



Round Up - August 2022

Please share this update with anyone who may be interested.

Planning

Planning applications are often approved with conditions. "Discharging" them can require a detailed application of how they will be met. This often involves a statement on Construction Methods including hours of work, delivery routes, control of noise and dust, as well as issues specific to the site. There are several of these this month: **Reading Golf Club**, the **SSE Building** on Vastern Road and **3 Prospect Street** (the former Chinese Restaurant). These applications are open to comment and you will find the links to them in the [CADRA Planning List](#). Construction and delivery for **Reading Golf Club** poses particular concerns and CADRA has commented formally as well as raising concerns with Councillors.

South Oxfordshire has still to decide the planning application for [Caversham Lakes](#) (Henley Road) and Reading Borough Council has submitted a formal objection on transport grounds, commenting that the traffic assessments fail to recognise the range of other activities on the site.

For the large schemes, the appeal decision for the [Aviva Site](#) (TGI Fridays to The Range) is still awaited. The application on [Henley Road](#) for two apartment blocks providing 59 retirement living apartments (next to the nursing home under construction) is still open for comment. We have expressed concerns over its scale, so close to the other one. [Caversham Park](#) is also not yet decided following a robust objection from Historic England. We joined a further meeting with Beechcroft Developments, at the invitation of Matt Rodda MP. Some aspects of the scheme are being reconsidered and we look forward to further discussions.

In **Lower Caversham**, there are several applications to demolish or convert industrial buildings to provide residences. The one for [Onc House](#) on St Johns Road was refused. There are new applications for a demolition on [Wolsey Road](#); and on [Tilbury Close](#), a conversion to studio apartments behind the Henley Road shops. It would be a difficult area to live in, with disturbance from a garage and large extraction fans.

The application to demolish and rebuild the [Henley Road Petrol Station](#), with 24-hour self-service payment, has been withdrawn.

Flood Defences

The Environment Agency has issued [further information](#) confirming that the scheme for Reading and Caversham will not proceed. The flood risk remains and there is information about how to prepare.

A separate scheme for the [Thames Valley](#) is looking at a catchment-wide approach to managing flood risk, and how to support communities where it has not been possible to provide a local scheme. We are meeting the team involved and hope to give further updates.

The Emmer Green Book

The reprint of Emmer Green Past and Present, which includes a new appendix, is now available at [Fourbears](#), price £12 or you can email: emmergreenbookorder@cadra.org.uk.

Reporting Graffiti

We understand that the Council will remove graffiti less than 2m square from private property. Some recent reports to [Love Clean Reading](#) have produced a quick response so do consider reporting. The app allows you send a photo and exact location.

Reading Tree Wardens

The [wardens](#) do an excellent job helping trees across Reading to survive – such a challenge during this drought. If you could offer support or know someone who can, please get in touch with them.

Reading Gaol

The [Petition](#) to the Ministry of Justice to ensure the Gaol's enhancement as an arts centre and preserve its heritage is getting closer to 10,000. Can you help reach the target?

Licensing

Reading Festival is gearing up ready for the Bank Holiday weekend. It is always useful to hear back about successes and problems during the festival, so please let us know. We will be meeting organisers and visiting the site next week.

Winter Wonderland took place on Hills Meadow over Christmas last year. They have now applied for a licence for five years. Last year we raised concerns about noise and disturbance over such a long period and secured additional conditions. Please let us know how you were impacted last year; this will help us submit a response to the new application.

Community Safety

A consultation is open until **5 September** about [Community Safety](#), including issues such as ASB, knife violence and safety for women in public places. Although not a hot spot for crime, Caversham and Emmer Green are not without their problems and we encourage you to respond. There is a separate consultation about [Domestic Abuse and Safe Accommodation](#).