



CADRA News

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



Climate for Electric Cars

Are you debating whether, when and how to change to an electric car? What are the benefits and challenges for you and for the energy industry? Is an electric vehicle really greener? And how does this fit in to all the national issues relating to energy supply?

Phil Coker, lecturer and member of the University of Reading Energy and Environmental Engineering Research Group, is examining the variability of renewable energy supplies and the challenges in moving towards a low carbon energy system. This includes demand response, energy storage, vehicle-to-grid and hydrogen applications and a series of projects helping the National Grid adapt to the expansion of renewable generation. His research draws on his earlier 15-year career in the UK gas industry.

Anthony Simpson works in Renewable Energy and Sustainability

ONLINE TALK ON

The Climate for Electric Cars

Phil Coker, University of Reading
and Anthony Simpson, Renewable Energy and Sustainability specialist

Wednesday 10 November 2021
7.30pm

Register at Eventbrite
tinyurl.com/4vsmsre2

including the grid integration of electric vehicles with a company listed in the Sunday Times greenest companies. Together, they will address these complex questions. The event

will be held online on Zoom, and you will need to register at www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-climate-for-electric-cars-tickets-177978146427.

Helen Lambert

Recycling

Have you ever wondered what happens to all the items in your red bin? RE3 (<https://re3.fccenvironment.co.uk> and www.youtube.com/watch?v=RdHvR4p8RlM) explains the sorting of recycleable materials at the Material Recycling Facility in Reading. Plastic is sorted on a series of conveyor belts, baled and sent to UK plastic recycling facilities. It is now supported by a new AI-powered waste-picking robot, Recycleye Robotics, the first in this country, which can identify, pick and place materials at a rate of 55 successful picks per minute. In 2020/21, less than 10% of household waste from RE3 was sent to landfill.

Boundary changes

In the last newsletter (https://bit.ly/CADRA_Spring21) we set out the new local ward boundaries with three new wards, each with three councillors, as well as a new ward spanning the River Thames. The next local elections in May 2022 will require the election of all three councillors in every ward.

Following the passing of the Parliamentary Constituencies Act in December 2020, the Boundary Commission began a new review of all Parliamentary constituencies in England, to be reported by 1 July 2023. Initial proposals were issued in June, showing a new Reading BC constituency that includes most of Reading, but with Whitley falling within Earley and Woodley BC. This would be a significant change to the two current constituencies of Reading East and Reading West. The initial consultation closed in August (<https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/2023-review>).

Caversham Library

Caversham Library is back to full opening hours: Tuesday & Friday 9am–5pm, Thursday 1–7pm, Saturday 10am–3pm

Planning

Over the past six months, CADRA reviewed 47 planning applications and sent comments on 16. All the details can be found from the Latest Planning Summary at www.cadra.org.uk/en/Planning#block419

Around Caversham

The most significant news is the refusal of the planning application for housing on the Reading section of the Reading Golf Club. The reasons for refusal centred on issues of open space and ecology in addition to concern over the Kiln Road junction. Caversham Park has been sold to Beechcroft Developments and we await news of the intended retirement housing. Following concern about the height and mass, the application for 60 retirement units adjacent to the new nursing home on Henley Road has been withdrawn. Plans for replacement buildings on the riverbank next to the canoe club have been approved following some changes. Changes and additions to the Happy Diner have now been approved, following the removal of the proposed third storey on Prospect Street. Decisions are awaited on the change of Pipers Island to a three bedroom home and vehicle access to The Moorings, Mill Green. Work is in progress to convert the Priory Avenue Surgery to apartments. CADRA campaigned to retain the exceptional Arts & Crafts interior.

North of the Station

The appeal against refusal to demolish the historic Drews building was unsuccessful, which we hope may avoid a difficult precedent in that area. The appeal against refusal for the SSE site will be held in late October. Issues include the route through to the station, the height and shadowing on the river, living conditions adjacent to major electrical equipment and the loss of a locally listed gatehouse. The other two major applications are still under consideration; CADRA remains

concerned about the relationship between the three schemes.

South Oxfordshire

The application to build six homes on the old Piggery was withdrawn but permission remains for a single home. A decision on the Caversham Lakes application is expected. In addition to the concerns for the nature reserve, residents in Caversham and South Oxfordshire are being disturbed by late night music events, which are outside the opening hours applied for. A new joint Local Plan for both SODC and the Vale of the White Horse is being developed, including a call for new housing sites. Following further consultation, the Kidmore End Neighbourhood Development Plan will now proceed to independent examination. The plan includes important studies on Valued Landscape and the relationship to the AONB.

