

Caversham and District Residents' Association

Chair's report 2022/2023

We are delighted to be able to meet with members and to share the highlights of another busy year. The team will also be in Caversham Court on Saturday 8 July for the Church Fete.

Planning

This remains a major part of our work. We update members by email after each committee meeting and provide a summary for the Caversham Bridge. Our planning list is shared with other groups and via the website, giving links to both CADRA comments and the full plans.

There have been multiple documents for the design of homes on Reading Golf Club and to discharge the many conditions. Harvey Smith and Neil Parker have followed these complex documents and drafted detailed comments. CADRA met twice with Vistry to press concerns and will assist them keeping local people up to date. A major concern is the Construction Method Statement including provisions for construction traffic. After speaking at Planning Committee, we have been in continuous correspondence with Councillors, and our MP.

5G masts have been a continuing issue. The website has a separate list, along with some notes of guidance. Revised plans for Caversham Park have yet to appear and a decision on the large retirement complex on Henley Road is due next week. Across the river, major changes are ahead with Rivermead Leisure Complex moving to completion, Riverside Academy, Carters and Drews and the three major schemes north of the station. Across the Oxfordshire border, the next steps for Caversham Lakes are still unclear.

Changes nationally will impact on Local Plans; the Levelling Up Bill will impose a 35% uplift on housing numbers for Reading. A review of the Reading Local Plan currently includes a *Call for Sites*. A Preferred Options Paper is due this summer for the joint Local Plan for South Oxfordshire and the Vale of the White Horse. Any change in the AONB boundary would impact on both Local Plans.

Local Heritage

CADRA remains active on the Conservation Area Advisory Committee providing important links to Senior Planning Managers and the Conservation and Urban Design Officer, as well as a strong informal network across Reading. Reading Bridge will mark its centenary in October this year and we have just completed a booklet to mark its history. And we have applied for the bridge to be Locally Listed. Caversham Bridge opened three years later; as it now falls within the St Peters Conservation Area, it already holds equivalent protection.

Emmer Green

We have welcomed many new members from Emmer Green, including those who have joined the committee and the wider support team. As well as all the work around Reading Golf Club, there has been the republished book, *Emmer Green Past and Present*, available from Fourbears. Copies were donated to schools and libraries. We plan to repair the timber

on the Community Noticeboard, we are pressing for new locations for bottle banks and the CADRA website now includes new sections for Emmer Green. There is always more to do, and we are keen to link in with other organisations and individuals.

Caversham Centre

Caversham Traders Association remains very active and an important link for CADRA. Expected changes in the centre include new signage for Waitrose and changes to Church Street opposite Waitrose. The revised application for 3 Prospect Street is still undecided and we await news on the two triangles of land which both had advertising hoardings.

Transport

The *principal list of requests for Traffic Management Measures* includes over 20 items north of the river, almost all arising from local petitions and surveys. These all require funding.

Safer Caversham

The North Reading Safer Neighbourhood Forum is particularly important while police staffing is such an issue. Jill Dibben and Neil Tayler attend for CADRA.

Website and Facebook

The CADRA website is regularly updated by Malcolm Pemble and is a useful source on many topics from planning to local history. More up to date news is shared on both the CADRA Facebook Page and the Emmer Green Residents Page.

Caversham Bridge Newspaper

We strongly recommend this monthly community paper which can be delivered to your door for just £5 a year, or you can view the paper online at www.cavershambridge.org

Membership

A substantial membership keeps CADRA strong, so new members are always welcome. Our membership secretary Adrian Goddon will be pleased to help. We offer different methods of payment to suit, and most things can be done online if you prefer. At £3 a year for the household, we hope you feel it is excellent value to keep you in touch and to support our work. Please can you: let us know if you are changing your email address; look out for CADRA messages going to Spam; let us know if emails are not reaching you. Members not on email receive paper copies of newsletters. <https://membermojo.co.uk/cadra/signin>

And finally ...

I pay tribute to the work of all the committee, and to the support team and thank them for all their work through another year. We are always keen to hear from anyone who could offer support in some way so that Caversham – and Emmer Green - can always be a **Great Place to Live!**