



CADRA Monthly Roundup: October 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.

Autumn Open Meeting

Have you wondered about the huge amount of development happening, or in the pipeline, around central Reading? Here's your chance to find out more. At 7.45pm on Tuesday 12 November, Thameside Primary School, Harley Road – Richard Bennett, who chairs Reading Civic Society, and Mark Worringham, the Council's Head of Planning Policy, will be speaking on **The Changing Face of Reading** – a timely and illuminating talk.

For this and later events, it would be really helpful if members could put up posters on or outside their homes. If you can help in this way, please reply to this email.

The William Marshal Panel

The illustrated information panel about Caversham's most famous resident is now in production and our aim is to install it on Caversham Bridge well before the end of the year. Many thanks to all who have helped.

Planning

The Inspector's recommendations on the Reading Local Plan have been published: [Reading Local Plan](#). It recognises Caversham as an area with 'low potential for development', as the available land is important for: recreation, landscape and historical value, and because of limited transport, education and healthcare capacity.

One part of **Reading Golf Club** within the Borough is allocated for about 100 homes, subject to a legal agreement on the provision of golf facilities including a clubhouse and other issues. The Club has indicated that it has a developer-buyer for all the Reading section, subject to planning and is looking into ways of creating a nine-hole course on the land in South Oxfordshire.

South Oxfordshire's Local Plan is in some turmoil. Their Cabinet decided on 3 October to recommend withdrawing the emerging plan and challenge the housing numbers. There is a continuing high level of correspondence. See the [Local Plan Details](#). The absence of a plan makes the area more vulnerable as appeals into refusals of planning permission and thus raises concerns along our northern boundary.

There is a public exhibition of proposals for the **Vastern Road SSE Offices** site on Tuesday 5 October 2019, 3:30pm to 7:30pm at 53-55 (former SSE offices), Vastern Road, RG1 8BU. Following the exhibition, plans will be available at <http://www.vasternroad.co.uk/>

An exhibition was held of proposals for the area by the station, from TGI Friday's to The Range. Dubbed '**Reading Station Park**' by Aviva, this showed 750-950 homes, offices retail and leisure. Here is a link to the preliminary information: <http://www.rssp.co.uk/proposal/>. You will also find a tab, 'Your Views' to send comments.

New Ward Boundaries

The Boundary Commission is drawing up a new pattern of wards to accommodate two more councillors for Reading. They are seeking views on where the new boundaries should be drawn. One issue is whether river, rail or major roads should influence where boundaries are drawn, bearing in mind both the current arrangement for Mapledurham Ward and the population growth in central Reading. The consultation is open until 4 November at: [Boundary Consultation](#). There are no proposals at this stage, but a further consultation will be issued on draft proposals from February 2020.

Bus Stop Real Time Screens

A CADRA member recently asked Reading Buses why so many screens were not working. The reply was that the Council are no longer able to fund or maintain them and the bus company has agreed to take over the screens at the most heavily used stops but the rest will be shut down.

Community Safety

We have previously mentioned that 'Public Space Protection Orders' (PSPO), which restrict various forms of anti-social behaviour, are now in place across Reading. An explanatory leaflet is on the CADRA website at: [PSPOs](#).

A Community Safety Survey has been launched, closing on 15 November, to seek local views on the most serious safety issues. The intention is that the collated feedback will then be ready for the Safer Reading Neighbourhood Forum in January 2020 and will help determine the priority issues for the Forum and local Police. To give your views: [Community Safety Survey](#)

Reading Gaol

The gaol has now been formally placed on the market by the Ministry of Justice, who indicate that they are seeking the maximum return. It 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. Many CADRA members are taking part in a 'Hug the Gaol' protest on Sunday 13 October at 2.00pm. Do join us – you can register here: [Gaol Hug](#).

Caversham Traders Late Night Christmas Shopping Event will be on Friday, 6 December 2019 from 5pm to 8.30pm, with treats, discounts and entertainment. See [Late Night Shopping](#).