

Caversham and District Residents' Association

Annual General Meeting Tuesday 7 May 2013 - Chairman's report 2012/2013

Planning

The committee continues to monitor local applications and to post a monthly summary on the website. We are grateful to Mo Prins for undertaking this painstaking research every month. We are very pleased that Liz Killick has joined the committee, bringing her experience to bear in examining many of the local applications. Liz has also reviewed and updated much of the information on the CADRA planning page: www.cadra.org.uk/planning.php

Development in Caversham remains limited, so the impact of the new national and local planning policies is not yet apparent. The South Oxfordshire application to extend gravel working along the east of Henley Road towards Shiplake has still to be decided; the latest reports indicate a committee hearing in June.

The Chazey Court barn, built around 1611, is the only Grade I listing north of the river and is extremely unusual in that it remains largely unchanged. CADRA submitted a detailed report to the Council concerning the worrying deterioration of the barn which is on the English Heritage at risk register. Other local and national groups have also raised concerns. We await a reply.

Transport

CADRA continues to be represented at the Transport Users Forum by Paul Matthews, a Transport Consultant. We are fortunate to have Paul as a member of the committee as well as support from John Lee. This is a busy area with the Reading Station project and associated road works, the Sustainable Transport Project including a new pedestrian/cycle bridge over the Thames and the smaller projects including resurfacing and revised road layouts. We continue to maintain contact with Reading Transport and are often consulted on reviews of bus routes and timetables.

Local Policing

The two Neighbourhood Action Groups, covering upper and lower Caversham, continue to meet regularly, chaired by Mike Gilbert, CADRA and Dave Lockett, former Councillor for Caversham Ward. CADRA is regularly represented at both groups by Mike Gilbert or John Roach who have also provided a regular link to the Police team. Both groups will soon be conducting surveys to review local priorities. With the local Inspector now covering a wider area, we are particularly pleased to maintain close links with Sergeant Scarrett who knows Caversham well. We are able to support the local team by sharing topical issues with our membership and the wider community.

Licensing

New applications in Caversham remain infrequent. As in previous years, we have attended meetings with the Reading Festival organisers.

Mapledurham Pavilion

Stewart Bolton, CADRA Treasurer continues to attend the Management Committee. Sadly, there is not yet any positive news on grant applications but we congratulate our friends at WADRA on their successful fundraising programme. The next major event is the Summer Fete on Saturday 22 June 2013.

Caversham Centre

The Caversham Traders Association have worked hard to get improvements in the village and to build up their website www.chooseCaversham.co.uk which also supports groups and charities. We are fortunate to have so many independent local traders in Caversham, many of whom have won awards thanks to their loyal customer base.

Schools

Following a well attended CADRA open meeting, in October 2012 about the severe shortage of places, a number of parents formed a group to apply for a free school. A decision from the Department of Education is due this month.

Caversham 100 Years On

The project formally came to an end on 1 February 2013, with a celebration in Caversham Library to thank the many different groups and individuals who took part or gave their support. It was a happy occasion with so many people coming together and the project's achievements were applauded by the Mayor and a representative from the Heritage Lottery Fund which awarded the grant.

Over the last year, CADRA has been responsible for the completion of the new Heritage Map, now in place on the railings of Caversham Library and for producing the accompanying leaflet which is on sale in the library. The book of local exhibitions was reprinted and can still be ordered through WordPlay, though stocks are depleting. CADRA worked on a joint project with Historypin and Highdown School where pupils 'pinned' pictures of Old Caversham on the Historypin website. In September 2012, CADRA and the Friends of Caversham Court Gardens worked together to lead Heritage Walks around Caversham during the Heritage Weekend. The walks booked up quickly and additional walks were offered. This is to be repeated in September 2013. We congratulate the Friends of Caversham Court Gardens on the production of the new Heritage Guide to the gardens, which brings together a considerable amount of research on the gardens, the houses and the people who lived there.

The web page, Local History which was built up on the Caversham 100 years on website is now being maintained on the CADRA website, thus providing easy access to many sources of pictures and information about Caversham's history. www.cadra.org.uk/history.php

Caversham Bridge Newspaper

Members of the committee write the column 'From the Lookout Post' which appears on alternate months. Copies are on sale in WordPlay or you can subscribe for just £3.00 from 947 1370 or email cemoloney@yahoo.co.uk

CADRA website

The revised website went live in August and we are very grateful to Ann Goodridge for all the work she has put in to achieve this. We would also like to thank Edge Impact for their help and support.

Membership

Organisations like CADRA need a substantial membership to remain strong. A problem many groups face is the difficulty of securing renewals. We have tried to ease this giving the options of bank transfer or standing order though we still accept cheques - where possible to cover three years membership. New members can sign up via the website or by using a membership form which is available from the library, WordPlay or Delicious. We are very grateful to Jacque Tomson for looking after membership arrangements as well as sending and receiving emails on behalf of CADRA.

75% of our members now use email and this is the main method of communication with members. This includes a link to each newsletter as it is produced. (General access to the newsletter via the website follows some months later.) Members not on email receive copies of newsletters by post.

We hope you find the occasional emails helpful. Our aim is to pass on useful information without overloading you. **Please let us know if you change your email address.**

CADRA committee

I am extremely grateful to all members of the committee and the committee support team for all their support through the year and particularly to Mike Gilbert who the committee appointed as Vice-Chair. Every organisation needs new blood and we would be delighted to hear from anyone who could offer support in some way so that Caversham can always be *a Great Place to Live!*