



CADRA News

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



Round Up January 2025

Best wishes to you all for 2025. As we start the new year, we bring you the latest updates. Please do share these and of course encourage others to [join CADRA](#) so they receive the news direct.

CADRA Podcast

We are very grateful to Maria Lloyd ([My Local Marketer](#)) for producing a [Podcast about CADRA](#), which is a conversation with Committee members about the work CADRA does. There are video clips, independent testimonials and the [Transcript](#). We hope you find this useful and would value your comments.

Changes at CADRA

We are busy planning ahead for changes to the committee. January and February will see a continued push to explain CADRA's role and the opportunities to become involved. The response to date has been encouraging. There are still interesting roles in communication, social media, heritage and conservation, and transport. Please do [get in touch](#) if you might be interested to know more.

AGM and Open Meeting – a date for your diary

We are confirming arrangements for the next meeting at 7.30pm on Wednesday 14 May 2025.

Planning

An application to build four detached houses on land at **Atterbury Gardens**, to the rear of 23-25 Richmond Road, ([PL/24/1659](#)) is causing a lot of concern locally. The site would be accessed via the narrow section of Woodford Close, raising concerns for pedestrian safety, bin collection, construction access and the impact on wildlife. CADRA has registered an objection.

On **The Warren**, an application to replace and relocate the property at Warren Creek ([PL/24/1614](#)) has complex issues for flood risk and biodiversity.

On **Surley Row**, within the Conservation Area, there is an application to replace a row of conifers with an alternative and to remove a Beech Tree. ([PL/25/0017](#)).

At **62 Prospect Street** a conversion is proposed to a 6-bedroom House of Multiple Occupation (HMO), a studio flat and a single storey rear extension ([PL/24/1475](#)). As is often the case, the question of bin storage and refuse collection needs more careful consideration.

The **Crowne Plaza Hotel** is now closed following sale to the [Village Hotel Club](#). Extensive renovation is planned to provide 'stylish bedrooms', a Pub & Grill, meetings and events spaces, a Starbucks coffee shop and a Health and Wellness centre.

Town Centre Public Realm

The council's [Town Centre Public Realm Strategy](#) for shared spaces like streets, parks, and squares, is now open for public [Consultation](#) from Wednesday 15 January 2025 to Wednesday 26 February 2025 at 5pm.

The draft strategy provides an audit of the existing public realm, an overall pedestrian and cycle movement framework and a design manual to guide planning applications and investment decisions.

For five significant streets there are more detailed proposals, and the draft includes an action plan setting out short-term and long-term implementation measures.

Emmer Green

Repairs and cleaning of the **Emmer Green sign** are well under way and we hope to complete soon when the timber has had a chance to dry.

The previous parking signs and lines on **Kidmore End Road** have still not been replaced despite authorisation in May 2024. We continue to press Vistry, Councillors and Council Officers for action.

Kidmore Road

Following a water leak on Kidmore Road, a large sink hole has developed. The road is closed after Sandcroft Road and there are marked diversions for car drivers. Bus routes Pink 22 and Route 81 are having to be diverted - [Reading Buses Service Updates](#). We are monitoring the situation and currently work may continue to at least the end of the month.

North Reading Safer Neighbourhood Forum

CADRA has recently written to the Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Barber, to get clarification on several outstanding issues that the committee believes need resolving. These issues include Speedwatch (which is very hard to operate in Reading); the number of police based in Reading versus other Thames Valley Police areas; and the use of North Reading Police in other locations outside of Reading. We will let members know the responses once we have them.

The committee is also working with the Safer Reading Neighbourhood Forum (Chair - Councillor Karen Rowland) on a new format for the North Reading Safer Neighbourhood Forum and we look forward to bringing you more details next month.

River Matters

Many residents will have seen that there is a very large tree in the river close to Caversham Lock weir near Reading Bridge. We are obviously concerned about the impact the tree could have on river flow because of its potential to block the weir. We have had a meeting with the Environment Agency (EA) and RBC and are pleased to say that the removal of this tree is a priority for both groups. RBC is waiting for river flow levels to drop before work can commence.

We note that the flow rate is back to 75 m³/sec following heavy rain which saw it increase to around 145.

We are also pleased to see that the two missing Nelson Lines at the weir have been replaced. These Nelson Lines are there to stop objects such as boats and trees from reaching the weir.

Higher Parking/Permit Tariffs for Most Polluting Vehicles

[BBC Local News](#) - Reading Borough Council plan to launch a consultation on the introduction of sliding scale tariffs for parking permits and on-street meters. Vehicles with the highest carbon dioxide emissions would see charges more than double from April. Proposals are to be discussed at the council's policy committee on 20 January.

The Caversham Heritage Map

It is twelve years since the heritage map on the railings at the side of Caversham Library was unveiled. This was developed by CADRA as part of the [Caversham 100 Years On Project](#) in 2011. The associated [Heritage Leaflet](#) covers a slightly wider area, and printed copies are on sale at CADRA events.

Another date for your diary

The very popular Beanpole Day will take place in Caversham Court Gardens on Saturday 26 April.

And finally

Thank you as ever for your support and continued membership and please keep sending your comments and suggestions.