



CADRA News

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



Local Policing

After two years of virtual AGMs and Zoom talks, we are looking forward to seeing members in our new venue, next to Caversham Library. Through the North Reading Safer Neighbourhood Forum we have kept in touch with Inspector Sarah Sanderson, who heads up local policing in outer Reading, and with her team. She and PC Vince Moore, Neighbourhood Supervisor, have kindly agreed to come and talk after the brief CADRA AGM.

Sarah joined Thames Valley Police in 2007. She originally trained as a solicitor and has since been Team Manager and Captain of a Rugby Team, so she brings a broad range of experience to her role.

Along with other public services, the Police face real pressures. Local policing, in particular, relies heavily on community cooperation. We look forward to hearing more from Sarah about how the teams are tackling the many challenges ahead. All welcome.

Membership Secretary

We wish Jacque Tomson well in her new home. Our new Membership Secretary, Adrian Goddon, can be contacted on 0789 415 0023 (see page 4).



Emmer Green

Emmer Green Residents Association (EGRA) was founded in 1984 following the Bugs Bottom campaign. After so many successful projects, it is very sad that, with the remaining committee members unable to remain in post, the association can no longer continue. CADRA and EGRA have always kept in close contact and have worked together on a range of issues. Most recently,

CADRA, EGRA and KEG collaborated to present local concerns over the land at Reading Golf Club.

Residents of Emmer Green have always been able to join CADRA, which has no fixed borders and has always looked out for the area north of the River Thames. Residents of Emmer Green are warmly welcome as CADRA members. We would like to hear from anyone who might be interested in joining the CADRA team to bring local knowledge or continue practical work in Emmer Green.

Ukraine

Reading Voluntary Action have set up a useful page on what we can do to help at <https://rva.org.uk/article/support-for-ukraine-what-you-can-do>, or you can visit the website of the Reading Ukrainian Centre, <https://rucc.uk>.

Monday 16 May 2022, 7.30pm

AGM & Open Meeting

New Testament Church of God, Church Street
Following the brief formal business:

Local Policing

Speaker:

Inspector Sarah Sanderson, Thames Valley Police

Planning

National Policy

Instead of the expected Planning Bill, a Levelling Up white paper was published in February. Some of the main proposals for planning include simplification of local plans; new models for the infrastructure levy; better support for town centre regeneration; improving democracy and engagement in planning decisions; and supporting environmental protection. Whereas the Planning Bill was expected to remove consultation on individual planning applications, the White Paper commits to 'the ability to have a meaningful say on individual planning applications', which 'will be retained and improved through new digital technologies'. We wait to see what this means in practice. We pay tribute to Civic Voice, the national body for Civic Societies, who have campaigned tirelessly.

New Permitted Development Rights are in place, including conversion to residential. We can already see the impact on planning decisions where the controls are much reduced. A notable example is that areas for bin storage cannot be controlled, and bins can end up on the pavement.

Reading Golf Club

On 2 March, the Planning Applications Committee considered a report and an update recommending approval for up to 223 homes. There was a well-attended protest outside the Civic Offices. KEG, EGRA, CADRA and one individual spoke in opposition, and CADRA also sent further written comments (www.cadra.org.uk/en/Planning#block655). Cllr Mitchell confirmed that he had requested the Secretary of State to 'call in' the application.

The Committee supported approval by a majority vote. The agreements detailed in the report and its update included confirmation of financial contributions for specific projects. These include an upgrade to the junction by the Last Crumb with pedestrian and cycle improvements; local healthcare provision; carbon off-setting; open space and leisure facilities in Emmer Green; offsite biodiversity enhancements within the local area; and revenue support to bus services for three to five years. In addition, 15% of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) payment will be applied to local schemes. The decision was confirmed after the decision by the Secretary of State not to 'call in' the application (211843). The previous application (210018), rejected last July, is set for appeal in June, unless the developer decides to withdraw. The application to South Oxfordshire for replacement of the existing halfway hut with proposed family golf centre building and associated landscaping has still to be determined.

Caversham Park

The plans for Caversham Park are now available for comment (220409 and 2201410). At an earlier stage, CADRA sent comments and shared historical research

with the planners. Historic England had expressed concern that there may be a significant impact on the historic environment by the residential development within the Grade II Registered Park and Garden and the conversion of the Grade II country house. Plans now include conversion of the main building for 64 assisted living units; a new 64-bed care home; retirement dwellings on the car park and by the previous satellite dishes; new housing accessed off Peppard Road; and refurbishment and extension of the pavilion to provide changing facilities and a café/studio supporting facilities for croquet, bowling and tennis.

Riverside Academy

CADRA asked for a more ambitious approach to the climate change mitigation and the establishment of a largely car free school, and also for better landscape screening (212061). We were pleased to see that the Council's Design Panel expressed similar concerns.

Local Applications

Permission has been granted for a reduction of the Holm Oak outside Costa (211915), and conversion of Archway House to residential (220006). Further changes have been permitted for the conversion of the old Priory Avenue Surgery (211625). A mobile mast on George Street (211623) and vehicle access to the Moorings, Mill Green (210544), were refused. Permission has been given for a two-storey detached house at the end of Oxford Street (211478). An application was made for nine homes between Send Road and Forge Close (211739).

