



CADRA Monthly Roundup: July 2019

As usual, please help by thinking of two or three other people who care about our area and forward this monthly roundup to them.

Caversham Church Fete

The CADRA stall attracted many visitors. The completed graphics for the **William Marshal interpretation panel** were displayed and aroused much interest: fund-raising is going well, the planning application has been submitted and discussions with Council engineers continue about how it should be fixed to Caversham Bridge.

Welcome to New Members

At the fete we also recruited some new members, bringing July's total to nine and our total membership to 487. These new members are most welcome.

Planning

The Council is consulting on amendments to the [Reading Local Plan](#). CADRA is raising a few concerns but welcomes the revised policies on Reading Golf Club and Caversham Park. The former specifies that any development of the smaller portion of the course which lies within Reading is conditional on the remainder staying in golf use. The latter limits Caversham Park development largely to the conversion of the house into apartments (which CADRA would welcome, provided important interior features are protected) and tight control over any limited development in the grounds.

Initial proposals for housing on the former **Drews site** (71-73 Caversham Road) will be displayed at a public consultation exhibition on 24th July, 3.00-7.00pm, in the West End Lounge of Greyfriars Church in Friar St.

Flood Defences

For information on this controversial scheme, visit <https://www.cabfas.org>. CABFAS - the Campaign for A Better Flood Alleviation Scheme - is in continuous dialogue with the Environment Agency (EA) to understand and influence these proposals on behalf of residents. The EA is preparing images of what the scheme will look like and we will circulate details as soon as we have them. This is a huge scheme raising some big issues: for flood prevention and particularly its major impact on the amenity of our precious riverside areas.

Community SpeedWatch

We promised details in our last round-up. Community Speedwatch monitors traffic speed, up to a 40 mph limit, through volunteers. Coordinated by the Police in partnership with local councils and other stakeholders, it is operated by the neighbourhood police and community volunteers, at locations suggested by the volunteers. They work alongside PCs and PCSOs using a radar gun to identify vehicles breaking the speed limit. Registration numbers are entered onto a database and the owner will receive a letter asking them not to do so in the future, which at this stage is a letter of caution. If you are interested in taking part, please let us know and we will pass on your details.

Reading Gaol

This is not only a very important historic building but, if adapted for the right purposes, could be a huge asset in the cultural and economic life of the town. However, there is a real risk that the Ministry

of Justice will simply sell it off to the highest bidder, probably meaning yet more apartments. We again urge all members to sign a petition being run by Matt Rodda MP to try to prevent this - <https://mattroddamp.com/stopreadinggaolselloff>