



Round Up - March 2022

As always, please do share this update with anyone who may be interested. There is a lot to share this month.

CADRA AGM and Open Meeting

After two years of events on Zoom, we are looking forward to seeing members in person. Our new venue will be the New Testament Church of God – the old Glendale Cinema - next to Caversham Library. This is a large airy space with plenty of room and we are grateful to the Church for their support. It will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 16 May 2022 and Inspector Sarah Sanderson who heads the local Neighbourhood Team will talk on local policing. The Spring Newsletter will be out in April with more details and the AGM agenda.

Emmer Green Residents Association (EGRA)

We are very sorry that the remaining members of the EGRA committee are unable to stand for nomination at the EGRA AGM on 29 March. Some are due to move away. Unless new people can come forward, the future of the association must be in doubt after excellent work over almost 40 years. We are in close touch with EGRA to offer support and have always welcomed members from Emmer Green.

Roads

Resurfacing work continues. You may have seen the signs for roadworks on Caversham Bridge from 15 March to 15 April. We have reported damage to lights on Reading Bridge and this is being inspected. New 20mph restrictions have been introduced in Tokers Green - [Kidmore End Parish Council](#).

Oxfordshire Local Transport and Connectivity Plan Consultation

The plan seeks to reduce car journeys and the [Consultation](#) is open to 16 March.

Caversham Centre

Congratulations to the local traders who quickly cleaned off an unpleasant spate of graffiti. The traders were also able to assist police in quickly bringing to justice a man following a woman out on a morning run. Charges have also been brought for shoplifting and burglaries in the centre.

The triangle of land between the Barclays Bank building and the Riverside Dental Centre on Bridge Street has been marketed by the Council for lease or rent. A possible digital advertising screen is mentioned, subject to planning permission. Bids have now closed, and we are pressing for updates.

Constituency Boundary Changes

Following the changes to ward boundaries which come into effect for the local elections in May, we now have a second consultation for new constituency boundaries with a closing date of 4 April - [Boundary Commission Proposals](#). All North Reading would be in a single Reading constituency covering the major part of the Borough.

Bean Pole Day

The next [Bean Pole Day in Caversham Court](#) will be on Saturday 23 April 10am to 3pm.

Reading Golf Club

On Wednesday 2 March, the Planning Applications Committee considered a report and an update recommending approval for up to 223 homes. There was a well-attended protest outside the Civic Offices. KEG, EGRA, CADRA and one individual spoke in opposition, and CADRA also sent [Written Comments](#) challenging the recommendation ([See Reports](#)). Cllr. Mitchell spoke to oppose and confirmed that he had requested the Secretary of State to “call in” the application. Cllr. Barnett-Ward raised concerns about traffic through Caversham and the junction by the Last Crumb.

After a lengthy debate the Committee supported approval by a majority vote. The decision will not be confirmed until a series of agreements with the developer have been signed and the Secretary of State has considered whether to call in the application. A final decision is not expected before April.

The agreements detailed in the report and its update include confirmation of financial contributions for specific projects. One is an upgrade to the junction by the Last Crumb including facilitating pedestrian and cycle improvements. Other contributions cover local healthcare, carbon off-setting, open space and leisure facilities in Emmer Green, off-site biodiversity enhancements within the local area and revenue support to bus services for three to five years. These would form part of the Section 106 legal agreement. In addition, developers pay a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). This formula-based charge is intended to contribute to the cost of the supporting infrastructure such as schools and roads. 15% of the CIL payment will be applied to local schemes.

Meanwhile, the previous application ([210018](#)) rejected last July has been appealed. This process is expected to continue, unless the developer decides to withdraw if the recent application is confirmed.

Old Piggery, Gravel Hill, Emmer Green

We have just received notification from South Oxfordshire District Council of a new application for the [Old Piggery Site](#). A [Previous Application](#) for a single dwelling was approved in 2017. A later application for six dwellings was withdrawn. This new application is submitted under the new Permitted Development Rights and comments can only be considered in relation to: transport and highways impacts; noise impacts; contamination risks on the site; and flooding risks on the site. It includes two 5-bedded 3-storey detached houses. Comments should be sent by 30 March.