



AUGUST ROUND UP

Welcome to our August Round Up. As always, we've gathered the latest planning news, local updates and community safety information from across Caversham and Emmer Green. There's plenty happening this month, from appeal updates and conservation work to neighbourhood surveys and upcoming events, and we hope this summary helps keep you informed.

PLANNING

Kidmore End Road Appeal Court Review (Golf Course) - Last month we explained about Fairfax's application for a High Court Review of the appeal dismissal and the process that will follow. Since then, Fairfax have lodged their grounds for a review with the court and the Government's Legal Department have lodged their arguments for refusing it. You can read these documents and a witness statement from the appeal inspector at: [Land West of Kidmore Road High Court Review](#).

At **2 Rosehill Farm Cottages, Emmer Green** ([P26/S2021/FUL](#)) in South Oxfordshire, there is an application for a single-storey self-build dwelling on land to the rear of the farm cottages that face the Peppard Road replacing an existing stable and garage block. The site lies within Kidmore End Parish, close to the county boundary, and Reading Borough Council is being consulted ([PL/26/0953](#)). Access would be via Chalkhouse Green Lane which leads onto the Peppard Road.

The recently dismissed appeal for 70 houses at Land West of Kidmore Road established a precedent against new dwellings on the border. CADRA will object, as have Kidmore End Parish Council. Our arguments will draw on the evidence we gave at that appeal, which will include that the dwelling is not in a sustainable location. Objections already raised express concerns about it being an infill garden development, the dangerous access, difficult waste collection, the loss of local character and the impact on the ecology.

At **2 Bridge Street, Caversham** ([PL/26/0736](#)), which is now Pathaan's Restaurant, the owners failed to get approval for their Flood Risk Assessment and Plan, which is a condition relating to PL/24/0022, the already-built covered terrace over the river. The reasons reflected CADRA's comments, which identified several gaps: no Flood Emergency Plan with clear warning and evacuation procedures, missing detail on escape routes and debris management, the need to confirm retention of the gapped floor design, and that a fully revised Flood Emergency Plan will be required.

In **Caversham Court, Church Road** ([PL/26/0617](#)), the essential conservation and repair work has been approved by the Planning Applications Committee, subject to conditions. The work is not yet scheduled, but we look forward to the removal of the tarpaulin and safety railings, so that once again we can all enter the historic court through its gates. As previously noted, repairs to the surrounding pathway to improve wheelchair accessibility are not included, and we have no update on this.

For the **River Academy School, Richfield Avenue** ([PL/26/0162](#)), permission has been granted for new lighting columns around the existing netball courts. The floodlights may only operate between 16:00 and 21:30, Monday to Friday, and not at weekends or on Bank Holidays. CADRA thinks that this is a sensible compromise.

Reading Local Plan Partial Update (LPPU) - Following comments from the Inspector stating two concerns with the LPPU (sewage treatment upgrade requirements and need for a Travellers' site), Reading Borough Council has decided to proceed with the current LPPU rather than withdraw it and start afresh. The current plan will

now include a commitment to begin preparing a new-style Local Plan as soon as this LPPU is adopted to cover the two points raised by the Inspector. This means updated evidence on housing supply, sewage treatment capacity and the removal of Reading University's development site on Christchurch Meadows (due to flood risk) should be reflected in the adopted plan, while work on a replacement Local Plan gets underway.

A full explanation of this and why the Council has chosen to act in this way can be found at: [LPPU Update](#). CADRA is pleased that the issue regarding sewage has been highlighted, as we have been concerned about this for some time. We hope that this will hasten the improvements required at the sewage treatment works.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) - The Government has just issued a [Revised NPPF](#), which updates national rules on housing, design, infrastructure and environmental protection. We are currently reviewing the changes to understand what this may mean for our area, especially whether it strengthens or weakens a developer's case for new houses in South Oxfordshire close to the border. We will report back next month.

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS

News from the **North Reading Safer Neighbourhood Forum (NRSNF)**

Safety Surveys - There are currently three different surveys that residents are invited to fill out. The first is from RBC and the Crime Safety Partnership and is used to set policy across Reading. The others are from Thames Valley Police (TVP) and are used to set priorities at a local level, such as targeting ASB. Please take the time to fill these in, as CADRA knows that the results do have an impact.

- [RBC Community Safety Survey 2026](#) - Closes 4 September
- [TVP Neighbourhood Priorities in Caversham & Emmer Green](#) - Closes 26 August
- [TVP Community Anti-Social Behaviour Survey - Caversham & Emmer Green](#) - Closes 26th August

Fires and Wildfires - Away from the debate about the government's mobile phone warning, Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) has been working hard, both attending fires and doing preventative work to try and stop them in the first place. We are very grateful for the work that Gail Muirhead (RBFRS) and RBC officers are doing in schools, educating pupils on the dangers from fires, especially in locations such as Mapledurham Playing Fields, Balmore Park, Herons Island, Bugs Bottom, Cucumber Wood, Clayfield Copse.

If there is an area that you are concerned about, then please let us know so that we can liaise with RBFRS about prevention work. RBFRS has issued a [Statement](#).

The **next NRSNF is 1 October in Emmer Green**. The meeting is open to all, giving residents the opportunity to meet the local police team and the RBC Anti-Social Behaviour Team.

CONSERVATION AREAS

Surley Row Conservation Area - Reading Conservation Area Advisory Committee (CAAC) is starting work on the conservation area report, which helps guide planning for that area. If you would like to be involved, then please let us know.

Although not in our area, members may be interested in reading about Reading's other Mount. This area near the University has at its core the listed houses built for Huntley & Palmers' clerks, foremen and managers. [The Mount Conservation Area Consultation](#) closes 21 August and the project is also being run by CAAC.

RBC CONSULTATIONS

There are two consultations that might interest you. RBC wants to run pilot projects for [Cycle Hangars](#), providing secure residential cycle storage. They are also asking for your views on their [Adult Social Care Strategy 2026–2031](#). Both surveys close on 31 August.

OTHER MATTERS

Road Works – Reading Borough Council began five weeks of major carriageway resurfacing on 17 August. The schedule for work in our area includes parts of Gosbrook Road and George Street which complete this week, and the **Henley Road** between Chiltern Road and Lower Henley Road, 25-28 September, 8am–5pm.

Reading Festival - At the Licensing Hearing on Tuesday 18 August, the application from Festival Republic to extend timings was considered. CADRA had written to support the Festival but to oppose the introduction of live music on a Thursday night and other changes, effectively extending the length of the festival. CADRA and others spoke at the hearing to press those points. The panel approved the application after an offer from Festival Republic to cease live music at 11.30pm rather than midnight as proposed. This will be limited to the main stage.

Following the hearing, Festival Republic reported their intention to add a donation of £1 to each ticket from 2027 onwards to form a fund to benefit the local community. CADRA expects to be involved in how the fund will be allocated once everything is confirmed.

Look out for information on how to contact the festival hotline for issues as they arise during the festival and please share comments, positive or negative with us after the festival, so we can report them as part of the annual review.

Heritage Open Days - Reading's annual [Heritage Open Days](#) return 11-20 September 2026.

AND FINALLY - Thank you for continuing to share your views and concerns with us. Your feedback genuinely shapes the work we do, whether on planning matters, local safety or community projects. If there's anything you'd like us to follow up, please do get in touch: info@cadra.org.uk - For new membership or updating your member details: [Join Us](#).