



## CADRA JULY ROUND UP

Road safety in Caversham has long been a concern and never more so this month following the tragic deaths on the Peppard Road. Our thoughts are for the friends and family of the two pedestrians killed.

## PLANNING

### Major Developments and Strategic Context

The most significant development this month is **Gladman Developments'** published [vision for 1,200 houses](#) along the western and northern sides of Caversham Park and Emmer Green. While not yet a formal application, this proposal comes at a crucial time as South Oxfordshire District Council develops its Local Plan and Reading's Local Plan Partial Update faces review by the Government Examiner, who has questioned Reading's targeted housing supply and approach to cooperation with neighbouring councils.

Adding to planning concerns, **Natural England has abandoned the Chilterns National Landscape (AONB) extension review** due to budget constraints. This decision, alongside the Local Plan reviews, is causing considerable concern about future development pressures in our area.

Meanwhile, the **70-house development at Land West of Kidmore End Road, Emmer Green** (RBC [PL/25/0691](#) - SODC [P25/S1431/O](#)) continues to face numerous objections, including official statements of concern. RBC's Highway Authority has noted multiple junction capacity constraints. The current development there is not yet complete or fully occupied.

### Other Planning Applications

In Caversham centre, several new applications have emerged. At **1 St Peters Hill** ([PL/25/0921](#)), proposals seek to rectify the landscaping of an existing parking space to respect the property's heritage value. Nearby at **6 Church Street** ([PL/25/0841](#)), a needed refurbishment of this listed building includes updating the accommodation.

On land adjacent to St Martins Precinct, currently used as a private car park, **proposals** ([PL/25/0814](#)) **provide for 17 apartments and ground floor restaurant**. This is a modification to Block A of the original Precinct development permitted in 2015 ([140997](#)). At **53 Prospect Street** ([PL/25/0269](#)), the single-storey rear extension and loft conversion with street-side roof Velux and rear flat roof dormer has been permitted.

Elsewhere in our area, **High Ridge, Upper Warren Avenue** ([PL/25/0752](#)) has seen amended plans submitted for the derelict dwelling, originally permitted four years ago. Less successful was the application at **1 Gravel Hill Cottages, Blagrove Lane** ([PL/25/0574](#)), where single-storey rear and side extensions were refused due to detrimental effects on the character and appearance of the existing house and wider area.

Tree work applications have been more successful, with **9 Surley Row** ([PL/25/0856](#)) receiving permission for conservation area tree work to reduce a willow and fell a pine. However, the **Thames Valley Service Station on George Street** ([PL/25/0468](#)) has seen its digital advertisement screen application refused on grounds of driver distraction and being obtrusive and unattractive. This decision has now gone to appeal (Ref. APP/E0345/Z/25/3367583).

## **ROADS, TRAFFIC & SAFETY**

The deaths on Peppard Road are a reminder that more needs to be done to safeguard pedestrians in our area. One place is the **Last Crumb (Westfield Rd/Peppard Rd) junction**, where a petition seeks improvements to the crossing. This follows a similar 2022 petition when CADRA met with Matt Rodda and local councillors. Whilst developer contributions are available, they fall significantly short of requirements. You can read more and sign the petition at: [Stop a Fatality](#).

**Other Road Safety Initiatives** - CADRA supports the proposed crossing on Church Rd at Caversham Court Gardens, and we attended a meeting hosted by WADRA to improve road safety on the Upper Woodcote Rd.

**Kidmore Road Closure** - Work on the sink hole has finally commenced. Thames Water estimates 12-15 weeks for completion.

## **NORTH READING SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM (NRSNF)**

**Electric Bikes vs Modified Electrically Powered Bikes** - Thames Valley Police would like to remind residents that you can only ride an e-bike if it meets certain requirements. An e-bike must have pedals that can be used to propel it, the electric motor must have a maximum power output of 250W, and the motor should not be able to propel the bike when it is travelling at a speed of more than 15.5mph. Bikes that do not meet these criteria are classed as motorcycles or mopeds, and need to be registered, taxed and insured, and a driving licence and helmet is required to use them. If you do not meet these requirements, then the bike could be seized.

**Borough Wide Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)** - On July 9th it was proposed that Reading Borough Council introduce a borough wide PSPO. This will specifically target on street aggressive begging, street drinking, dog fouling, dog control and anti-social use of e-scooters and e-bikes. The proposal also reiterated the points made above about what constitutes an illegal e-bike and stated that users of illegal vehicles will face police enforcement. PSPOs are typically in place for three years after which they need to be renewed or removed. The consultation ends on the 5th September. If you have any comments regarding this proposal please let us know.

## **ON THE RIVER**

The proposed River Thames **weir and lock keepers strike** has been suspended following an Environment Agency offer. We continue to hope for a rapid resolution.

**Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS)** has produced a 2-minute training video on [Water Safety Training](#) for the new rescue throw line boards appearing around Reading. This could help save lives. [Contact CADRA](#) if you'd like to attend a practice session with the NRSNF/RBFRS.

**Swan Upping** - Every year a flotilla of traditional Thames rowing skiffs, crewed by Swan Uppers, heads upstream to count the swans and cygnets on The Thames. When swans are seen there is a cry "All up!" as the Swan Uppers position their boats around the swans. This traditional event takes five days to head upstream from Sunbury to Abingdon. It is free to watch and best seen as the Swan Uppers come through the locks. Timing is very approximate, but the Uppers are expected to come through Caversham Lock on Thursday 17 July at 10:15. For the full schedule: [Royal Swan Upping](#)

## **HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2025**

Details and [tickets](#) for Helen Lambert's (CADRA) talk on **Crossing the Thames at Caversham** at 1.30pm on the 13th September are now [available online](#). The event is free, but if you would like to make a small donation towards the cost of the venue it will be most welcome. Also part of the Heritage Open Days program in Caversham Baptist Church that day are: [Tours of Caversham Baptist Church](#) and [Beehives Through Time](#).

## **YOUTH MATTERS**

The **Young Voices - Annual Safety Survey** reminds us of [Olly Stephens](#). If you know a young person (25 or under) living in Reading please ask them to complete this [anonymous survey](#) to share their thoughts on safety in Reading. It takes up to 15 minutes to fill in. If that is too long then please ask them to fill in the [mini survey](#).

## **RBC CONSULTATIONS**

**Adult Annual Safety Survey** - Please share your views on crime and safety in Reading by completing the [safety survey](#). These surveys are used to set priorities for the Crime Safety Partnership, so if there is an issue that you are concerned about, then please make sure you complete the survey - **Closing Date 31st Aug**

**Reading Climate Emergency Strategy 2025-2030** - This [survey](#) seeks input from individuals and organisations to verify the accuracy and completeness of the strategy, identify gaps, and recruit people to help deliver the plan - **Closing Date 21st July**

**Reading Central Library** is moving to an extended Civic Centre in 2026. [Their Survey](#) asks for feedback on updated service themes, building on a previous consultation - **Closing Date 26th July**