



CADRA News

Caversham & District Residents' Association

The Voice of Caversham since 1967



Crossrail comes to Reading

With so much talk about the impact of Crossrail on Reading, we are pleased to welcome John Goldsmith, Community Relations Manager at Crossrail, as speaker at this year's AGM.

Crossrail is the biggest construction project in Europe and one of the largest single infrastructure investments undertaken in the UK. On completion, the new railway will connect 40 stations from Reading and Heathrow Airport in the west through 42km of brand new tunnels underneath central London to Shenfield and Abbey Wood in the east.

The project is now two thirds complete. It remains on time and within funding. From December 2019, passengers in Reading will be able to travel on Crossrail services direct to locations such as Bond Street, Tottenham Court Road, Liverpool Street and Canary Wharf on 200m long trains without the need to change.

In addition to the transport benefits, there are wider social, economic and environmental benefits during the construction period and beyond.



Image courtesy of Crossrail

John Goldsmith will give us an overview of the project, share some of the iconic images from the project's construction phase, discuss the wider benefits and explain how the service will operate at Reading from December 2019.

Everyone is welcome to attend. The AGM will include a brief roundup of the year and an update on local news. It is also a good opportunity to take out or renew membership.

Helen Lambert

Libraries

Following the initial consultation in the autumn of 2015, a second consultation on more detailed proposals is now open until 16 May. This includes a reduction in the opening hours of Caversham Library from 50.5 to 35 hours per week. <http://tinyurl.com/hll6yya> gives a link to the proposals for each library and a link to make comments on line. Paper copies are available in Caversham Library, including a form for comments which can be handed in at the library. Please do take time to comment.

Can you help?

Support from members is always welcome. If you could offer help with legal advice, photography, marketing or general support on the committee, please do get in touch.

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 26 April 2016, 7.30pm
Thameside Primary School, Harley Road

Following the brief formal business, there will be a presentation on

Crossrail comes to Reading

by John Goldsmith
Community Relations Manager, Crossrail

Transport

Pedestrian and cycle bridge

The bridge is now fully open, linking Caversham and Reading Station. Following CADRA's complaints, the poor finish of the flood compensation areas in Christchurch Meadow is much improved. CADRA has been assured that the partially fenced area by the end of the bridge will be rectified when ground conditions have improved.

Third Thames Bridge

The study into the Third Thames Bridge is being led by Wokingham Borough Council in partnership with Reading Borough Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Thames Valley Berkshire LEP and Oxfordshire LEP. The transport model is being updated to estimate the impact on the road network and to produce a business case for the bridge and linking roads. Initial results are expected this spring, with greater detail anticipated before the end of 2016.

Sharing our Streets – Achieving the Vision

Achieving the Vision was launched at the CADRA/CTA meeting in November 2014. Financial contributions from Hermes, the developers of St Martin's Precinct, should be available for transport-related improvements in Caversham centre. We will continue press for improvements when the opportunity arises.

Crossing Gosbrook Road

Reading Borough Council has carried out an initial assessment for a new zebra crossing across Gosbrook Road about 30 yards east of Patrick Road. Pedestrian and cycle movements have increased through Westfield Road Recreation Ground since the new pedestrian/cycle bridge opened.

Locating a new crossing or relocating the existing crossing near Elliotts Way to the new pedestrian desire line is complicated and some car parking may be lost from the layby. Further work will be carried out, including vehicle and pedestrian surveys.

20mph zone in central Caversham?

There has been considerable support for the petition for a 20 mph zone in central Caversham. Slower speeds through the centre would indeed be welcome and compatible with Sharing Our Streets. However, enforcement would be an issue, as even the current 30 mph limit is often exceeded when traffic is quieter. The self-enforcing measures described in Sharing Our Streets (eg. raised crossing points, junctions and side road entries) would be needed to ensure its success.

Prospect Street zebra crossing

Improvement of the crossing has been a common concern for some time, particularly since the recent serious accident. However, a traffic light crossing would tend to increase driving speeds on Prospect Street, reinforce the imbalance between vehicles and pedestrians, and could increase the risk of accidents. We support improvements, such as raising the crossing point to pavement level, in line with the Sharing our Streets report.

