



## Round Up June 2025

We hope you enjoy this month's Round Up and as always please pass this on to anyone who may be interested and encourage them to [join](#).

### PLANNING

There is a controversial proposal for up to 70 homes west of **Kidmore End Road**, extending the current Reading Golf Club development into South Oxfordshire, with some protection for part of the rest of the course offered. This has already received many objections from both sides of the border.

There are three associated consultations for the proposal. ([P25/S1431/O](#)) is the main application to South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) who will decide the application. The closing date for comments is 28 June, though an extension is expected in view of the website being down.

As access would be through Reading, application ([PL/25/0691](#)) has been submitted to RBC, who can only respond on access related matters. The closing date for this application is 12 June. Application ([PL/25/0731](#)) is where SODC are consulting RBC as the neighbouring authority, and RBC are seeking comments before responding to SODC. The closing date is 9 June. There may be some flexibility in accepting late comments on both these applications. CADRA has submitted [Comments](#) to both RBC applications and is developing comments to submit to SODC.

The other new application tells a different story of Caversham's development - at **The Fishery in The Warren** ([PL/25/0751](#)) a sympathetic and sensible restoration of a neglected listed building with 17th-18th century origins is proposed.

Updates on recent applications include approval for four family homes at **Atterbury Gardens** behind Richmond Road ([PL/24/1659](#)). The Planning Applications Committee had to balance the need for new family homes against concerns about traffic, and biodiversity offset payments that would be of no direct benefit to Reading.

After several years, restoration of the old **Spice Oven 2-4 Church Street** ([PL/23/1257](#)) was permitted. This allows some rear demolition and reconfiguration to create flats and commercial units, plus improvements to the street scene which respect the building's heritage.

Essential infrastructure work was approved for **Caversham Court's** east boundary wall ([PL/25/0606](#)). This major structural work includes partial rebuilding and new drainage to prevent the listed wall's collapse, though concerns remain about several previously lost trees and their replacement.

In **George Street**, Thames Valley Service Station's proposed digital advertising screen was refused ([PL/25/0468](#)), on grounds of driver distraction and visual intrusion.

## **Oxfordshire Councils' Reorganisation Proposals**

Following the government's decision to abolish district councils, three alternatives have been put forward for Oxfordshire. **Five councils** - West Berkshire, Cherwell, South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse and West Oxfordshire - have jointly proposed splitting the region into "Oxford and Shires Council" (covering Cherwell, Oxford City and West Oxfordshire) and "Ridgeway Council" (covering West Berkshire, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse). **Oxford City Council** suggests three authorities including a "Greater Oxford Council" with green belt control. **Oxfordshire County Council** proposes one unified authority. This biggest local government shake-up since 1972, whilst not specifically involving Reading, may well impact planning policy and other areas ([Source BBC News Item](#)).

## **ROADS AND TRAFFIC**

### **Kidmore Road Sink Hole**

A month after work was supposed to start, Thames Water has told residents that starting on 9 June, specialist contractors will conduct site inspections, ground testing and equipment setup to prepare for future ground stabilisation work. No indication of a completion date was provided. Twelve weeks was previously quoted.

### **Reading Considers Emission-Based Parking Charges**

Reading Council is proposing higher parking fees for more polluting vehicles to improve air quality and public health. They aim to encourage cleaner transport options alongside broader walking, cycling and public transport improvements. Similar schemes already operate in London Boroughs and the City of Bath. Petrol vehicles would face 20% incremental charges and diesel vehicles 25%, based on CO2 emissions over 151g/km.

RBC's March consultation received 275 responses, with mixed views on parking permits but 64% expressing concern about air quality's health impacts. Notably, 20% said the scheme would likely change their driving behaviour. Councillors will review the consultation results on 11 June and decide on the [next steps](#), potentially including statutory consultation.

## **THE RIVER**

### **Lock Keepers Voted for Strike Action**

The Environment Agency lock keepers on the River Thames have voted to strike because of safety concerns over the fall in their numbers, and the River Users Group 4/5 and River Thames Society have both written letters of support.

The lock keepers have a number of important roles. Their unavailability will have an impact on summer boating, but residents may be more concerned about who will open the weir gates in the event of heavy rainfall. This could have an impact on river heights and so we hope the Environment Agency and the lock keepers can reach a rapid agreement.

