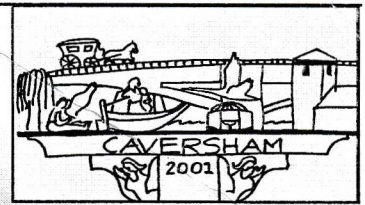


A Welcome from CADRA in 2004

Volume 4, Issue 2, November 2004



CADRA news

Caversham And District Residents' Association

There is no escaping from the fact that planning applications and housing developments are the main focus of attention at the present time. From the larger schemes, such as the Kingsoak site on Henley Road and the proposals for Chazey Court Farm to the smaller infill developments, applications are coming along at an increasing rate. The Berkshire Structure plan proposes, for the four wards north of the River Thames, the addition of approximately 112 new dwellings per year. However we find that over the past twelve months the increase in new dwellings has been more than double this number. Developers home in on any brownfield site - and a back garden is, understandably for some people, an opportunity to take some of the equity out

of their house, perhaps in order to ease a financial situation or to reduce the burden of maintaining their property. However, the rewards resulting from the sale of part of one's garden must be balanced against the subsequent reduction in the value of the property and possible loss of privacy. Our once quiet streets are experiencing the effects of

...development applications are coming along at an increasing rate.

the increase in both moving traffic and parked cars. In making objections to a planning application, CADRA highlights the extra burden on our roads resulting from traffic movements linked with the

higher building density allowed (and possibly required) by current regulations.

CADRA feels that careful consideration should be given to the impact of continued development on the infrastructure of the area, particularly the provision of schools and playing fields, doctors' surgeries and related health services, water supplies and sewerage systems; all of which appear to be lagging behind the rate of development. At a time when large projects are on the horizon and local authorities are trying to meet their statutory obligations on consultations, we feel that there is a growing need for Associations such as CADRA to put forward the views of residents from all parts of the district. With this in mind, our recruitment campaign continues

and we would ask members to encourage neighbours who do not belong to a residents' association to join us.

Our Autumn Open Meeting is concerned with various aspects of planning and both members and non-members are welcome to come along on Monday 22nd. November.

Finally, I would like to thank all the members of CADRA and especially the members of the Committee for their help and continued support.

Tom Chadwick

CADRA OPEN MEETING

MONDAY 22ND. NOVEMBER at 7-30pm
at the **BAPTIST FREE CHURCH CENTRE, PROSPECT ST.**

ASPECTS OF PLANNING

Kieran Roughan & Julie Williams (RBC)

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The Safer Caversham Forum (SCF) includes fifteen different groups: housing associations, police, councillors, residents' associations, a large number of Reading Borough representatives and other organisations. It meets once a quarter to communicate with each other about a wide variety of issues that impact on the quality of life in Caversham. In November, the first of a semi-annual SCF Newsletter will be distributed by Reading Borough Council to all households. In addition to circulating information on key issues, the Newsletter will provide a list of direct line telephone numbers for a wide variety of Council services from pavement repairs to abandoned vehicles as well as key diary dates, such as the monthly police surgery at Church House.

Some matters discussed at the last meeting provide an insight into SCF workings.

The Reading Borough Council street environment manager gave notice that official groups, such as residents' associations, will be invited to apply for a modest scale anti-graffiti kit and a training session on how to use the materials. The intention is to allow smaller incidents to be quickly dealt with, when the remedial treatment is most effective. He also corrected a misunderstanding by stating that no charge will be made on residents for the collection of 'sharps', i.e. drug needles, from private property. Another Council official explained the new licensing arrangements for premises serving alcohol.

The police officer shared the welcome news that burglary statistics

had shown an improvement in Caversham and Reading. This then tied in with a discussion on Anti-Social Behaviour Orders and their application and effectiveness. When trying to define anti-social behaviour, many of us had difficulty in drawing the line between annoying behaviour and that which requires legal measures. We concluded that guiding younger people to suitable activities and sites to 'hang out', engage in sport and even a purpose built and managed graffiti wall, remained important elements of the solution.

My participation in these meetings leads me to reach the conclusion that there is at least a score of dedicated individuals tackling the challenges to the quality of life in Caversham.

Caversham Festival 2005

We are pleased to be able to report that there *will* be a Caversham Festival in 2005.

After the break-up of the original Festival Committee we approached a number of bodies and individuals in the hope of forming a new organising team. The good news is that the Rotary Club of Caversham will be the main organisers of the 2005 event.

