



CADRA News
Caversham & District Residents' Association
The Voice of Caversham since 1967



Monthly Roundup - February 2021

Covid-19

If you are over 70, or have been notified you should shield, and have not yet heard from the NHS about an appointment for vaccination, you should book one straight away using the website: <http://www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination>, if you are unable to get online, call 119.

Our website continues to provide a vast array of **useful information** during this difficult time: [Covid-19 Local-Resources](#).

Many of us now rely on devices like Zoom to keep in touch with friends, relatives and colleagues. If you need any **help setting up** this sort of facility, or any other on-line resource, it is available free of charge at this useful local website: [Reading Neighbourhood Network](#).

CADRA AGM

We are forced to plan for a virtual event again this year but are exploring the idea of making it more interesting by inviting a guest speaker and/or a 'meet the CADRA Committee' session where members can raise issues of concern. Please let us know what you would find useful.

Nationwide Building Society

The closure of the Caversham branch has been announced, removing the last banking facility of any type from this side of the river, and causing real inconvenience for its many local customers.

CADRA is writing to Nationwide to express concern, and Matt Rodda MP will be meeting their Senior Managers. To add your voice, you can complete [Matt Rodda MP's survey](#) to equip him to argue the case.

You can also: sign an [On-line Petition](#), email Nationwide's Regional Director andrew.westheadoffice@nationwide.co.uk and if you are a Nationwide member, contact them via their [Talkback Web Page](#).

Planning

A new outline planning application for 257 homes on the **Reading Golf Club** site has been submitted. CADRA will be looking at it carefully and commenting. If you commented on the previous application your comments will not be carried forward automatically: if you want your views to be heard, you will need to comment again on the new application: [Application-210018](#). You will find a vast array of documents: [Section 6 of the Planning Statement \(Page 21\)](#) is useful.

The nearly complete 22 storey tower on the former **BMW site** (now "Thames Quarter") at the beginning of Napier Road has recently acquired a bright blue light around its top, which can be seen from all over Reading. We feel this is an unnecessary and unwelcome form of light pollution. The developers have submitted a retrospective planning application for it and CADRA has objected ([Application 210094](#)).

Crime

Shed and garage break-ins have increased by **43% across Reading** this year, and Peppard and Caversham Wards are among the worst sufferers. Bike thefts show a similar trend, so please be vigilant and keep things securely locked up.

Reading Abbey

2021 is **900 years** since Henry I founded the Abbey. Part of the celebration will be to install a missing carved head on the Abbey Gateway. You can help choose whose head that should be at: [Abbey Gate Carved Head](#).