



Round Up July 2023

Your committee met this week and there is plenty of news to share with you and anyone you would like to forward it to.

We were pleased to talk to many members at the Church Fete on Saturday and to hear your feedback and concerns. We are now looking ahead to the Autumn open meeting.

Planning

Detailed applications are progressing to discharge the various conditions on the approval for housing on **Reading Golf Course**. Demolition of the club house is underway along with archaeological trenching and some tree work. Following demolition, the new bell mouth entrance will be created, and the main compound erected. The routing of construction traffic to and from the site has still not been finalised and CADRA has continued to raise concerns with both the Council and the contractor (Vistry) including an [email](#) this week. The latest [Vistry Newsletter](#) is available on our website.

Following an exhibition at **Caversham Park** late last year, the revised plans for the site are now available on applications [220409](#) and [220410](#) (this second application is required for Listed Buildings but the details are the same). Of the 120 new documents, a good start is the [Heritage Statement](#) which you will find on the CADRA [website](#) along with a few other plans. It outlines the basis for the changes, gives an excellent account of the history and significance of the site and includes a large collection of period photos. We are now starting to assess the detail but broadly, the changes are very positive.

There is an application for the [Service Station on George Street](#). This includes new EV charging stations which are very welcome but involves significant tree loss, and we have urged the Council to do a detailed review.

The application for [Retirement Apartments on Henley Road](#), adjacent to the new care home, was approved by the Planning Applications Committee in June.

Transport

The Council approved a consultation on a new [Transport Strategy to 2040](#). It seeks to set out what travel should look like in 17 years time, recognising the challenges of the climate emergency, the problems of congestion and pollution, and new housing in Reading and around its borders. As we all know, and as reflected in the document, there are major challenges north of the river.

These sections of **Hemdean Road** will be closed for the repair of two water mains:

- 24-26 July outside 197-199 Hemdean Road
- 26-28 July from Church Street to Rectory Road

Yellow box junctions are being readied for enforcement measures. This began in February at the Kings Road/Orts Road junction and the nearby Kings Road/Eldon Road junction, followed this month by:

- Queens Road/Sidmouth Street
- Queens Road/London Street
- Oxford Road/Bedford Road, West Bound
- Bath Road/Burghfield Road, East Bound
- Bath Road/Berkeley Avenue, West Bound

The **Church Street/Church Road/Bridge Street** junction may follow next.

Reading Bridge

Ahead of the centenary on 3 October 2023, the final lampstand is back in place waiting for the lamp to be fitted and the plaques cleaned. The application for [Local Listing](#) is expected to be considered by the Planning Applications Committee in September. Our booklet about the bridge is available for sale from Fourbears in Prospect Street or can be [Downloaded](#).

Reading Library

The Council plans to provide a modern, new Central Library and redesign the Civic Centre customer reception and service areas. They are seeking views by email to LibraryCivicProject@reading.gov.uk or by completing the [Survey](#). Some specialist services are not fully available in Caversham Library, including Local Studies and the Music Library. These are of particular concern and library staff are keen to get feedback.

Support for Young People

As part of the wider initiatives to combat knife crime, the Reading charity Number 5 has supported a team of young people to create a new [Signposting Website](#) to point young people to the help, care and information they need. Please take a look and share it widely.

Rivermead Leisure Centre

The new sports hall, gym, soft play area and café open on 17 July. In advance of the opening, you are invited to drop in for a tour of the facilities between 10am and 4pm on Saturday 15 or Sunday 16 July. Demolition of the existing centre will follow to provide space for car parking and the children's play area. Work on the swimming pools is due to complete in summer 2024. From the 14 July, the demountable swimming pool at Rivermead will be temporarily unavailable for essential works to incorporate the pool building into the new leisure centre and give the facilities a deep clean. The pool will back in use by the new academic year in September. [Press Release](#)

Thames Valley Flood Scheme

The Environment Agency has issued their [June 2023 Update](#) for the scheme and a paper on [Natural Flood Management](#).

River Academy

The new school will open to Year 7 in September 2024 and an [Open Evening](#) is being held on Wednesday 20 September from 5.00pm until 7.30pm at the new Rivermead Leisure Centre.

Heritage Open Days

These will run across the country from 8-17 September, and many require booking. The [National Website](#) has a postcode search to find local events including several in and around Caversham.

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. The 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.