One of the biggest tasks facing a new Committee is to raise sufficient funds to underpin this event and the CADRA Committee would be very pleased to hear from you if you can offer financial support, either individually or by sponsorship for the 2005 Festival. Mean-

while, there is much work to be done in making the general arrangements such as determining the venue, booking tents and marquees, producing programmes, liaising with participants and the many other things that are involved in staging this event. We would like to thank the Rotary Club of Caversham for their initial sponsorship and everyone else who is, or will be, involved in this venture. We look forward to holding a Festival (provisionally in mid-September 2005) that is at the very least as good as, and perhaps even better than the two previous hugely successful shows.

Bugs Bottom Action Group

CADRA has been represented on a small Committee set up to investigate how best to use the surplus funds remaining with the Bugs Bottom Action Group.

Discussions have centred on the walks in the Hemdean Valley area. These are described in a leaflet entitled 'Town Trails - No.2, Caversham and Hemdean Bottom' published in

1991.

It was felt that, as a first step, this fascinating and beautifully illustrated leaflet should be brought up-to-date and that the footpaths and bridleways still existing should be clearly marked.

Secondly, improving the entrances and exits to some of the walks would seem to be a good idea. The con-

struction of an orientation table at a suitable point along one of the footpaths is also under consideration. The orientation table would add interest to a walk in this area by pointing out the many interesting features of the area.

Please do contact CADRA with any further suggestions you may have.

Letters

Every time that the wind blows from a generally easterly direction (i.e. between NE and SE), we find a constant procession of aircraft turning over Caversham to make their approach to Heathrow. This produces quite an amount of noise, which during the day is not too bad, but aircraft noise continues well into the night, sometimes to almost midnight, and begins again in the very early hours next day. Night time noise is unpleasant and disturbing, yet I am told that the Government is considering increasing the permitted number of night flights, probably following the completion of Terminal 5. Can CADRA protest on our behalf?

JRP (Caversham Resident)

(Editors note. Windsor and Maidenhead Council have launched a letter writing campaign. Residents should write to the Dept. of Transport, Aviation Environmental Division 2, Great Minster House, 67 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DR or e-mail nightrestrictions@dft.gsi.gov.uk)

My letter that was published in the March issue of CADRA News, about the two lanes of traffic approaching the traffic lights at the top of Prospect Street appears to have borne fruit. I was pleased to see that a couple of months ago, the road markings were altered and the filter traffic light removed. I do feel that this has made things easier for traffic coming down from the Peppard and Henley Roads in addition to lessening the danger at this junction. However, a further improvement to help pedestrians could be made at this junction. There is no point in the traffic lights sequence when a red light halts the traffic moving along all four roads simultaneously. As a result, pedestrians are not afforded a short length of time in which to cross safely. The only zebra crossing is half way down Prospect Street and crossing there can often be risky.

Is it possible that CADRA News can notch up another victory? DC (Emmer Green)

CADRA Profile – Linda Watsham

In the autumn 2003 issue of CADRA News, we introduced the idea of presenting a personal profile in order to make Committee members better known to us. This profile, the second in the series turns the spotlight on our very able and hard working secretary, Linda Watsham. Linda was born in Cambridge and spent her childhood in Reigate, Surrey before going to study Social Sciences at Southampton University. Marriage took her to the Midlands and in fact to Birmingham Children's department where she began her social work career.

Linda moved to Caversham in 1978 when her husband's work brought the family to Berkshire. Here, she took care of the children Tim and

Sarah whilst working part time as a Paediatric Social Worker at the Royal Berkshire Hospital in addition to supporting her husband in his political and community activities. Many residents will no doubt remember the long campaign to save Bugs Bottom run from the Watsham's home in Kidmore Road and Linda's cameo appearance with an ironing board in the Channel 4 documentary about the campaign. With the children grown up and living in London, Linda joined the Caversham Residents' Association Committee in 1999 and soon found herself undertaking the important office of Secretary. She is proud to belong to such a respected and long standing organisation and is anxious

that CADRA should strive to ensure that Caversham does not lose its identity and its village atmosphere.

In addition to her responsibilities as Secretary of CADRA, Linda currently finds time to represent the Sargent Cancer Care for Children as their Social Worker at the Royal Berkshire Hospital and is also Chair of Governors at Redlands Primary School in Reading. She is planning to stay in Caversham for the foreseeable future and hopes to play her part in enabling CADRA to represent the views of residents from all parts of the area.