### **Reading Amateur Regatta 14th and 15th June**

Dating from 1842, this is Reading's oldest sporting event. As always, the finish line will be across the river from Caversham Court Gardens. The crews will be racing from 9am to 7pm each day. Crews from Australia and the USA come to race in Reading before moving on to Henley Women's Regatta. The best views of the Regatta are from Thames Promenade and it is free to watch.

### **Regatta Vintage Fayre 14th and 15th June**

While the rowing takes place across the river, this year the Caversham side springs to life! With a vibrant atmosphere, delicious food & drinks, a craft market, and plenty of entertainment, the weekend will offer something for everyone. Whether cheering on the rowers or simply soaking up the riverside views, it's the perfect way to spend a summer weekend.

### **Our River Thames Exhibition**

Royal Berkshire Archives at 9 Coley Avenue is hosting an exhibition exploring our history and interaction with the River Thames from 11 June - 29 August (Tues - Thurs 9am -5pm). Exhibits include those from the Reading Amateur Regatta Archive.

### **Sea Rangers**

The Sea Rangers are based at the Achilles Boathouse on The Warren and currently have a few spaces available for girls aged 9 to 14, meeting Sunday afternoons at the boathouse for canoeing, rowing and other fun activities. These continue through school holidays as and when people are available. [Searangersreading@gmail.com](mailto:Searangersreading@gmail.com) for more details.

## **ROUND AND ABOUT**

### **Caversham Court Fete 12th July**

The annual parish fete will take place in the afternoon of Saturday 12 July in the beautiful surroundings of Caversham Court. There will be stalls, side shows, refreshments, music and of course CADRA will be there. Please come down and meet the CADRA team and discuss relevant issues that may concern you.

### **Heritage Open Days 13th September**

One of the first events of the 2025 Heritage Open Day program will take place on the afternoon of Saturday 13 September. This will be a chance to visit Caversham Baptist Church designed by Alfred Waterhouse and/or attend talks in the church. These will include a talk by Helen Lambert, CADRA President, telling the story of both Caversham and Reading Bridges, marking their centenaries in 2026 and 2023.

## **LICENSING**

### **Reading Festival**

CADRA will be meeting Festival Republic over the next few months as preparations for Reading Festival continue. If there are any issues you are concerned about and would like discussed at those meetings, then please let us know.

## **YOUTH & SAFETY**

**Reading Amnesty Art** and **Olly's Work** continue to raise awareness of the dangers of knife crime and the risk that social media poses, through education and action to protect young people. This month there is a [thoughtful podcast](#) between Olly's mum Amanda, and Olly's friend Demi, discussing the impact of social media upon children. This eye opening podcast was created as part of Demi's college course.

### **New Play Area**

Reading Borough Council has started the construction of the new play area for 3 to 12 year olds at the recreation ground in Emmer Green (junction of Grove Road and Kidmore End Road).

### **Police Have Your Say Day**

PCSO Dan Mellor and his colleagues held a Have Your Say Day at Co-op South View Avenue, Caversham on 11th June. This location was chosen due to recent shop lifting at the store.

### **Caversham Traders**

Several shops in central Caversham were broken into on 6 and 7 June, including Lilly Ink Tattoo and the cake shop BKRY. Following these unfortunate events, it is nice to see the business community coming together with an offer of gifts to raffle in support of BKRY, to help it get back on its feet. Details of the Sweet Justice Raffle for BKRY are on the company's website.

### **Community Safety Survey**

The Reading Crime Safety Partnership would like residents to complete the [Community Safety Survey](#). The Survey runs every year and is a chance for you to share your views on how safe you feel and crime issues affecting you.

### **Phishing Scam Alert**

Thames Valley Police Neighbourhood Alert scheme recently sent this warning - 41 million phishing scams reported since 2020, with criminals commonly impersonating streaming services, tech companies, and government schemes.

#### **If you receive suspicious emails, texts, or calls:**

- **STOP** - Don't click links, reply, or make payments
- **CHECK** - Contact the organisation directly using known contact details
- **REPORT** - Forward suspicious emails to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk) or texts to 7726

Stay vigilant - criminals constantly adapt their tactics to steal personal and financial information. When in doubt, always verify directly with the organisation before taking any action.

### **And Finally**

We always like to get your feedback on these briefings and issues reported. And if you are not a member, please think about [joining](#) and help strengthen our voice in the community.