

From the Lookout Post August 2016

June and July saw all sorts of news in Caversham. By the time you read this column, some issues will have moved on or been overtaken by events.

Transport Issues

At the recent Traffic Management Sub-Committee, the Council reviewed a number of crossing points in Caversham. Initial police reports do not suggest that the layout of the road or visibility of the zebra crossing on **Prospect Street** contributed in any way to the accident that occurred on January 11 2016 at the crossing. The report indicated a desire to lower the speed limit in the Lower Caversham area to 20mph and, as part of the review of this zebra crossing, the council would be working with CADRA. Arrangements for a joint meeting should be concluded soon.

At the same meeting, a report acknowledged the need to cross **Gosbrook Road** to reach the new pedestrian and cycle bridge. The committee agreed to develop a detail design, carry out a statutory consultation and advertise the alterations to the parking bays. If there are no objections, then the council will publish a notice for the crossing and make the traffic regulation orders for the changes to the parking arrangements. Any objections at that stage will be reported back to the committee.

The Committee received a report on the serious accidents at the **Highmoor Road/ Albert Road junction**, including a recent death, when cars overshot the Stop signs. It was agreed to look again at the junction with the help of CADRA and the local action group HARC. Arrangements for a meeting are being confirmed.

Council Officers consider that the installation of a zebra crossing in **Rotherfield Way/Surley Row** will best serve the needs of crossing pedestrians. The zebra crossing should be positioned at a point between the junction with Surley Row and the dropped footway crossing that serves the driveways of 37 Surley Row and 69 Rotherfield Way. The Committee authorised officers to prepare a detailed design and, if satisfactory, to install the crossing.

St Peter's Conservation Area

Based on advice from Historic England, the appraisal for St Peter's Conservation Area is to be revised by a community group. You are invited to attend a launch event in St Peter's Church at **4pm on Saturday 16 July 2016** and express your views. Read more at <http://www.cadra.org.uk/conservation-areas.php>

St Martin's Centre

The Planning Committee has approved a request for the development to proceed on a phased basis. Hermes have indicated they are keen to complete the full scheme with some revisions to the area previously envisaged for the Waitrose extension. There is no start date yet but Hermes aim to start with the new five storey building towards the telephone exchange as well as improvements to the existing square including replacement of all the Horse Chestnut trees. Cut back of the Holm Oak by Costa will proceed in two stages.

Extra Care Housing on Albert Road

A2dominion made some minor amendments to their plans which are available at http://planning.reading.gov.uk/fastweb_PL/welcome.asp quoting reference 152277. The application will be considered by the Planning Committee on 20 July 2016.

Although the provision is much needed, there are major concerns over the current plans. Despite some minor changes, the scheme remains

A permanent site for the Heights Primary School

The Education Funding Agency has now made a formal offer to Reading Borough Council, the Trustees of Mapledurham Playing Fields. This will be considered by the Council's Heights Free School Sub Committee on 12 July 2016. The report to the committee indicates that the offer includes "a payment of £1.36m, of which the EFA have attributed £30,775 to the value of the part of The Trust Land which they wish to purchase for the school." The full report is available at http://www.reading.gov.uk/media/5622/Item-4/pdf/Item_4.pdf.