



Round Up - January 2022

A very Happy New Year to all our members. We hope you are keeping well in these challenging times. Your committee has just held our first meeting of 2022 and we have a few items of interest to share with you. As always, please do pass this to anyone who may be interested, and perhaps encourage them [to join as members](#). It is only with membership support that CADRA can be a strong voice for Caversham.

Planning

The formal closing date for the latest planning application for **Reading Golf Club (211843)** was 11 January. However, the Planning Officer has confirmed that responses received after this date *"will continue to be accepted up until the point that the application is determined"*. **That means you still have time to send your comments.** CADRA submitted a [Detailed Response](#). Among other issues, we expressed concern about the secluded play area which would be between two ponds and heavily screened by trees, raising concerns for children's safety and parents' peace of mind.

[Beechcroft Developments Ltd](#), a retirement home provider, have sought opinion from the Council as to whether the size and significance of their [Proposed Development](#) at **Caversham Park** would require an Environmental Impact Assessment screening process. This is not a planning application, but it does provide more information on what is proposed. Plans include: conversion of the main house for 63 assisted living apartments; a 64-bedroom care home to the west of the main house; 33 houses accessed from Peppard Road; 41 new houses and 12 apartments east of the main house; refurbishment and extension of outdoor leisure facilities. We will be sending some comments to assist the Council with their decision.

[River Academy](#) has now submitted an application ([212061](#)) for the secondary school off Richfield Avenue. We have been assessing the expected views of the building, the opportunities to reduce climate change and the measures to minimise car use. We will be sending comments.

St Peters Conservation Area

You may have seen that the triangle of land with advertising boards, next to the old Barclays Bank by the Bridge Street traffic lights, is displaying an advert for the land's sale or lease. This is a prominent site in the conservation area where community groups have been trying for some time to secure improvements. We have made representations to the Council concerning the importance of the site and the need for collaboration.

You may know that **St Peters Church** has been examining how some changes to the interior of the church could allow better access and more flexible use of the space for both the church and the wider community. A consultation is being prepared and we will update you when there is more information.

Safer Caversham

Community Speedwatch is making gradual progress with a small local pilot to test the process. Preliminary analysis of the recent **Community Safety Survey** shows a 15% reduction in the number of people who responded compared to two years ago. Residents' priorities across Reading were drugs, parking, ASB, fly tipping and burglary. Although levels of crime across Reading have increased, burglary has decreased, including north of the river.

Changes to the Highway Code

The updated Highway Code will come into force on 29 January. The most important change is the introduction of a hierarchy of road users, ranging from pedestrians to large lorries or buses. For the first time, the law will require those who could cause greatest harm to others to bear the responsibility of reducing the danger. Also, road users should give way to pedestrians waiting to cross junctions. And we will all need to open the car door with the arm furthest away (the Dutch Reach) so that we have a view of passing pedestrians or cyclists. Public information is still limited but you may find this [Gov UK Summary of the Consultation Proposals](#) helpful.

Climate Income Seminar

Also known as Carbon Fee and Dividend, Climate Income is intended to cut greenhouse gas emissions more quickly and cheaply, while protecting the pockets of UK residents on low and middle incomes.

The [Citizens' Climate Lobby](#) (Reading Group) are hosting a free seminar about Climate Income on **Friday 28 January, 15:30-17:30**. Afterwards there will be a panel for questions and answers which includes Matt Rodda MP, Professor Sir Brian Hoskins (Grantham Institute) and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Ayo Sokale. You can register at [Eventbrite](#).

Did you know that 25% of new cars registered in December were fully electric?