 'village' where people live, work, shop and do business.

As opportunities arise, how could we move to a better approach to reconcile these apparently conflicting needs?

With the focus on localism, Councils are increasingly expected to work with local communities. At our request, CADRA and the Caversham Traders Association met with Transport Managers to review plans for the mini-roundabout at the foot of Prospect Street.

During this meeting, it was suggested that it would be helpful if CADRA and CTA could explain their 'vision' for how interactions between *all* users of the streets of Caversham could be improved. As a result, CADRA



and CTA have drawn up a paper outlining a suggested way forward.

Most improvements would require funding but without an agreed direction no potential sources of funding are likely to be identified.

We therefore agreed with the Caversham Traders Association to make this the focus of our open meeting to be hosted jointly by the two associations.

Simon Beasley, Reading Borough Council's Network Manager, has kindly agreed to speak and answer questions for the first half of the evening. For the second part of the evening, we will present a possible way forward and some details of what has been achieved elsewhere. After a brief time for questions, we will invite everyone present to record their thoughts and ideas.

Helen Lambert

Open Meeting

Tuesday 12 November 2013, 7.45pm
Thameside School, Harley Road

Sharing our Streets

by Simon Beasley, Network Manager
Reading Borough Council Transport

Joint meeting with the Caversham Traders Association
Come and register your views

Some parking by the school, 5 minutes walk from Waitrose parking

Nationwide BS

Following the announcement of the planned closure of the Caversham Branch in December 2013, CADRA, local traders, Councillors and MP are all working to persuade Nationwide that this decision must be reviewed. A public meeting has been requested and we will email details to members. You can sign the online petition – see <http://chn.ge/15pcS8B>.

Transport

Reading Station

The £895m improvement of Reading Station and the railway through the town is still on target for completion summer 2015. Work is in progress on the new viaduct to complete the widening of Cow Lane. The tidying up at the northern interchange will be completed when the temporary buildings are removed. Full details are at <http://firstgreatwestern.co.uk/About-Us/Rail-improvements/Reading-station-improvements>.

Proposed Pedestrian/Cycle Bridge

CADRA committee members were invited by RBC Officers to discuss the proposals for a pedestrian and cycle bridge over the River Thames just east of Fry's Island. The bridge will be funded by the Local Sustainable Transport Fund. This will also fund a bike hire scheme.

The bridge would link Reading Station foot tunnel and Christchurch Meadows. The footpath and cycle way pass through Norman Place but it is hoped that a more direct route will be built through the SSE site and Vastern Court Retail Park when they are redeveloped.

Plans show a single, slender mast with cables spreading out to support both sides of the bridge deck in a single span over the river. Clearance over the Thames is the same as Caversham Bridge. CADRA raised many issues including potential segregation of the pedestrian and cycle paths. The CADRA Planning Summary gives a link to the Planning Application: www.cadra.org.uk/planning.php.

Highway Maintenance – Resurfacing and Potholes

No one could have missed the major resurfacing work that took place in Caversham this summer. Some road markings were delayed but most were completed on Sunday 15 September. The work should result in fewer potholes developing this winter.

Maintenance problems can be reported to the Council directly or through www.FixMyStreet.com. Please give a precise location and, if possible, a photograph.

Mini-roundabout

CADRA and Caversham Traders Association committee members met RBC Officers to discuss preliminary ideas for improvements to the Gosbrook Road/Prospect Street mini-roundabout junction and the entrance to the Waitrose car park. There is a higher accident record here and problems for pedestrians and cyclists. Subsequently CADRA offered suggestions that would further slow traffic and improve conditions for pedestrians.

Reducing Sign Clutter

Following new national guidance, RBC officers have been asked to review unlawful, out of date or excessive traffic signs and those with unnecessary illumination. This could reduce maintenance and energy costs. If you are aware of excessive signing, email cris.butler@reading.gov.uk with the exact location and, if possible, a photograph.

Mapledurham Pavilion

The pavilion is looking smarter thanks to a corporate volunteering task from Goldman Sachs. A planning application to replace and extend the roof, install new roof lights and construct a glazed veranda has been submitted and approved. It is hoped that this will help when resubmitting grant applications.

The Summer Fete was a success, despite the rain. The sale of Nearly New Camping Equipment from the clear up after the Reading Festival brought another £4,500 and £40,000 has now been raised. Many congratulations to WADRA and their volunteers!

The Charity has been registered with Virgin Money Giving and a link will soon be available to enable Gift Aid donations towards the refurbishment. The next event will be the Christmas Fayre at the Pavilion on 8 December 2013, 10am–3pm, with a choir, stalls, games, crafts, cakes, tea & cake stand, and Father Christmas.

Licensing

CADRA continues to meet twice a year with the Reading Festival organizers and Reading Borough Council. In 2013 the major concern north of the river was traffic congestion on the Woodcote Road and at our request, additional measures were put in place. Comments from residents form part of the formal review in December each year. We would welcome comments and it is not too late to email licensing@reading.gov.uk.

