



CADRA Monthly Roundup: August 2020

Your committee met via the web this month and this update summarises what is going on. Please share it with anyone you feel might be interested.

CADRA's Committee

Our excellent Treasurer, Colin Hall leaves us this month. We are very grateful to him and send good wishes for his move out of Caversham. We are delighted to welcome our new Treasurer, Jill Dibben.

Reading's Transport Plan to 2036

Last month, we set out our view of some of the issues for Caversham in this draft plan. We have now submitted our [Comments](#). The [Consultation](#) is open to 30 August, so there is still time to submit your comments.

Gosbrook Road/Westfield Road

Work to install a temporary one-way system has been held up by delays in obtaining the necessary equipment.

CADRA Facebook Page

In addition to sharing news from other sources, we are now posting items of general interest on a regular basis and this allows us to reach a much wider audience. You can see these by scrolling down our CADRA news page <https://www.cadra.org.uk/en/News>.

Reading Golf Club

We received notification today that the planning application for land within Reading Borough is now validated and available at [2007138](#). The Club has recently announced that it will not be pursuing development on the land in South Oxfordshire for 'the foreseeable future.'

Balmore Drive

There has been considerable objection to a proposed in-fill detached house. Although the design is innovative, Balmore Drive is a remarkable survivor of an inter-war development, with its overall aesthetic remaining intact and worthy of conserving.

Caversham Telephone Exchange

An application has been submitted for new and replacement antennae on the roof of the extension building, which now lies within St Peters Conservation Area. The new equipment will improve connectivity and reduce the amount of radiation our phones need to produce to get a signal. We will request that additional care is taken to reduce the visual impact wherever possible.

Lights on Reading and Caversham Bridges

Over the past months, you may have noticed issues with lights on Reading Bridge. A number of repairs have been made in preparation for refurbishment. Interestingly, photos and old records show that the globes and fittings are not the originals from when the bridge opened in 1923. A programme of replacement took place in the 1960s. There are some tricky issues to resolve and we are working closely with the Lead Councillor and Ward Councillor to try and secure the best outcome. Refurbishment and conversion to LED is planned for lights on both bridges.

Flood Alleviation Scheme

The Environment Agency has produced a useful summary of work to date which you can see in their [July Newsletter](#).

Reporting Obstructions and Other Issues

In our [July Roundup](#) we shared information on the problem of overhanging branches and hedges which obstruct pavements. Another common problem is pavement parking. Where this causes an obstruction, the Police may be able to take action. For persistent cases please call the non-emergency number **101** or for other parking concerns visit [Reading Parking](#).

On our [Safer Caversham](#) web-page you will find information on how and where to report a range of issues.

Potential Development of Royal Berkshire Hospital

As they consider future development, the hospital is seeking your views. On their website [Building Berkshire Together](#) you will find information on the case for change, initial thinking, and the vision 2025 and beyond. You can then register to express your views. There are some major questions to address and it is well worth reading.

Mapledurham Playing Fields and Pavilion

From a recent update we can report that the new grass is becoming well established but some areas still need protection. Work on the new central footpath is due to start on Thursday 13th August and will continue throughout August and September: installing the path, benches and then the new footpath lighting, before the autumn wet weather sets in. The aim is to plant the avenue of new trees in November. For more information about the overall landscape works see [Mapledurham Playing Fields and Pavilion](#).

The new side extension of the pavilion is taking shape, and new roofs and external cladding are being installed ready for inside work installing new heating and electrics. The internal fit out and decoration will follow.