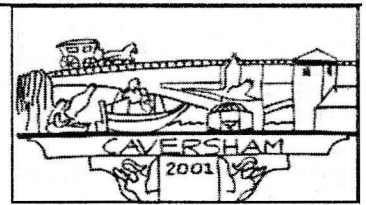


A Welcome from CADRA in 2006

Volume 6, Issue 1, March 2006
www.cadra.org.uk



CADRA news

Caversham And District Residents' Association

Consultation documents are continuing to keep CADRA well occupied. Reading Borough Council is in the process of replacing the old Local Plan with the new Local Development Framework, produced in different sections. The relatively dry documents cover some far reaching decisions for the pattern of future development in Caversham as well as Reading.

The latest section to emerge - the Reading Central Area Action Plan—does not only examine options for how the town centre should be developed but includes many issues of importance to Caversham. Lookout for consultation documents in the libraries and be sure to have your say.

The increasing proportion of our members who use email, means that we can keep them up to date with

details of how to respond to the most significant schemes. It would be useful to know whether you think we have got the balance right.

A new form of consultation, which is very welcome, is the move for construction companies to

contact key individuals and associations before they submit planning applications for large or contentious schemes. We hope that by being involved at an early stage, we can have more influence on the final outcome.

Consultation on transport plans has been another thorny issue and forms the subject of our public meet-

ing following on from the AGM. We are pleased to welcome Pat Baxter who as Transport Strategy Manager, has an intimate knowledge of the various proposals and will be able to talk about the predicted impact on Caversham and Reading.

Following on from our public meeting last autumn with Inspector Graham Dix, the level of burglary in Caversham remains worryingly high. The local police team are launching a large crime reduction initiative from 1st April in Caversham. They will be knocking on doors and offering a 15 minute crime prevention survey. We would like to extend a warm welcome to PC Sally Jenkins who has taken over the Lower Caversham patch.

Progress on a way forward for Mapledurham Playing Fields remains tortuously

slow and there is still very little to report.

And finally, we would like to pay tribute to an exceptionally longstanding member of the committee. Marian Fallowfield has been a committee member going back close to the original formation of CADRA in 1967. For many years she has quietly and unassumingly organised all the membership arrangements, a growing task as membership continues to increase. She has finally decided that the time has come to pass on the mantle. We will all miss her and join in wishing her health and happiness.

Helen Lambert

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2006 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 26TH APRIL

At the BAPTIST FREE CHURCH CENTRE, PROSPECT ST. at 7-30pm

Please try to attend this meeting in order to vote for members of the Committee

followed by Pat Baxter (RBC Transport Strategy Manager) speaking on Transport Issues

Are Reading's traffic jams going to disappear? How will traffic in Caversham be affected?

A number of transport consultations or 'publicity initiatives' have taken place over the last year. These include The North Area Access Study, the Future of the IDR, and the Local Transport Plan. How did we as individuals respond, and will note be taken of our views?

Reading's Local Transport bid to government for the next five years includes a number of key features:

M4 junction with the A33 a bid at £64m (£250 per resident?).

Reading Station £77m.- more than my season ticket , so maybe it will fix some of the problems!

Third Thames Bridge only included for a study as yet. Oxfordshire have agreed to co-operate with a parallel bid, so that is a step forward. We should see the options and implications, if they are published openly.

Cow Lane Bridges and Portman Road have a bid for £12m, so possible joy or grief depending on how much more traffic from Tilehurst floods onto Caversham Road.

The IDR (Inner Distribution Road) is one of Reading's landmarks, in some parts ugly, but taking traffic away from the town centre. The proposal to make it one-way at a cost of £8m is predicted to

reduce traffic jams. Will it? Are existing delays really on the IDR or are they mainly at Caversham Bridge, Cemetery junction or the Oracle car park entrance? Most journeys into or through town will be longer and more difficult to plan. The one-way is intended to deter through traffic, but can it do this without affecting local people, who form the bulk of the traffic? Resolve some of the existing problems, yes, but spend £8m on Reading Roulette and who will be the losers? Bus users may benefit as contra flow bus lanes are intended under both railway bridges.

Mass Rapid Transit The LTP include proposals for a network of Mass Rapid Transit routes. These appear to be up-market buses not trams but proposals are unclear as yet. The bid of £107m is for the whole of Reading.

