



Round Up February 2024

As always, please share this update with anyone who may be interested.

Your committee met this week and is finalising plans for the AGM and Open Meeting to be held mid-May. As well as the elected members of the committee, CADRA is supported by the Committee Support team who help with specific issues outside of meetings. We are very pleased to welcome John Murdoch who will bring an invaluable link to the work of the [Reading Climate Action Network](#).

Planning Applications

The [former Barclays Bank](#) in Church Road by the traffic lights is proposed for conversion. Two separate ground floor commercial premises would be provided – one in the original building and the other in the later extension. The upper floors would be residential with an additional storey added to the extension. CADRA welcomes a new purpose for this Building of Townscape Merit within St Peters Conservation Area. We are raising concerns over the design of the new upper storey, noise and fumes for residents, arrangements to collect refuse and the very real challenges for deliveries and construction on this busy junction.

Two revised applications for permitted ones: [Archway House's](#) conversion to residential (by the Waitrose roundabout), and for two new detached homes at [5 Grass Hill](#).

Also, revised plans have still to be decided for what was the Chinese Restaurant at [3 Prospect Street](#), including permission for an additional storey. And the application for the [Spice Oven at 2-4 Church Street](#) awaits a final decision.

Thames Lido has applied for installation of [solar panels](#) and an extension to the dedicated [car park](#).

The appeal for the **site between TGI Fridays and the Range** has been further extended to consider [detailed submissions](#) from RBC and Aviva to meet recent national policy changes, including revised housing numbers and the new national policy on 'Achieving Well-Designed and Beautiful Places'.

Norman Place on Vastern Road (next to Thames Water Clearwater Court) was the subject of an exhibition which can be viewed online at normanplace.co.uk. Demolition is proposed to allow a new development between Vastern Road and the Thames.

The decision on the appeal for **Caversham Lakes** has now been [published](#). The appeal against enforcement action was dismissed, citing nature conservation and highway safety.

Planning Policy

CADRA submitted [comments](#) on the [Reading Local Plan Partial Update](#). The consultation has now closed. We also sent [comments](#) on the [Air Quality Action Plan](#).

Consultation on the [Preferred Options](#) for the **Joint Local Plan South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse 2041** remains open to **26 February 2024**. Their recommended option envisages most new housing in the main centres and near to employment. CADRA completed the survey.

Emmer Green

Following the temporary repairs to the **Noticeboard**, we expect to remove the board for a full repair at the beginning of April.

The partial closure of **Kidmore End Road** has just finished. This was necessary for the installation of a new water main for the development on Reading Golf Club. Thames Water had been asked to ensure advance information for residents. Clearly this did not happen despite intervention from CADRA. We are advised that the Council will be raising this with Thames Water.

The parking restrictions on **Kidmore End Road** associated with the TTRO are still in place and the required review is now overdue. CADRA has compiled a summary of residents' experiences and on the one-way system for construction traffic. We are on the point of submitting this to the review, so if you have comments to add, **please reply to this email by return**.

15% of the £1.9 million CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) funding for Reading Golf Club will be applied to **local projects**. The [Council website](#) sets out how this is considered. We are looking into one proposal and would welcome any other suggestions.

Floodlights at Queen Anne's School

CADRA was invited to join a meeting at the school with residents on Henley Road who are still affected by glare into their homes from the lighting over the tennis courts. The school has undertaken to examine ways of adapting the lights and we very much hope this can be resolved quickly.

Land on the junction of Gosbrook Road and George Street

This area remains very unsightly and was recently flooded. We remain in contact with Councillors, asking the Council to put pressure on the landowner.

And finally

We make these monthly updates freely available. If you find them useful and value what CADRA does, please encourage others to [Join us](#), and of course keep your membership going - it's just £3 a year for the household. We welcome new ideas and new skills and are always keen to hear from members.