North of the Station

Of the three main sites, the SSE site (200188) has been approved at appeal. The Aviva site across Vastern Road (200328) has been appealed because of the delay in reaching a decision and the Council have now indicated they would refuse. The Hermes site on the old sorting office (182252) received broad outline approval on 30 March. It will include 620 residential units with a mix of other uses. The highest building at 24 storeys is next to the northern entrance to the station. Levels step down to 8 storeys on Caversham Road. Design will require a separate application.

South Oxfordshire

Work continues on the new Joint Local Plan 2041 for South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse which will replace the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2035. The call for 'Land and Buildings Available for Change' has now closed.

The retrospective planning application for Caversham Lakes (P20/S5301/FULL) was refused and we await further news. A new application for two 5-bed, 3-storey detached houses and demolition of The Piggery on Gravel Lane (P22/S0339/ND1) was submitted under Permitted Development Rights and can only consider limited issues.

Safer Caversham

PC Vince Moore has taken over as Neighbourhood Supervisor, supported by PCSOs. He has been active in addressing the issue of begging, which was identified as a local priority in the recent Community Survey. Unauthorised Encampments, another local priority, could be affected by the planning decision on a possible transit site for travellers on land at Island Road in Reading ([212037](#)).

Congratulations to the local traders who quickly cleaned off an unpleasant spate of graffiti. The traders were also able to assist police in quickly bringing to justice a man following a woman out on a morning run. Charges have been brought for shoplifting and burglaries as well as two cannabis factories.

Although Ward boundaries change in May, it has been agreed that the Police and North Reading NHPT will continue to cover the existing boundaries including Christchurch Meadows.

Community Speed Watch should soon be operational. The first few

members have been signed up. You can enrol for the online training at <https://communityspeedwatch.org>. The training takes around 45 minutes and is best done on a PC.

Useful police advice on preventing vehicle theft can be found at www.thamesvalley.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/keeping-vehicles-safe/preventing-car-vehicle-theft.

CADRA is represented on the multi-agency forum that addresses knife crime and opportunities for youth mentoring in Caversham with two working groups.

Changes to the Highway Code came into force in January, including a new hierarchy of road users. Road users should now give way to pedestrians waiting to cross junctions, and we must open the car door with the arm furthest away (the Dutch Reach) so that we have a view of passing pedestrians or cyclists. There is a useful table of changes here: https://bit.ly/highwaycode_change

Other news

Licensing

CADRA took part in the annual review of Reading Festival, joining in pressure to tackle the growing quantity of camping and other equipment which is left behind.

Winter Wonderland on Hills Meadow from 12 November 2021 to 3 January 2022 was granted a license for one year, including conditions to prevent undue disturbance.

Recycling

There is a useful explanation of the reasoning behind waste bin collection from the Lead Councillor (www.cadra.org.uk/en/Local-Environment#block649).

Reading Gaol

Following the very generous offer from Banksy, there is still no response from the Ministry of Justice. CADRA joined the Register of Organisations which support the campaign. The 'Save Reading Gaol' poetry competition closed on 31 March, and we look forward to seeing some of the entries.

Boundary Commission

Changes to Ward boundaries come into effect for the May local elections. A new constituency boundary is proposed, with North Reading in a single Reading constituency, covering the major part of the Borough (<https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/secondary-consultation-now-open-have-your-say-on-our-constituency-boundary-proposals>).

Playgrounds

Funding has been approved in 2022/23 for a new play area in Westfield Road Recreation Ground, and for replacement of damaged units in Clayfield Copse skate park.

St Peters Conservation Area

St Peters Church

You may know that St Peters Church has been examining how some changes to the interior of the church could allow better access and more flexible use of the space for both the church and the wider community. A consultation is being prepared and we will update you when there is more information.

The Triangle

The triangle of land between the Barclays Bank building and Riverside Dental Centre on Bridge Street has been marketed by the Council for lease or rent and 'could be reconfigured to accommodate a multimedia digital sign subject to planning permission.' Bids have now closed, and we are pressing for updates as well as assurances on long term protection.

Local Listing

The new policy for Local Listing allows community nominations for Local Listing (<https://bit.ly/rbc-locally-listed-buildings>).

A recent listing, just outside the Conservation Area, is the Attwells Drinking Fountain on Thames Promenade. Unveiled in 1908, it was erected in memory of Frank Attwells, a local businessman who founded a musical instrument manufacturers and piano dealers in 1866, and in 1887 took over the Royal County Theatre, both on Friar Street. He died in August 1892 while Mayor of Reading. His wife Georgina provided money in her will for a fountain to be erected in his memory. Originally it was placed closer to the main road and the old Caversham Bridge Hotel.

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: 0789 415 0023. 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: Adrian Goddon, Nire Road,
Tel: 0789 415 0023

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

Website: Lloyd Pople, Upper Woodcote Road

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.

The Annual General Meeting

Monday 16 May 2022, 7.30pm
The New Testament Church of God, Church Street

NOTE

Only paid-up members of CADRA may vote at the AGM. One household subscription carries one vote.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of 2021 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, Helen Lambert will retire at the AGM and is willing to stand for re-election. There are four vacancies. Jill Dibben and Adrian Goddon, currently co-opted members, are willing to stand for election. John Nicholls wishes to continue as a co-opted member. New co-opted members and support to the committee are always welcome.

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 act at all times in the best interests of CADRA and its members.

Name

Signature & Date

Proposed by

Seconded by