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++ Clifton Lido Limited approved as preferred bidder to restore Kings Meadow Baths for heated all-year swimming with spa, café and restaurant ++ Arthur Clark Home now a 'community asset' and partners sought ++ Dancia International and Whittington's Tea Barge win Reading Retail Awards ++ Caversham late night shopping on Wednesday 11 December ++ Caversham loyalty card to be launched next month ++

Policing and Safer Caversham

The surveys on local concerns are complete and will dictate the priorities for the two Neighbourhood Action Groups over the next 18 months. These will include traffic issues (speeding and parking), burglary, litter/fly tipping and cycling on pavements. In June, NAGs across Reading met with the Police and Crime Commissioner to raise questions over the future policy and strategy of the PCC

Speeding is being monitored on certain roads. Speed Indication Devices indicate that around 50% of vehicles are travelling over 30 mph, with an average speed ranging from 26.4mph to 33.7mph. The top speed recorded was 49mph. As a result of the Automatic Number Plate Recognition devices, drivers have been identified using mobile phones, driving without seat belts and without current legal

documents. Fixed penalties have been issued and reports made to the relevant authorities.

There is a welcome reduction in reported incidents of anti-social behaviour over the year. Theft of bicycles and from unsecured sheds remains a concern. There is some increased concern of drug crime. Bogus callers for items such as roof repairs have made an unwelcome return. Please do pass intelligence to the local team – see details on the back page.

The Street Care department carry-out regular Environmental Visual Audits which identify a range of issues which can then be fed back to the relevant departments. A list of forthcoming audits is on the CADRA website and residents are welcome to join the audit.

Local Heritage

CADRA again worked with the Friends of Caversham Court Gardens to offer guided walks of Caversham for Heritage Open Days. It was a pleasure to see existing and new members on the walks.

Working with the team who designed the Heritage Map, CADRA developed packs of note cards with six of the drawings originally made for the map. These are on sale to raise funds for Mapledurham Pavilion and Caversham Court Gardens.

Chazey Court Barn at the end of the Warren is one of only six Grade I listed buildings in Reading (see www.cadra.org.uk/history.php). Following continual representations from CADRA and others, a meeting including English Heritage was held on site to agree the next steps towards making the building sound.

Planning

CADRA has been in regular contact with RBC officers with feedback on the new IT system. From that, we create a monthly summary of significant planning applications north of the river, available at www.cadra.org.uk/planning.php.

Many people will have noticed the part demolition of Caversham House, Church Road. An initial application was approved to demolish the 1960s office block and build a mixed development of apartments above commercial units. The design was for a gabled roofline higher than the original buildings on either side. The plot then changed hands and a second application was made with a modified design. This has now been approved.

Other applications include one from Tesco, Church Street for the large window signs now in place. This application has not yet been approved and CADRA is objecting strongly to the signs facing Church Street. Caversham Laundry applied to make various changes to their site. Most will be an improvement although the solar panels to be fitted on frames above the roof line are not ideal.

More recently, Somerfield Care Home, Kidmore Road, has applied for an extension to the existing home and provision of a Dementia Unit at the rear. Given the recent closures, this is a much-needed service.

The Heights Primary

Working towards opening in September 2014, a date has been set for interviews for the new Head Teacher. Open mornings have been held at Caversham Primary School and work continues between the Department of Education and the Borough Council to identify the most appropriate site. Find out more about the school at a family fun afternoon on Sunday 20 October at St Andrews church hall from 2pm or at www.theheightsprimary.co.uk.

Open Spaces

As part of the Reading Woodlands Project, management plans have been developed for woodlands owned by the Council, including seven areas north of the river. The consultation will close Friday 11 October.

A consultation in June set out plans for Christchurch Meadow to provide a café in the pavilion, a high ropes adventure course, an adventure golf course or putting green and a waterside activity centre – all on a pay-to-participate basis. The scheme also included permanent boat moorings by View Island. Alternative mooring sites will now be examined and a further consultation held on more detailed leisure plans. Links to both these items from www.cadra.org.uk/news.php.

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 a wide range of information on local issues and quick links to relevant detail on large official websites.

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 for the household. Leaflets are available in Caversham Library and Wordplay in Prospect Street or from the Membership Secretary, Tel: 947 6984.

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

Vice Chairman, Licensing & NAGs: Mike Gilbert, 4 Notley Place, RG4 8PW, Tel: 947 4437

Website: Ann Goodridge, Henley Road

Transport: Paul Matthews, Albert Road

Planning: Mo Prins, Haldane Road, and Liz Killick, Upper Woodcote Road (co-opted)

Safer Caversham: John Roach, St. Peter's Avenue

COMMITTEE SUPPORT

Transport and footpaths: John Lee, Hemdean Road

Informal Links: Jo Munday, South View Avenue

Continuity: Les James Wincroft Road

Newsletter Editor: Helen Lambert

Design: Anke Ueberberg

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The opinions expressed are those of the contributors.

Useful info

Ward Councillors

MAPLEDURHAM

Isobel Ballsdon

CAVERSHAM

Andrew Cumpsty, Richard Davies, Tom Stanway

PEPPARD

Mark Ralph, Jane Stanford-Beale, Richard Willis

THAMES

Ed Hopper, Jeanette Skeats, David Stevens

Councillors' office: 0118 939 0287

Individual contact details at www.reading.gov.uk/meetings/councillors

Caversham Neighbourhood Police

Inspector P J Binns (Caversham, Tilehurst, Norcot and Southcote)
Sergeant Zahid Aziz

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 or 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

www.reading.gov.uk

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

Switchboard: 0118 937 3787

Out of hours emergencies:

0118 937 3737

Electoral Registration: 0118 937 3717

Council Tax and Business Rates:

0118 937 3727

Adult Social Care: 0118 937 3747

Parking Services: 0118 937 3767

School Admissions: 0118 937 3777

Waste Management, Pest Control:

0118 937 3787

Environmental Health, Planning/

Building Control, Highways/Street

Cleaning: 0118 937 3797

More details at www.reading.gov.uk/council/contact-council