National Policy

New Permitted Development Rights allow conversion to residential units without planning permission as well as a suite of new rights allowing upward extension or demolition and rebuild of residential and commercial buildings to provide new dwellings. Studies have shown that many of the 'PD' conversions create poor living conditions, and there are widespread concerns. In common with many other authorities, RBC is seeking an Article 4 direction to remove certain permitted development rights that would result in new residential dwellings across the town centre, district and local centres, core employment areas and a number of other commercial areas. This would come into force on 31st October 2022 unless modified by the Secretary of State.

We learn that the expected new Planning Bill is now under review. This had been expected to remove local consultation on planning applications and to introduce new Design Codes.

Chilterns AONB

The Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty starts on Caversham's doorstep; did you know it covers 324 square miles, extending to Hitchin in Hertfordshire? Like Caversham, the towns around it (including London) value it hugely as a leisure resource. It's the only protected landscape with a Tube station! Unfortunately, its unique chalk hills and beech woodlands are under huge pressure, compounded by the unceasing demand for new housing and other development, not least HS2.

The Chilterns Conservation Board is a public body, set up to conserve and enhance the area's beauty. Its Management Plan guides and coordinates Local Authorities and others in this task, influencing the level and character of development, protecting the natural environment and assisting with visitor management. The Board also works hard to secure funding for one-off projects, such as protecting its globally scarce and precious chalk streams, inspiring communities to discover and enjoy the Chilterns' Iron Age hillforts and delivering landscape-scale conservation, and learn about, explore and take action for their local landscapes.

Following a recent national report on protected landscapes, Natural England has announced that it will explore previous proposals to extend the AONB's boundaries and take a look at how the protected landscape is managed. Find more details about this, as well as guides for visitors and event details, on the Board's website at www.chilternsaonb.org

Flood defences

The Environment Agency is nearing completion of the update on the costs and benefits information for the flood alleviation scheme. Once complete, this will be shared via the scheme newsletter and published on https://bit.ly/EA_FAS

Other news

Christchurch Meadows and bridges

The avenue of Lombardy Poplars on Christchurch Meadows has been reduced in height for safety reasons. These trees have a limited life span and it is hoped that the 34 new poplar trees added in 2014 will eventually become the dominant ones along the row.

Christchurch Bridge is to be illuminated for a programme of awareness days and memorial events.

The iconic lights on Reading and Caversham Bridges are to be converted to LED.

Banking

Caversham still relies on the Post Offices for any banking services and CADRA supports MP Matt Rodda in pressing for better provision. We await information on the industry led Community Access to Cash Pilots. The Financial Services Act 2021 should permit shops and other businesses to offer cashback without a purchase. A list of local ATMs is at www.cadra.org.uk/uploads/wysiwyg_editor/files/news/ATM%20list.pdf

Rivermead and Reading Festival

Work on the new leisure centre and swimming pools at Rivermead has begun following Reading Festival.

Disturbance from the Festival was limited this year but there is growing public concern about the huge volume of camping and other materials left on site. Residents' associations are feeding into the review in December.

Local walks

If you enjoy walking, try the Camino in Reading; the guide for modern pilgrims which takes in important sites in Caversham can be found at <https://livingreading.co.uk/visit/outdoor-reading/pilgrim>. Alternatively, the new section of WhatsonReading for cultural and community resources includes links to 20 different walks: <https://whatsonreading.com/exploring-readings-heritage-while-you-walk/existing-walking-routes-reading>

Christmas

Looking ahead, Caversham Traders will hold their late night Christmas shopping on **Friday 3 December**, along with the usual entertainment. The Econet sale of Christmas trees in Caversham Court will be on **Saturday 4 December**, 9.30am–1.30pm.

If you are looking for seasonal projects, the six 'Happy Caversham Christmas' drawings are available to download and colour in at www.cadra.org.uk/en/Special-Projects.

To support Reading Family Aid in providing Christmas gifts this year, you can donate at www.gofundme.com/f/Reading-Family-Aid-Toys-and-Teens-21. Direct donations of new or as-new toys, games or books for children are welcome by arrangement info@readingfamilyaid.org.

Mapledurham Pavilion

We are delighted to see the pavilion open again. The final refurbishment was funded with moneys from the Education and Skills Funding Agency, and thanks to WADRA and Caversham Trents a fully functioning commercial kitchen has been installed. To hire the hall or meeting rooms, email Reading.play@reading.gov.uk.

CADRA committee

Kim Pearce stood down from the committee following his move away from Caversham but continues to provide occasional support. His professional expertise, experience and detailed work have been invaluable to both CADRA and the Reading Conservation Area Advisory Committee. **Jacque Tomson**, who many members will know as our Membership Secretary, is planning to move away from Caversham, and we are preparing for the transition.

