



## Round Up May 2025

On 13 May CADRA held its **AGM**. It was great to see so many residents attend the meeting. Helen Lambert, in her last meeting as Chair, [presented her report](#) highlighting the work that CADRA has done during the year.

Jill Dibben, Malcolm Pemble and Nick Haskins were successfully nominated to the committee and Suresh Sukul was co-opted to the Committee. The Treasurer, Jill Dibben, presented the accounts which were accepted by the members, and she explained why the membership fees would need to increase slightly to £12 for 3 years (or £5 for one year). Nick Haskins was announced as the new Chair of CADRA and duly proposed Helen Lambert as President of CADRA.

The new Chair of CADRA presented his [Vision for the future of CADRA](#). This vision is aimed at 'Keeping Caversham and Emmer Green great places to live' by promoting events that positively promote our community, to continue to help make better outcomes for planning and licensing, and to help stop items such as anti-social behaviour that are detrimental to our community.

Immediately after the AGM, Savills made an excellent presentation regarding the way that the current planning system works and the impact of recent changes to the system. We would like to thank Jon Sebbage, Amy Allen and Roisin Moyne for providing their insight on a complex topic and for delivering it so clearly. A link to their presentation can be found [Here](#) (Please note that the material included was prepared for general information purposes only and should not be relied upon on its own).

The committee would like to thank the members who donated £150 on the evening, which will go to Launchpad, the charity chosen by Savills. Also, thanks to the New Testament Church of God for its generous donation and gift of use of the Church for the AGM; and to thank PC Adrianna Bilanska and PC Daniel Mellor for attending the AGM and for speaking to residents prior to the meeting.

## Planning

At Gravel Hill Cottages, Blagrove Lane ([PL/25/0574](#)), rear and side extensions are proposed to an unspoilt Edwardian semi. At 2b Kidmore Road ([PL/25/0209](#)), plans to fell two protected yew trees were refused due to their visual and environmental value. At Atterbury Gardens ([PL/24/1659](#)) the biodiversity net gain assessment for the proposed new houses fails to meet the 10% biodiversity net gain requirement for habitat improvement. As there is no scope on the site to rectify this, off-site compensation will likely be required to achieve it.

In Emmer Green, Surley Place ([PL/25/0649](#)) tree works including the removal of a Douglas Fir near the Conservation Area. Harvey's Nurseries, Peppard Road ([PL/25/0548](#)), seeks a Certificate of Lawfulness to increase on-site caravans from 96 to 115.

At Caversham Court Gardens ([PL/25/0649](#)), essential conservation is planned for the listed eastern boundary wall, including careful repairs, improved drainage, and paving. Tree works on the Holm oak in Caversham Precinct were approved ([PL/25/0141](#)).

The refusal of five townhouses at George Street and Gosbrook Road ([PL/24/0900](#)) is now under appeal. Nearby, a proposed digital ad screen at the Thames Valley Service Station ([PL/25/0468](#)) has raised road safety concerns, including from the Council's Highways team.

The major redevelopment at 2 Norman Place ([PL/24/0958](#)), proposing 11-storey residential and mixed-use blocks, remains under review. The application explains why connecting to a district heating network is unfeasible.

Information was circulated recently about a proposed development of **70 homes on the land in South Oxfordshire owned by Reading Golf Club**. This would be accessed through the current development in Emmer Green. A formal outline planning application has now been submitted - Planning Application [P25/S1431/O](#) - and comments are invited by 28 June 2025. Correspondence from South Oxfordshire Planning Officers in the pre-application advice in November 2022 states that they would be unable to support an application on this site. CADRA has since had an online meeting with Fairfax to seek further clarity on what is proposed and are waiting for confirmation on a number of points.

### **Reading Borough Local Plan Partial Update**

RBC is in the process of updating its local plan which was adopted in 2019. The Local Plan contains the policies and sites for how Reading will develop up to 2041. It identifies the amount of development that will take place, the areas and sites where development is expected to be accommodated, and where it will be restricted, and sets out the policies for how planning applications will be decided.

The Council's [Local Plan Partial Update \(Draft November 2024\)](#) was submitted on 05 May 2025 to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government Housing for review and adoption. The plan will replace the current plan (November 2019). It extends the plan to 2041. [Section 8 \(pages 239-247\)](#) sets out the strategy for Caversham and Emmer Gren, describing the sites for development and the principles that apply. This starts the [Public Examination](#) process which will include a series of public hearings.

### **Kidmore Road Closure**

Thames Water has accepted responsibility for the sinkhole and will be paying for the remedial works. The outline programme of work to stabilise the ground was for an estimated 10-12 weeks, with a start in early May, however Thames Water and their Geotechnical contractors have yet to confirm a start date. Traffic problems continue and Thames Water contractors are to check the traffic signs daily. Following a request from Cllr Ballsdon, the no. 22 bus temporary route has been extended to provide stops in Uplands Road and Kidmore Road - [New route details](#).

### **North Reading Safer Neighbourhood Forum (NRSNF)**

The meeting was attended by the local Neighbourhood Police Team and Reading Borough Council's Anti Social Behaviour Team. The new format for the Forum will have three meetings a year and the location will be rotated around North Reading. The Forum is open to all residents. This meeting covered a huge range of topics including fires, illegally modified electric bikes and electric motor bikes, close passes on cyclists, knife crime, doorstep trading, rough sleeping including welfare support, aggressive begging, drug dealing, sunken boats and parking issues.

The authorities attending highlighted that the best way for reporting ASB is directly to RBC at [asb.team@reading.gov.uk](mailto:asb.team@reading.gov.uk) or on the Thames Valley Police online [anti-social behaviour page](#). For **reporting fires** residents should call 999 and ask for the Fire Brigade. The police also referred its recent neighbourhood update which includes details of what it is doing regarding modified electric bikes and electric motor bikes. The next Forum will be on 2nd October (venue TBC).

### **Police Have Your Say Day (HYSD)**

Thames Valley Police run a series of informal meetings. These meeting are designed as an opportunity for residents to say what issues they have and to meet their local team. This is a different format to the NRSNF (which is a multi agency problem solving forum). Both HYSD and NRSNF meetings are open to the public. The next HYSD is on [Friday 23rd May at 4pm](#) at Emmer Green shops near to Budgens.

### **Keeping your children safe – online training for parents**

Do you wish you knew more about some of the risks children may encounter, the influences they feel such as online harms or even exploitation by others? The Thames Valley Violence Prevention Partnership has developed [Free Online Training for Parents - Stay True to You](#).

### **Reading Climate festival 2025**

This year's [Climate Festival](#) runs from 7th - 21st June and is packed full of inspiring (and free!) events, both on-line and in person. It's for anyone who cares about nature and climate and wants to help make Reading a healthier, happier place to live, Take a tour of Reading Hydro or the Green Park Wind Turbine, learn about butterflies and house martins, visit the RISC roof garden, and get tips on making your home healthier and cosier. Find out how climate change will impact the water dynamics of our town. Or dive into the dark side and learn about Digital Dystopia.

### **Trees for Streets**

Reading Borough Council has partnered with the charity - [Trees for Streets](#) - to make it easier for residents to sponsor new tree planting in their local streets and parks or a Celebration Tree in a park.

### **Bin Calendar**

Bin collection days are changing from Monday 9 June. You can check your collection dates online at: [Bin Calendar](#) and you should also receive a copy in the post. The Scrapp App can send reminders the night before bins are due out. Get it on the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#).