

**Caversham and District Residents Association
Annual General Meeting Tuesday 17 April 2007
Chairman's Report on the year 2006/07**

Molly Casey, CADRA President

Many members will know that sadly Molly Casey died in November 2006. A joint memorial to Molly is being prepared with the Reading Civic Society and the Caversham Court Gazebo Trust. A replica of the 17thC weather vane on the gazebo in Caversham Court is being commissioned. We would like to express our appreciation to all those who have donated. Further donations are still welcome and a flyer giving details is available.

40 years of CADRA

This is the 40th year of the association and a celebration is planned for the autumn. We would welcome any suggestions from members on appropriate ways to mark the event. In particular we would like to hear from anyone who has information on the work of the association in earlier years.

Planning

We continue to review the published lists of planning applications and to comment on proposals of significance to Caversham. A monthly summary is produced, which is also available on the CADRA website. Applications of general concern include the Caversham Laundry site for which an appeal hearing will take place on Tuesday 24 April 2007. The second application for School Lane is to be heard at the Planning Committee on 23 April 2007. Meanwhile a date has yet to be arranged for the appeal on the first application.

An appeal was heard recently on an application on All Hallows Road, leading to the cemetery. We await the result. At 161 Upper Woodcote Road, the Inspector upheld the decision not to allow development in back gardens adjoining the golf course. At 110 -118 Kidmore Road, the Inspector upheld the decision to refuse the first application but a second application was permitted by the Planning Committee.

We continue to follow the various stages of the proposed Local Development Framework which will replace the Local Plan. The most recent was the next stage of the Reading Central Area Action Plan. Following a similar timetable, there was a programme of consultation on the Civic Area which would involve the replacement of the Civic Centre.

Safer Caversham

CADRA is an established member of the Safer Caversham Forum, meeting quarterly with a range of RBC staff, Police, other residents and housing associations, representatives of traders and Councillors, to discuss issues to promote a safe and attractive environment. The Youth Service reports on the positive activities they undertake to engage the younger community. The Police representatives share information on crime types and levels and their efforts, combined with Community Wardens and Neighbourhood Watch to reduce crime in Caversham. The meeting is asked to endorse capital bids for a range of items, such as street lighting and CCTV installation, again with the objective of helping to foster a safer environment.

Transport

Transport issues this year have been dominated by the proposals for a one-way IDR. The Traffic Orders were confirmed by the Borough Council on 19 March 2007. There has been further public information on the North Area Access Study giving some pointers on the strategy from 2006 onwards. Communication on transport issues has been particularly disappointing in contrast with our positive experience with most other Council departments. There have been many improvements in bus services, though significant gaps remain.

Licensing

The first round of applications under the new licensing laws has been completed but we continue to monitor any new or revised applications. We worked with the Warren and District Residents Association on the application from Reading Festival, attending the License Hearing and the post Festival review.

Communication to Members

The new website was launched in the autumn and we would like to express our thanks to Edge Impact Consulting who have provided the expertise and software for us free of charge. The website aims to provide up to date information on a range of issues in Caversham with an easy link for further information. Almost half of our members are now on email and this gives us the opportunity to contact those members as issues arise and to seek members' views. If you have email and are not receiving emails from us, please contact us at info@cadra.org.co.uk. We continue to distribute two newsletters a year and contribute an article each month to the 'Caversham Bridge'.

Support from Members

In addition to those who serve on the Committee, we welcome help from a number of members who support our work. Mick Simmons now handles all membership administration and Jo Munday organises the distribution of newsletters twice a year. Analysing the planning lists to produce a summary of planning applications each month is an essential task and Liz Killick has recently joined us to support Ruth Perkins with this. We would like to record our thanks to everyone who supports our work including Herald Graphics, now providing printing services for us at cost. We would still be interested to hear from anyone who can offer design or marketing expertise. Most importantly, we would like to hear from anyone who would be interested in being co-opted on to the Committee which meets once a month.

Membership

Our membership now stands at around 550 households. Inevitably some members move away from Caversham and it is always important to recruit new members. Membership leaflets are available on request or from the Library, Wordplay and Bangles. The stronger our voice, the more impact we can have on local decisions. Please do encourage your friends and neighbours to join.

Helen Lambert, Chairman