Safer Caversham

PC Mike Havers, who has led on local policing issues, leaves Caversham for a well-deserved promotion. He has worked hard for Caversham and will be much missed. We are delighted to welcome PC Vince Moore who transfers from the Reading team. The Caversham team is now managed by Inspector Sarah Sanderson.

The North Reading Safer Neighbourhood Forum brings the police, the Council, and local people together to address problems. Chaired by local resident Nick Haskins, it has a formal constitution which now also includes local traders, who have experienced a significant number of break-ins. Through sharing information and highlighting concerns, the forum has achieved progress in a number of areas. For more details see the Chair's report at https://bit.ly/NRSN_Report_21. Look out for 'Have your Say' meetings in your

area, as well as the next Community Safety Survey.

Travellers were successfully removed from Westfield Recreation Ground. A new Reportable App allows photos to be sent as part of a report on anti-social behaviour. A link to the app can be found at www.cadra.org.uk/en/Safer-Caversham.

CADRA attended the first meeting of the Caversham Multi-Agency forum addressing "Knife Crime and mentoring young people" chaired by Matt Rodda MP. The aim is to build informal networks and foster greater community involvement.

Community Speedwatch is to be reintroduced in Reading from December. A knife amnesty bin has been installed in the Waitrose car park to allow blades to be anonymously and safely handed in.

About CADRA

Our aim is to *preserve and enhance the quality of life in Caversham and the surrounding District*, or, in other words, that Caversham should always be...

...a great place to live!

We work closely with Reading Councillors and Officers, other local groups, the Police, companies and individuals, always avoiding party political bias.

Together, we can make it better.

We issue two newsletters a year, hold two public meetings, write columns for the *Caversham Bridge* local newspaper and maintain a website with information on local issues and links to relevant official websites. The Facebook page (shown on the CADRA homepage) gives up-to-the-minute local news. You do *not* need to register with Facebook.

Contacting CADRA

Please write to the Secretary or better still, email us at info@cadra.org.uk. Please let us know if you change your email address.

Membership

Membership of CADRA is just £3 per year per household. Leaflets are available from Caversham Library or Waltons, Prospect Street, or from the Membership Secretary, Tel: 947 6984. Join or renew and pay online at www.cadra.org.uk/en/Application-Form.

The Committee

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

Treasurer: Jill Dibben (co-opted), 31 Winterberry Close,
RG4 7XA, Tel: 948 3736

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

Membership: Jacque Tomson, 121 Upper Woodcote Road,
RG4 7LB, Tel: 9476984 – expected to change

Website: Lloyd Pople, Upper Woodcote Road

Planning: John Nicholls (co-opted), Sandcroft Road;
Malcolm Pemble, Shepherds Lane

Safer Caversham: Alan Wright, Upper Warren Avenue

Footpaths: Aidan Costelloe, The Warren

COMMITTEE SUPPORT

Transport: Paul Matthews, Albert Road

Planning: Kim Pearce, The Mount

Project Support: Les Killick, Upper Woodcote Road

Informal Links: Jo Munday, South View Avenue;
Mo Prins, Haldane Road

General support: Les James, Wincroft Road;
John Roach, St Peter's Avenue

Newsletter Editor: Helen Lambert

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The opinions expressed are those of the contributors.

Covid-19 useful info

Websites

With pressure on all services, we are all asked to seek information online wherever possible.

NHS ADVICE for everyone:

www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19

CADRA PAGE with links on how to find up-to-date information, offer help, get help and keep life going:

www.cadra.org.uk/en/Covid-19-Local-Resources

BERKSHIRE PUBLIC HEALTH DATA on Covid-19: www.berkshirepublichealth.co.uk/covid-19-dashboard

A wider range of links from **READING VOLUNTARY ACTION:**
<http://rva.org.uk/coronavirus-community-action>

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL SERVICES during this period:
www.reading.gov.uk/coronavirus

GP PRACTICE WEBSITES often show important news:

www.balmoreparksurgery.co.uk

www.emmergreensurgery.co.uk

ONE READING COMMUNITY HUB contact:

https://bit.ly/Hub_contact

Latest news from **HEALTHWATCH READING:**

<https://healthwatchreading.co.uk/news-and-reports>

Phone Numbers

If you do not have internet, these are the important phone numbers:

HEALTH ADVICE (NHS 111): 111

HEALTHWATCH READING: 07786 476 257
9am–4pm, Monday to Friday

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL SERVICES: 0118 937 3787