Crossing Rotherfield Way

Crossing over Rotherfield Way at Surley Row, particularly by school children, has been a concern for some time. A previous council proposal for traffic islands was not pursued as they would have obstructed private accesses. An alternative scheme, suggested by CADRA, for a modest

local narrowing of the carriageway with a raised table in a contrasting coloured material is being reconsidered by council officers.

Reading Car Club

Reading Car Club, run by Co-Wheels, enables people to make door-to-door journeys, whether or not they own a car. On 14 January the Traffic Management Sub-committee did not approve the proposed site for a hybrid car in Rectory Road, Caversham. However, the site was approved by the Sub-committee on 10 March 2016. The double yellow lines will be shortened so that no residents' parking spaces will be lost.

Reading Station

The upgrade of Reading Station and railway is almost complete. Work on the new parking hub for around 600 cycles at the north end of the station started in February.

The improvements to the Cow Lane bridges have been subject to a lengthy delay, caused by the failure to start the Compulsory Purchase process for the necessary land sufficiently early and by the subsequent Public Inquiry. Road and footway work was due to start in October 2015, but due to contractual problems a further delay of up to a year is likely. Eventually there will be a cycle path and footways on both sides.

Pavement parking

As we explained in the last newsletter, police action on parking on pavements (footways) is limited by a quirk in the law, but the Council can introduce Footway and Verge Parking Orders that allow civil enforcement officers to fine drivers. CADRA has been asked to compile a list of streets where residents are plagued by footway parking. Please let us know the streets where footway parking is causing you difficulties.

Safer Caversham

There was a significant increase in household burglaries and vehicle thefts in the past year. Distraction burglaries, where one person distracts a resident whilst an accomplice enters the property, have been an issue locally, so *never* leave the door open while you go to find something.

To receive warnings of internet scams, sign up to Thames Valley Alert messages and please report incidents to Action Fraud (links at www.cadra.org.uk/safercaversham.php or call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040).

Several speed operations have taken place. A number of drivers were also spoken to and a ticket issued for a vehicle travelling at 43mph in a 30mph zone.

The fine for cycling on pedestrian-only pavements is now £50.

Local Post Offices

It was disappointing that the Post Office brushed aside the many concerns raised by local people about the move of Woodcote Way Post Office and the loss of a dedicated Post Office counter. This is part of a wider change to 'new-style local branches'. A similar consultation took place regarding the Post Office counter in the Co-op on Henley Road (<http://corporate.postoffice.co.uk/modernising-post-office>).

Mapledurham Pavilion

Following a survey by a structural engineer, the hall part of Mapledurham Pavilion has been closed since 21 January 2016 and is likely to remain so for the foreseeable future.

Planning

St Martin's Centre

The owners, Hermes, have now applied for permission to carry out the scheme sequentially. The phasing plan is shown at www.cadra.org.uk/pdf/Phasing-plan-March2016.pdf.

New Local Plan

The Council invited comments on the Issues and Options paper, the first step in agreeing a new Local Plan setting out how Reading will develop up to 2036. CADRA has submitted detailed comments and has collaborated with other groups on a joint response on protecting green spaces in Caversham as well as safeguarding historic assets across Reading.

Extra Care Housing Albert Road

CADRA has followed this application closely, including correspondence with both the Council and a2dominion. The extra care housing is much needed and very welcome but there are real concerns over the proposed height, tree cover, effect on nearby properties and

the skyline viewed from Caversham Bridge. We have highlighted these concerns in a formal response to the planning application. Following our meeting with a2dominion, they undertook to make some changes. These are under discussion with planners.

South Oxfordshire

Our monthly review of local planning applications includes those in neighbouring South Oxfordshire. In view of planned housing increase in Woodcote and Sonning Common, we will take the opportunity to comment on the traffic impact through Caversham.

Conservation Areas

CADRA, other Reading groups and Council Officers attended a valuable training day run by Historic England. Volunteers can play an important role in helping to look after Conservation Areas. Please do get in touch if you would like to support this work.

