



CADRA Round Up - June 2021

Your committee met again this month on Zoom and has many items to report. Please do share this with anyone you feel might be interested.

Our Virtual AGM

As last year, members were asked to vote online. Many thanks to all who took the trouble to do so. All the motions were carried overwhelmingly.

Planning

It is encouraging that the Government Planning Inspector dismissed the appeal regarding the **Drews building**, recognising the historical importance of the old maltings and the potential impact of a new 7 storey building. The application for 6 houses on the **Piggery, Gravel Hill** has now been withdrawn. The applicant for land at **Reading Golf Club** has been asked to address a number of detailed issues. As a result, the application will not now go to Planning Committee this month, but may be considered on Wednesday 21 July. They have made a separate application to South Oxfordshire District Council for replacement of the 'halfway hut' with a **family golf centre** building and associated landscaping. The **Caversham Lakes** retrospective application for swimming and leisure facilities has not yet been determined and significant concerns have been outlined in the objections submitted. As always, you will find all the relevant links in CADRA's [Latest Planning List](#).

HMOs

Some concerns have been raised about the impact of a growing number of Houses of Multiple Occupation, particularly in terraced housing in Lower Caversham. Change of Use of a dwelling house to an HMO with 3-6 people is now classed as 'Permitted Development' and does not require permission. Licensing of HMOs relates to housing conditions for the occupants but does not address the impact on the neighbourhood. The community in three small areas of Reading have worked to demonstrate evidence of damage to the area and as a result an 'Article 4' was put in place, giving the Council additional controls. If you believe there is sufficient evidence of damage from the number of HMOs in parts of Lower Caversham, please let us know. The appeal concerning the HMO in St Johns Road is in progress.

Safer Caversham

Thefts of bikes from sheds and garages remain a concern. Please watch your security in the warm weather, when doors and windows are open. The Police links maybe helpful: [Leave your home checklist](#) - [Keep burglars out of your property](#)

The Police continue to urge us to report incidences. While it may be helpful to alert others via social media, the police do need information direct. Plans are in hand for Community Speedwatch to be relaunched and we will report back when the scheme is ready to invite volunteers.

Boundary Commission – Parliamentary Constituencies

The Commission has just issued proposals which would mean significant changes for Reading. All of Caversham and Emmer Green would fall within a new [Reading Borough Constituency](#), with parts of West and South Reading falling in neighbouring constituencies. The interactive map is easy to use and comments can be made up to 2 August.

Public Rights of Way

The Council has just launched a consultation on how the existing rights of way ([shown on a map](#)) are used and how they might be improved. They are also seeking evidence of historical rights of way not shown. This might particularly apply to Caversham Park. Consultation closes 24 July 2021 [Public Rights of Way consultation](#)

Tokers Green Lane 20mph Limit

Kidmore End Parish Council has applied to Oxfordshire County Council for a 20mph limit on Tokers Green Lane and Rokeby Drive. We will let you know when there is further information.

Covid – 19

Levels in Reading have increased 5-fold in the last month and surge testing is underway in specific areas. If you would like to know more, there is a community Zoom session with Berkshire Public Health on **Thursday 10 June** 7pm to 8.30pm. You can register at: [Covid 19 Variants & Surge Testing](#)

The [Berkshire Public Health Covid Page](#) is a very useful resource, showing rates in each part of Berkshire on the Dashboard, with more information in their [Detailed Weekly Report](#).

Queens Award for Voluntary Services

Many congratulations to the four Reading organisations who received this award, including Reading Family Aid which is well known in Caversham. [Berkshire Awards List](#)

Older People's Day 2021

Planning is underway for this event on 1 October. Matt Taylor at Age UK would like to hear from any interested groups. info@ageukreading.org.uk

CADRA Online talk Tuesday 22 June at 7.30pm

The talk on Reading Abbey and Reading Gaol is attracting a lot of interest. We look forward to seeing you then. If you have not already registered, please go to <https://tinyurl.com/c4xjusb2>