



## Round Up February 2023

Your committee met this week and would like to update you on a range of issues. As always, do share it with anyone who would find it useful.

### CADRA AGM

We soon hope to confirm arrangements for the AGM on **Tuesday 23 May** in the New Testament Church of God, next to the Library. David Cliffe will talk about Reading and Caversham Bridges. This is timely as we approach the centenary of the opening of Reading Bridge. David is a long time contributor to [Caversham Bridge](#), a key figure in the [History of Reading Society](#) and has catalogued thousands of the images held in the excellent collection at Reading Library.

### Planning

Applications to discharge the Conditions for **Reading Golf Club** are progressing. A new [Construction Method Statement](#) has been submitted. There are some welcome changes including:

*Where possible, deliveries will be scheduled to arrive outside of the hours 08:00-09:30, 14:45-15:30 & 17:00- 18:00 to avoid times when children are most likely to be walking past the site to school. .... Should a delivery arrive outside of the agreed scheduled hours, a banksman will be available to navigate deliveries into site safely.*

And also:

*The developer will coordinate with the local school to offer the service of an external trainer to visit and brief the school children on the dangers of construction sites and construction traffic.*

Given Kidmore End Road's particular constraints and the impact on its residents, we have raised the issue with Councillors and our MP, and pressed for tighter controls. You can read the [Full Document](#) and the [CADRA response](#).

The RBC Planning Committee meeting last week approved the plans to demolish the **Carters** buildings on Caversham Road and build 60 homes with a mixture of houses and flats, of which 30% would be Affordable Housing. Councillors raised concerns over cars exiting right across the busy Caversham Road, and this is likely to be considered in due course by the Transport Management Committee. The plans for the Caversham Road **Drews** site ([220922](#)) which will retain a part of the historic maltings building have still to be decided.

A site visit by Councillors is scheduled for March to [Henley Road Retirement Living](#), adjacent to the new Signature Care Home. The revised plans for **Caversham Park**, which were shown at the public exhibition, are not yet on the Council website. A revised **shop front** design has been approved for the previous House of Cards site.

To date, all applications for 5G masts north of the river have been refused. A new application on Caversham Park Road ([230071](#)), near an important veteran Oak Tree, has yet to be decided. We await a decision for the appeal on St Peters Hill. We have produced a [Guidance Note](#) which lists the local applications and the main issues to be considered.

## Local Consultations

The Council now has responsibility for maintenance of the station subway. It plans to increase the height of the ceiling, to allow the ban on cycling to be revoked – something the cycling community has campaigned hard for. Lifting the ban is the subject of a [Consultation](#), open to 23 February. While recognising the major benefits, we have urged careful consideration of how best to manage the mix of cyclists and pedestrians to avoid accidents.

## Other News

- Don't forget that you will need **ID to vote in the Local Elections** on Thursday 4 May. The [Council Website Lists](#) the accepted forms of ID and how to apply for a certificate if you need one.
- You can apply for a [Free Residents Card](#) for discounts at **local leisure centres**. This may seem confusing. For example, if applying for an Adult Concessionary card, under "2 Choose your membership" you need to select "Membership type" of "Concessionary" and "Payment Type" of "Single payment", then choose the "Better Adult Concessionary" for the free cards.
- If you need **help to get online**, the Weller Centre Warm Space Café offers sessions on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month from 10 - 11.30. Bring your own device or use those provided. More information at [Get Online Reading](#) or 0118 334 1095.
- The latest [Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter](#) gives information about the Coronation Big Lunch, scams and cyber threats and much more.
- The editors of the [Caversham Bridge](#) have worked hard to create an online archive of [Past Issues](#). Amongst the treasure trove, you will find past articles written by the CADRA team under the nom de plume of Watchdog, Nomad and From the Lookout Post.
- Reading Library recently posted a delightful photo of Balmore House with its original conservatory. You can read the story behind the house at [Balmore House](#).

- The [Reading Walks Festival](#) (10-14 May) includes one around the St Peters Conservation area and a 2 day 'St James' Way - a Camino in England'. Places are free but may book up quickly.

### **And finally**

Don't forget that the most recent news is on the [CADRA Facebook Page](#). It is available to everyone without joining Facebook, by going to our website [Home Page](#) and just scrolling down. These links are also at the end of this email.

We make these summaries freely available. If you find them useful and value what CADRA does, please encourage others to join, and of course keep your membership going - It's just £3 a year for the household.