Park and Ride proposals are included for Henley Road and Woodcote Road. These may reduce the traffic from Oxfordshire but will not help Caversham residents much, unless they stop on-route.

There are alternative possible solutions to challenging the traffic problems that have not been raised in the LTP. For example: spending more on walking and cycling schemes and green travel plans, might bring results without costing so much. CADRA has raised most of these points and questions in our responses to the Council.

Bugs Bottom

John Lee

On 6th March, a corner of The Grosvenor was packed with local residents discussing issues relating to Bugs Bottom. This was effectively the first meeting of the 'Friends of Bugs Bottom'- following on from the Bugs Bottom Action Group.

As well as the long-term future of Bugs Bottom, problems such as motor-cycles, dogs-mess, and littering-youths were discussed. While different views were expressed, there was general unity about looking after the future of Bugs Bottom.

It was agreed to have clean-up work-parties on 19th

March, as part of the Cleaner Reading initiative. This was done last year, and should be an annual fixture. Future meetings were agreed, with the next one being at The Grosvenor on 3rd April. A range of actions and initiatives will follow, including pressing Reading Borough Council for minor improvements and producing better information about the valley.

Anyone interested is welcome to these events. Look at www.Caversham.org.uk or contact John on 9483509 for further information.

Reading Buses

John Mullaney

By the time this newsletter goes out we should be seeing the benefits of improved bus services to Caversham. The 44 and 45 routes will be replaced by new services 23 and 24 which will reputedly also run on Sundays. However sadly, despite active lobbying by Ward Councillors, we are told that for 'commercial reasons' the number 9 route will not run on Sundays in Caversham. Likewise there are no plans to schedule a bus route into Caversham centre from Lower Caversham.

The good news is that from the 1st of April the buses will be free after 9.30am, and half fare before, for anyone over 60.

Were you aware that there is a ticket called the 'Reading Busabout' which is available for unlimited travel on Reading Buses on the day of issue? The prices are:- £2.50 per adult or £5.00 per group, (up to two adults and two children or one adult and up to three children).

Just about all the applications for variations in Licensing hours have now gone through within the Caversham area. Letters of objection were sent when local residents felt threatened by extended hours. CADRA made spoken representations on several occasions. In one case it was necessary to act as a Council witness in an appeal hearing at the Magistrates' Court. In fact, in the event, an out of court settlement between the pub and the residents was amicably reached.

So what has been the effect of the extended hours? CADRA is keeping a watching brief but we depend on you to keep us informed. To date we have heard of some infringements but no appeal to the Council has yet been made, so we have to assume that things are settling down. The real test will come in the summer when, with warmer weather, there will be the temptation for pubs to open

doors and windows and people will more readily congregate outside after closing time.

But this is where the new Licensing Law differs significantly from its predecessor. No longer do residents have to wait for police action, suspicion of criminal activity or serious breach of the law. The Licensing Authority is now the Council and, with reasonable cause, any resident can call on the Council to revoke the License variation. It is sufficient for the pub to breach any its Licensing conditions, to ask the Council to review the Licence. So if you do have any concerns please phone the Council and ask for the Licensing Section. If you would like CADRA's help do contact us. CADRA has worked very closely with the Council Licensing Section and the Environmental Health Department and we are more than happy to give advice on procedure.

Planning Issues

Jennifer Millest

CADRA continues to monitor the weekly lists of planning applications and to comment on proposals of significance to Caversham. We consider the density, height and general appearance in relation to the locality, the space and planting around the proposed buildings and the impact on the local infrastructure. For developments in areas where there is a local residents' association, we do so in consultation with them, as for example in Emmer Green, Mabledurham and private estates.

We have been pleased recently to be invited to take part in pre-application consultations initiated by Bewley Homes on their latest proposals for 75 dwelling units on the laundry site in George Street and by TA Fisher on their proposal for

56 units of sheltered accommodation in School Lane Caversham, backing on to Wolsey Road.

The current proposals for the George Street site consist of a terrace of 8 houses, two 4-storey and one 5-storey block of flats and are a great improvement on the previous applications. We do still have concerns, which we have expressed, especially in regard to the height of the tallest block.

The proposals for School Lane appear to be considerable over development of this previously undeveloped site, leaving no room for soft landscaping or flood compensation. We hope the developer will re-think this.

We have also taken part in various of the Council's consultations on more strategic planning matters. The latest is the **Reading Central Area Action Plan**, which is part of the Local Development Framework.

