

CAVERSHAM AND DISTRICT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 13th May 2025.

Present: Helen Lambert (Chair), Jill Dibben (Treasurer), Committee and Members.

Opening and Welcome: Helen Lambert welcomed all those present to the AGM, and introduced the Committee and Committee Support.

1. Minutes of the 2024 AGM were approved.

2. Matters arising.

There were no matters arising.

3. Chair's Annual Report

Helen Lambert presented her final annual report and described the past year as a time to take stock, to seek feedback and look ahead. Membership numbers have remained steady, new members have come to the Committee and now a new Chair will take over. Helen went on to highlight the following:

a. Planning Applications and Policy.

Most local applications have been for small schemes, while major schemes move forward across the river. The Spice Oven is awaiting heritage details on the proposed work. Legal agreement is needed on Caversham Park before the development is confirmed. An application for changes on the Caversham Heath golf course has concerned The Chiltern Conservation Board. Fairfax has launched a virtual consultation on a proposal to build 70 homes in South Oxfordshire on land owned by Reading Golf Club, presenting it as an extension to the current development under construction off Kidmore End Road, with access through it.

Councils are being required to increase their housing numbers. The outcome of the new Joint Local Plan for South Oxfordshire and the Vale of the White Horse as well as the update to the Reading Borough Council Local Plan, are awaited. Both will require approval from the Secretary of State.

b. Local Heritage.

CADRA remains active on the Conservation Area Advisory Committee. Following the centenary of Reading Bridge in 2023, June 2026 will mark 100 years since the Prince of Wales opened Caversham Bridge.

Helen highlighted three recent additions to the Local List which will require more detailed planning control: Hemdean House School and Lodge, 2 Mill Green, Caversham Road Fire Station

c. Kidmore Road Closure.

Thames Water has accepted responsibility for the sinkhole and will be paying for the remedial works, to start in May with outline work to stabilise the ground taking an estimated 10-12 weeks. The road will reopen around the third week in July. Councillor Ballsdon has asked for the current bus diversion to be reassessed.

d.Emmer Green.

CADRA has worked to make full use of funds transferred by the Emmer Green Residents Association. The book *Emmer Green Past and Present* is on its second reprint. The Community Noticeboard was fully restored and the Village Sign cleaned and repaired.

e.Caversham Centre.

Thanks to the work of the Caversham Traders Association, Caversham now features within the Reading website <https://www.visit-reading.com/>

f.Website and Facebook.

The CADRA website remains the most extensive local website. More up to date news is shared on both the CADRA Facebook Page and the Emmer Green Residents Page. CADRA also provides copy for the *Caversham Bridge Newspaper*.

g) Membership.

To avoid normal running costs depleting reserves, the Committee has approved new membership fees of £5 for one year or £12 for three years - the first increase for over 15 years.

The Chair concluded by thanking her successor, the Committee and support team, as well as the many organisations and everyone who contributes to make Caversham and Emmer Green such a great place to live.

4. Treasurer's Report.

Jill Dibben, Treasurer, presented the annual accounts and the meeting voted to adopt them. Ania Haskins acted as Independent Examiner of the accounts.

5. Elections to the Committee.

Jill Dibben, Nick Haskins and Malcolm Pemble were elected to the Committee.

Nick Haskins was appointed Chair of CADRA.

Helen Lambert was appointed President of CADRA,

6. Introduction from the new Chair of CADRA.

Nick Haskins introduced himself to the meeting and spoke briefly on his hopes for the future of the organisation before declaring that the AGM was formally concluded.

Immediately after the AGM, a presentation entitled 'The Planning System: How it works and what is changing' was given by John Sevege and colleagues from the Reading office of Savills.

A retiring collection totaling £114 was taken in aid of Launchpad.