May Leach

The Committee

We were sorry to learn of the death of May Leach last September. May had been a Committee member almost from the formation of CADRA and we remember her for her acute observations and real sense of humour. May strived to ensure that Caversham should be kept neat and tidy and she was horrified to see ugly notices, graffiti and litter disfiguring the village. She made significant contributions to the work of the Association and willingly gave up her time in helping to maintain the quality of life that Caversham affords.

Reading Voluntary Association (RVA) which is itself a registered charity, helps other charities and community groups of which there are some 300 in the Reading area. This provides a wide area in which RVA can offer its aid, support and assistance. RVA is funded by the Reading Borough Council, the Community Fund, the Earley Charity, Reading Primary Care Trust and a variety of other sponsors. The Association initiates and organises meetings, discussion groups

and seminars and works closely with the local authority on a wide range of issues, projects and plans that affect the local community. I attend the meetings of the Association on behalf of CADRA and it was moving to see, at the last Annual General Meeting, a 'Wall of Words' of over forty letters from both organisations and individuals thanking the RVA for their help and support.

I am also involved with the Reading Voluntary Sector Forum which to-

gether with the Reading Primary Care Trust and the Police and Probation Forum can gain a good understanding of the activities of local groups in fields such as children, the elderly, people with learning disabilities, drug misuse etc.

There is much good work being done by these volunteers and I am pleased that CADRA is represented on the RVA.

Caversham And District Residents' Association

CADRA Honorary President
Molly Casey, 14 Albert Road
Caversham RG4 7PE
Tel 0118 947 2300
Chairman Tom Chadwick
14 The Ridings
Emmer Green RG4 8XL
0118 947 5465
Treasurer Stewart Bolton
11 Graveney Drive
Caversham RG4 7EG
0118 948 2687
Secretary Linda Watsham
159 Kidmore Road
Caversham RG4 7NJ
0118 947 8744

The Purpose of CADRA

CADRA has been in continuous existence for over 36 years and it is widely respected as a voice for Caversham.

We resolutely avoid party political bias. Our aim, quoted in the Constitution, is "to preserve and enhance the quality of life in Caversham and the surrounding district." In Much of our work inevitably relates to planning and issues affecting the environment which involves working with Reading Councillors and Officers, other local groups, the Police, companies and individuals. To be effective, we have to be able to receive members' opinions and represent their views. These Newsletters are an indication of our commitment to this process, but our effectiveness will greatly increase with more members.

At just **£2 per year per household**, membership of CADRA represents excellent value.

Please pass this on to anyone you know who might like to join CADRA

Membership application forms can be obtained from Marian Fallowfield, tel 0118 954 6899

Contacting CADRA

We prefer you to contact us in writing, so that we can give proper attention to your comments and make a considered response. Please write to the Secretary, or better still, use e-mail. Our e-mail address is CADRARG4@yahoo.co.uk Letters for publication can be sent the Chairman.

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

Useful Numbers

Graffiti, Litter & Environment Helpline (Free) 0800 626 540
RBC Call Centre 0800 626 540
RBC Planning 0118 939 0587
RBC After School Clubs 0118 939 0636

Police Sector Acting Inspector Dave Griffiths: 0118 953 6351
Police Sector Beat Office: 948 1290 for:
PC Peter Stratton, Caversham Heights
PC Chris Manetta, Emmer Green & Caversham Park Village

Ward Councillors

Caversham	Andrew Crumpsty	07782 328 925	Peppard	Bob Green	947 7372
	Sue Stainthorp	954 3720		Annette Hendry	947 1510
	Steve Waite	948 2339		Mark Ralph	948 1615
Mapledurham	Fred Pugh	947 2949	Thames	Jeanette Skeats	947 6439
				David Stevens	957 4590
				Robert Wilson	939 0287

Just One More Thing!

Every household should now have a red box for the kerbside collection of appropriate materials for re-cycling. The disadvantage of using boxes is that they can be heavy to carry out, the contents become soggy when wet, while windy conditions distribute the bits and pieces in all directions. Red wheelie bins can help to overcome these problems, provided householders can cope with a red bin sitting side by side with a grey one. There is, at present, a waiting list for these bins, but telephone 0800 625 540 to join the queue.