Do not be misled into thinking that this is not relevant to Caversham. The boundary encompasses Caversham Bridge, Christchurch Meadow and De Montford Island, Reading Bridge, Hills Meadow, View Island and Caversham Lock Island, as well as Kings Meadow and the River Thames from Caversham Bridge to the Kennet.

Look out for consultation documents in the libraries and for drop-in consultation events.

Can you help?

As demands grow, CADRA is seeking your help.

We are looking for one or two people with a home computer and email who would be willing to lend support to 'back of house' activities which could include membership administration, processing of emails or maintaining and developing the web-site. Except for the web-site, this would not require high level computer skills and help is available with anything unfamiliar.

We would also welcome anyone who would be interested in becoming a co-opted member of the committee and perhaps developing a particular area of interest in maintaining and developing the quality of life in Caversham. If you might be interested, please contact the Chairman or Secretary — see details on back page.

About CADRA

The Committee

CADRA Honorary President:

Molly Casey, 14 Albert Road,
RG4 7PE Tel: 947 2300

Chairman: Helen Lambert,
5 Derby Road, RG4 5HE
Tel: 947 3165

Treasurer: Stewart Bolton
11 Graveney Drive, RG4 7EG
Tel: 948 2687

Secretary: Linda Watsham
159 Kidmore Road, RG4 7NJ
Tel: 947 8744

The Purpose of CADRA

The organization was established almost 40 years ago and has become a widely respected voice for the community north of the river. Our aim is to: *"preserve and enhance the quality of life in Caversham and the surrounding District."*

In essence this means trying to keep the good parts, improve the undesirable parts and prevent detrimental change. We resolutely avoid party political bias and work closely with Reading Councillors and Officers, other local groups, the Police, companies and individuals.

To be effective, we have to be able to hear our members' opinions and reflect their views. In addition to a range of informal links, we issue two newsletters a year and hold two public meetings.

CADRA Membership

At just £2 per year per household, membership of CADRA is a bargain! Membership leaflets are available in Caversham Library, Wordplay and Bangles Please do encourage your friends and neighbours to join.

If you would like to contact us, please write to the Secretary, or better still, use e-mail:

CADRARG4@yahoo.co.uk Letters/emails for publication can be sent to the Chairman.

For urgent matters only, officers' telephone numbers are given, but please use them with consideration.

Caversham Neighbourhood Police

Inspector Graham Dix and Sgt Warren McKeown
PC John Finnerty - Caversham Heights
PC Chris Manneta - Emmer Green & Caversham Park Village
PC Sally Jenkins - Lower Caversham
Web-site www.thamesvalley.police.uk

Police 'Surgeries' at Church House, 1st Monday of the month 5pm - 8pm.
To report crime, suspicious incidents and to contact individual officers call 0845 8 505 5050 or email police@thamesvalley.pnnn.police.uk

In an emergency or if a crime is being committed call 999

Reading Borough Council

www.reading.gov.uk , gives information on a wide range of issues including planning applications.

Switchboard	0118 939 0900
Call Centre including Refuse Collection, Graffiti Removal	0800 834 035
Planning permission & enquiries, Licensing, Road Safety	0800 626 540

The Annual General Meeting
on **Wednesday April 26th 7:30 pm.**
at the **Baptist Free Church Centre**
Prospect Street, Caversham.

Note: Only paid-up members of CADRA may vote at the AGM

AGENDA

1. Minutes of 2005 AGM
2. Chairman's Annual Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Election of Committee
5. Any Other Business (items advised in advance only)

Committee: Retiring and Co-opted Members

Under the rules of the Constitution, Marian Fallowfield, James Frost and Jennifer Millest will retire at the AGM. James Frost and Jennifer Millest have indicated their willingness to stand for re-election.

John Mullaney, who has been a co-opted member of the committee for the past year, has expressed his willingness to stand for election

Nominations for the Committee

Any member may be nominated for election to the Committee at the AGM, subject to the conditions in the Constitution. The Nominee must have a proposer and seconder who are both members. Please use the form below and return the completed nomination to the Secretary no less than 14 days before the AGM.

Nominee: *I am willing to serve on the Committee of CADRA, carry out duties as agreed and to act at all times in the best interests of CADRA and its members.*

Name Signature & Date

Proposed by Seconded by