



CADRA Round up - March 2021

Nationwide Building Society

As we have previously reported, Nationwide plan to close this, the last banking facility in Caversham. CADRA attended a meeting with Nationwide, Matt Rodda MP, Ward Councillors and Caversham Traders. While Nationwide agreed to review their decision, they said they wanted to avoid raising expectations. As things are not looking optimistic, now is the time to add your voice through the channels listed on [Our Website Page](#).

Planning

A regular update on live planning issues can be found on the home page of [CADRA's website](#), under Latest News.

CADRA and many others objected to the vivid blue lights atop the huge development on the former **BMW site**, Vastern Rd, so developers Lochaillort have switched them off.

The refused application for the old **Drews** site on Caversham Road has gone to appeal, the key issues being the retention of the historic buildings and the proposed height. The appeal statements can be viewed with the planning application ([191792](#)).

The environmental impact of proposals at **Blewgarth** on The Warren (Application [201876](#)), is causing concern and attracting a lot of objections for the proposal to demolish the boathouse and build a new one with a leisure building.

A decision on new homes at **Reading Golf Club** seems imminent (Application [210018](#)) and has attracted many objections, including CADRA's. We highlight the impact of significantly more homes than are allocated in the Local Plan, the traffic impacts and criticise the layout. Our full objection is on [CADRA's website](#). Comments are due by 18 March and can be sent to Golfclubcomments.planning@reading.gov.uk.

An application for a big extension to **87 Balmore Drive** (Application [231230](#)) is causing local disquiet, not least because of its impact on the area's appearance, which is harmonious and well-preserved. Here and elsewhere, it would be a good idea for residents of such areas to prepare a brief analysis of the history and architecture which makes their area special, to help them when responding to threats to its character.

A lot of concern continues about the enlarging of paintball activity in **Chazey Wood**, cutting off a popular walking area for Caversham residents. CADRA has written to the owners, the Mapledurham Estate, setting out these worries and asking for access to be allowed, especially at bluebell time.

CADRA AGM

As restrictions continue, we will conduct the AGM as we did last year, by emailing members a notification of the meeting, officers' reports and an invitation to vote on any decisions, including election to the Committee. Separately, we also hope to arrange an on-line talk about Reading Abbey and/or the prison in this 900th anniversary year of the foundation of the Abbey.

Policing and Safer Neighbourhoods

Thefts from sheds and garages continue – be vigilant.

Hospital Update

The Royal Berkshire Hospital needs your views on its [Developing Modernisation Strategy](#).