



## Round Up October 2023

It has been a busy week and there is plenty of news to share with you and anyone you would like to forward it to. Our **Autumn Newsletter** will be out shortly.

## Open Meeting - Monday 6 November

Reading Council has now launched a [Consultation](#) on what transport in Reading should look like by 2040. Their [Draft Transport Strategy](#) outlines the challenges and opportunities to achieve a cleaner, greener town, where it is easier to leave our cars at home. Responses are invited up to 11 December.

Achieving this in North Reading presents major challenges. We are all very aware of the downward spiral, where traffic congestion leads to unreliable public transport, which leads to lower usage, reduced takings, and hence further reductions in service. We are therefore delighted to welcome Chris Maddocks, Strategic Transport Manager for Reading Borough Council and Robert Williams, CEO of Reading Buses to talk at our open meeting on: **Reading Transport Strategy 2040 – Issues for North Reading.**

The open meeting will take place at **7.30pm on Monday 6 November in the Caversham Baptist Church, Prospect Street.** To ensure a good cross section of questions on the night, we are inviting some questions in advance. **Please email your question to [info@cadra.org.uk](mailto:info@cadra.org.uk) by Thursday 2 November.** This promises to be an interesting evening on a subject which affects us all. Everyone is welcome.

The meeting will also be a good opportunity to **join or renew your membership** or to buy:

- Inexpensive local cards in time for Christmas
- Emmer Green Past and Present (following the second reprint)
- The booklet – Reading Bridge 1923-2023, 100 years of crossing the Thames at Caversham.

We now accept card payments.

## Reading Bridge Centenary

We were very pleased that our work this year with the Council culminated in the 1923 plaques being professionally cleaned and the final lampstand being replaced. We appreciated the invitation to join the Mayor's party celebrating the centenary on 3 October and the formal acknowledgement of the CADRA booklet. The CADRA 'Guest Blog' for Reading Museum has also generated a lot of interest. See our [Centenary of Reading Bridge](#).

## Reading Golf Club Development – Residents Meeting 12 October

The meeting in St Barnabas church hall generated considerable interest with well over 100 people attending. It was convened and chaired by the three Emmer Green Ward Councillors. Three RBC officers and the Vistry team fielded a wide range of questions, including the application of [CIL](#) and [S106 Payments](#) and the current parking restrictions in the Temporary Traffic Restriction Order. CADRA is in the process of compiling a list of the key issues to follow up for liaison with Councillors, Officers and Vistry. We have committed to working with Vistry to help share information and updates via their newsletters and Facebook page.

An increasing number of residents in Emmer Green have reached out to us and membership in Emmer Green continues to increase. It is easy to [Join and Pay Online](#).

## Planning

A new application has been submitted for the **Spice Oven**, Church Street ([231257](#)). It has a complicated planning history but we hope this may allow the restoration of the very prominent frontage of this listed building.

A proposal to demolish and replace **Napier Court**, Napier Road, with 570 'build-to-rent' residential units over 11 storeys, will not require an Environmental Impact Assessment, so we can anticipate a planning application. The plans to demolish the **Carters** buildings, Caversham Road were approved and applications are being made to discharge the list of conditions. A new application has been submitted for 820 residential units on the **Forbury Retail Park** opposite St James' Church ([230822](#)). The application to add 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> storeys to **Great Brighams Mead**, Vastern Road ([230745](#)) to provide 100 apart-hotel rooms has still to be decided.

## **Reading Festival**

Each year the RBC Licensing Team and the Festival organisers reach out to local residents' groups for feedback and a meeting to review. Generally, the responses this year have been very positive, but it is encouraging that issues raised at the time, and as part of feedback, are being acted on for future years.

## **And Finally**

Between these monthly updates we share local information 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 monthly updates 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.