The Heights Primary School

Since the public consultation on potential permanent sites in 2015, the Education Funding Agency has carried out surveying work at the playing fields to 'help inform plans for the school's position on part of the site'. A recent community newsletter gave details of public events on 21 and 22 March and a feedback form for people to share their thoughts (see www.cadra.org.uk/pdf/The-Heights-Newsletter.pdf). A broad site plan is included and further detail is expected at the events, after this newsletter is finalised. We will circulate more detail by email as soon as this is available. The process invites feedback on what community facilities local people would like to see provided as part of the proposal (see www.anewhomefortheheights.co.uk).

In correspondence from Rob Wilson MP to the EFA last August, four commitments were set out to 'help frame a positive and constructive dialogue'. In summary, these were: (1) little or no overall loss of green space; (2) no loss of sports playing space; (3) space and additional resources for a new community pavilion; (4) sufficient reassurances of no further development. CADRA will continue its neutral position on the choice of site. If the decision is to be for a school on the playing fields, we will strongly support those four principles and will consider how best to respond to the emerging plans.

About CADRA

Our aim is to *preserve and enhance the quality of life in Caversham and the surrounding District*, or, in other words, that Caversham should always be...

...a great place to live!

We work closely with Reading Councillors and Officers, other local groups, the Police, companies and individuals, always avoiding party political bias.

Together, we can make it better.

We issue two newsletters a year, hold two public meetings, write columns for the *Caversham Bridge* local newspaper and maintain a website with information on local issues and links to relevant official websites. The Facebook page (shown on the CADRA homepage) gives up-to-the-minute local news. You do *not* need to register with Facebook.

Contacting CADRA

Please write to the Secretary or better still, email us at info@cadra.org.uk. Please let us know if you change your email address.

Membership

Membership of CADRA is just £3 per year per household. Leaflets are available from Caversham Library, Delicious or Waltons in Prospect Street, or from the Membership Secretary, Tel: 947 6984. You can join and pay online at www.cadra.org.uk/application_form.php.

The Committee

Chairman: Helen Lambert, 5 Derby Road, RG4 5HE,
Tel: 947 3165

Treasurer: Stewart Bolton, 11 Graveney Drive, RG4 7EG,
Tel: 948 2687

Secretary: Linda Watsham, 159 Kidmore Road, RG4 7NJ,
Tel: 947 8744

Membership: Jacque Tomson, 121 Upper Woodcote Road,
RG4 7LB, Tel: 9476984

Website: Lloyd Pople, Upper Woodcote Road

Transport: Paul Matthews, Albert Road

Planning: Mo Prins, Haldane Road; Liz Killick, Upper
Woodcote Road; Kim Pearce, The Mount

COMMITTEE SUPPORT

Safer Caversham: Michael Howes, Knowle Close

Transport and footpaths: John Lee, Hemdean Road

Planning support: Ray Emmett, Westdene Crescent

Informal Links: Jo Munday, South View Avenue

General support: John Boucher, Highmoor Road; Les
James, Wincroft Road; John Roach, St Peter's Avenue

Newsletter Editor: Helen Lambert

Design by Anke Ueberberg

Printed by Herald Graphics, Tel: 931 1488

The opinions expressed are those of the contributors.

The Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 26 April 2016, 7.30pm
Thameside Primary School, Harley Road

Note: Only paid-up members of CADRA may vote at the AGM. One household subscription carries one vote.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of 2014 AGM
2. Chairman's Annual Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Election of Committee
5. Any Other Business (items advised in advance only)

COMMITTEE:

RETIRING AND CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Under the rules of the Constitution, Helen Lambert, Jacque Tomson and Linda Watsham will retire at the AGM and are willing to stand for re-election. New co-opted members and support to the committee are always welcome.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE COMMITTEE

Any member may be nominated for election to the Committee at the AGM, subject to the conditions in the Constitution. The Nominee must have a proposer and seconder who are both members. Please use the form below and return the completed nomination to the Secretary no less than 14 days before the AGM.

NOMINEE: I am willing to serve on the Committee of CADRA, carry out duties as agreed and act at all times in the best interests of CADRA and its members.

Name

Signature & Date

Proposed by

Seconded by