

Caversham and District Residents' Association Annual General Meeting Tuesday 20 June 2017

Chairman's report 2016/2017

Celebrating 50 Years

CADRA was formed in 1967, largely around concern over the building of the new precinct. Across the country, it was a time of change with a growing awareness of the need to recognise and protect local heritage and for local communities to work together. Since then, CADRA has followed and sought to exert a positive influence on progress and change in Caversham. Around 2000, a review was completed, including adoption of a new constitution. Since then, the newsletters have developed, a website and Facebook page have been established and the informal network, locally and across Reading, has continued to develop.

2017 is a year of golden anniversaries and CADRA joins, among others, the creation of Conservation Areas, the Watermill Theatre near Newbury and the Beatles album 'Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band'. So CADRA will celebrate '50 years ago today' at the meeting on Tuesday 17 October when we will welcome Dr John Evans to talk about 'Trees in Caversham', cut a cake and drink a toast. There will be a 50th anniversary extended issue of the CADRA autumn newsletter for CADRA members.

Conservation Areas in Reading

The Conservation Area Advisory Committee has completed its first full year. With representatives from across Reading, including several from Caversham, the voluntary team has reviewed individual planning applications and embarked on the reappraisal of the fifteen Conservation Areas. St Peter's Conservation Area was the second to be undertaken. The final draft is now complete and will be launched at the Church Fete in Caversham Court on Saturday 8 July.

This has been an extensive piece of work and we are grateful to Kim Pearce, John Nicholls, Liz Killick and Vickie Abel. We are fortunate to have such relevant skills and experience.

Reading Local Plan

The revision of the Local Plan has significant implications for Caversham as it sets out the policies under which individual planning applications will be judged and how Reading will meet the need for new housing. The Conservation Area Advisory Committee have worked to help shape the policies to protect local heritage. This has included a detailed analysis of significant views with heritage interest and many of these are expected to be formally included in the new Local Plan. Much of this excellent work has been undertaken by Kim Pearce.

Planning

The Committee continue to monitor applications in and adjacent to Caversham. We have commented on plans including the Extra Care Housing on Albert Road, the old BMW site, the Rivermead extension and changes to the Spice Oven. We have worked with other groups on the application for housing on the border with Emmer Green which we are very pleased to note will be refused. We are grateful to Mo Prins who researched and compiled the monthly summary of applications from 2009 to 2016. We are glad to welcome Malcolm Pendle who has kindly taken this on.

Transport

The committee has been following progress on a range of issues including a third Thames Crossing, the Highmoor Road junction with Albert Road, the proposed 20mph limit for Caversham Centre, the highway works on Cow Lane and the Caversham Car Club. Other commitments have obliged Paul Matthews to stand down from the committee. We are very grateful for the substantial contribution he has made – not least for the 'Sharing our Streets' project - and appreciate the contribution he continues to make.

Caversham Centre

We continue to work closely with Caversham Traders Association. Look out for their website http://www.choosecaversham.co.uk/caversham_rewards.php Work is underway to renew shopfronts and the surface and tree planting in the square. This is expected to be followed by the new building towards the telephone exchange. Other plans are likely to be subject to change and there is not yet any firm news. Following the consultations on Library Services Caversham Library is now closed all day Monday and on Thursday morning.

Neighbourhood Action Groups

The Neighbourhood Action Group for Caversham and Emmer Green has met at different locations across Caversham. We were very pleased to welcome Alan Wright who attends meetings for CADRA.

Licensing

Following the significant disturbance to nearby residents from the 2016 Readipop Festival, the Licensing Committee reviewed the license and imposed new controls. Reading Festival has applied to increase the number of weekend tickets over the next three years.

The Heights Primary School and Mapledurham Pavilion

The decision on a permanent site the Heights Primary School remains divisive for Caversham. CADRA has continued to remain neutral on individual sites. The pavilion remains closed due to structural problems. Stewart Bolton continues to attend the Management Committee and we await the next stage in the process.

Caversham Bridge Newspaper

Members of the committee write the column 'From the Lookout Post' which appears from time to time. Copies are on sale from the Parish Office in Church House or you can subscribe for just £3.00 p.a. Call 947 1370 or email cemoloney@yahoo.co.uk

CADRA website and Facebook Page

We are grateful to Lloyd Pople for the management of the website and to Edge Impact for their support. On the Home page, you will see a link to the Facebook page with up to date news and links. Anyone can access this page which is reaching an increasing local audience.

Membership

A substantial membership keeps CADRA strong, so new members are always welcome. Subscriptions and renewals can be paid on line by Paypal or credit card, as well by bank transfer or standing order though we still accept cheques - where possible to cover three years membership. Membership forms are available from the library or Waltons Jewellers. We are very grateful to Jacque Tomson for looking after membership arrangements as well as sending and receiving emails on behalf of CADRA. Email is the main method of communication with members.

Please let us know if you change your email address and look out for CADRA messages going to Spam. Members not on email receive copies of newsletters by post.

CADRA committee

I am extremely grateful to all members of the committee and the committee support team for all their work through the year. It has been another busy year but more could be achieved with a slightly bigger team. It has been excellent to have 'new blood' on the team but we are still keen to hear from anyone who could offer support in some way so that Caversham can always be *a Great Place to Live!*