



Round Up March 2025

Please do share these updates and of course encourage others to [join CADRA](#) so they receive the news direct.

CADRA AGM AND OPEN MEETING

7.30pm, Tuesday 13 May 2025

New Testament Church of God, Church Street

Please note this is a change of date



The Planning System: How it works and what's changing

This affects us all, whether we are hoping to get the best local decisions, keep up with what is changing around us, or maybe looking to make alterations to our homes. More types of development are classed as 'permitted', shortening the process and details are emerging about the new Government Planning Bill.

CADRA has previously hosted speakers from Reading BC Planning Department. This time we are pleased to welcome speakers from the private sector who advise clients across residential, educational and commercial development on planning applications, appeals and the Local Plan process. Jon Sebbage, Associate Director at Savills Planning Division is based in Reading. He will be supported by Planner, Róisín Moyne, who joined Savills in October 2024 and Amy Allen, Graduate Planner.

There will be good opportunities for individual questions after the presentation.

Can you help?

We have been working hard to give CADRA a strong base for the future and will be making an announcement on the new arrangements at our brief AGM. We have welcomed two new members to the Committee. With more people, we can do more. This is a great time to get involved and help start our next chapter. We would particularly like to hear from anyone in Emmer Green.

The Spring Newsletter including the AGM papers is nearing completion and will be available around the end of this month. Copies of the 2024 Minutes, the Chair's report and the Accounts will be issued by email ahead of the meeting.

PLANNING

New applications this month include a request to remove two yew trees in **Kidmore Road**. ([PL/25/0209](#)). The **Co-op Supermarket** on Henley Road ([PL/25/0319](#)) wants to install new cold room equipment, expanding the single-storey rear extension. In the **Surley Row Conservation Area** at 13 Surley Row ([PL/25/0265](#)), a tree crown lift proposes to remove all branches below 7m.

Meanwhile, at the **old Drews on Caversham Road** ([PL/25/0338](#)), there are proposals for the demolition method and documenting the heritage parts sections. Lastly, a proposal at **414 Gosbrook Road** ([PL/25/0216](#)) seeks to convert the house into an HMO for six occupants. This falls under permitted development rights, meaning no public consultation is required.

The **Persian Palace** at 2 Bridge Street, Caversham ([PL/24/0022](#)), had their retrospective application refused and were served an enforcement order to remove the outdoor seating terrace and canopy along the Thames. Both are

now subject to an appeal, and CADRA has sent a statement to the government inspector. The felling of a silver birch at **5 Springfield Mews**, Emmer Green ([PL/25/0107](#)) was refused.

EMMER GREEN

Work is now complete on the **Emmer Green sign** thanks to Reading Men's Shed and a donation from Keep Emmer Green. We plan to mark the completion with a small celebration and would very much like to hear from any of the Emmer Green organisations named on the sign, including schools, scout and guide groups and many more. Can you help?

Adjustments were made to a [noisy mast](#) following work by the Environmental Health team.

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS

The North Reading Safer Neighbourhood Forum will restart in its new format in May, provisionally on 15 May at 6:45pm at The Weller Centre. The Forum provides a link between residents, Thames Valley Police and Reading Borough Council. It is open to all North Reading residents, and is supported by CADRA and several like-minded organisations. It is hoped that the new format will allow a closer link to Reading's Community Safety Partnership.

In recent weeks Thames Valley Police has seen an increase in **thefts from motor vehicles**, including Caversham's Kidmore Road, Shepherds Lane and Oxford Street. TVP would like remind residents to secure their vehicles and not leave any items on display. You can also keep up to date by subscribing to [Thames Valley Alerts](#).

On the River

As well as the **sunken boat near River Spice** at Caversham Bridge, **two more boats** have now sunk near Thames Water at Reading Bridge. CADRA has informed the Environment Agency and Reading Borough Council, and we hope they will be able to contact the owners to get the wrecks removed.

We are also awaiting RBC's update on removing the **fallen tree downstream of Reading Bridge**. With the river speed dropping, we hope this can happen soon.

Reading Festival

Festival Republic is now planning for this year's Reading Festival on **22-24 August**. We are following up on the issues raised after last year's festival. CADRA hopes that early engagement will ensure action on the sound and lighting problems experienced by some residents.

Festival Republic presented a report to the Council's Housing, Neighbourhoods and Leisure Committee this week. To watch go to [Media - View the webcast](#) and choose agenda Item 7.

CONSULTATIONS

On the urgent need to enhance our natural environment, you can help shape the **Berkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy**, which aims to do just that. The strategy is in draft form and the public are invited to [Review it and Comment](#). Deadline for this is **midnight on 24 March**.

It is proposed that **parking charges should reflect the emission of the vehicle** for on-street pay and display parking bays including residents' permits but not car parks. The survey closes **30 March** - [Add Your Comments](#).

A Berkshire wide survey aims to gather feedback on **broadband, mobile coverage, online access** and barriers to digital services across the county. This is to help shape future improvements and improve digital connectivity and access. You can [take part in the Residents' Survey](#) until Wednesday **16 April**.

OTHER NEWS

The History Department at **Highdown School** is appealing for information or experiences of WWII relevant to Caversham and Emmer Green, to mark the **80th anniversary of VE day on 8 May**. Please email veday@highdown.reading.sch.uk if you can help.

At the end of February, there was a dynamic probe test on the **sink hole in Kidmore Road**, to determine the strength and density of the soil - [Thames Water Updates](#)

You can make nominations for the [BBC - Make a Difference](#) award up to 31 March.

The [Reading Visitor Guide](#) now includes a page on Caversham

EVENTS

Reading Canoe Club's Reading to Marlow Race is on Sunday 16 March. Competitors will be leaving Thames Prom between 10:00 and 11:00am.

Check out the route and the road closures for the [Reading Half Marathon](#) on Sunday 23rd March.

The **Tea Kiosk in Caversham Court Gardens** run by four charities will open on Friday 28 March weather permitting and then Wednesday to Friday 11am to 5pm.

The **Friends of Caversham Court Gardens** AGM and Spring Talk will be Wednesday will 23rd April, 7pm for 7.30pm in Reading Canoe Club. Architectural Historian Megan Aldrich will present an illustrated talk "Gothic in the Garden" about Caversham Court and its grounds in the early 19th century, when the Simonds family gave the Old Rectory a Gothic make-over.

[Bean Pole Day](#) will be on Saturday 26th April 10:00-15:00 in Caversham Court Gardens.

The [Reading Walks Festival](#) 10-18 May 2025 encompasses 50 walks and two bike rides. Booking opens Friday 14 May and many of the walks will book up fast.