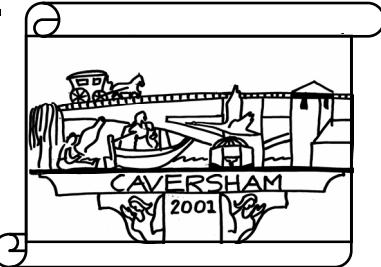


CADRA news

Caversham And District Residents' Association

The voice of Caversham for 40 years



Volume 9, Issue 1, March 2009

www.cadra.org.uk

Across the Thames

A third Thames Crossing has been discussed for many, many years. Some people see it as the only solution to traffic problems in Reading and Caversham. Others fear new rat runs through Caversham and the South Oxfordshire villages and a desecration of the countryside. As always, the reality is more complex and the issue cannot stand alone.

Progress has been particularly complicated as it is likely that a bridge would be outside the Borough boundaries crossing between South Oxfordshire and Wokingham and involving four different authorities.

Following on from the report of the Independent Transport Commission

'....improve public transport, control of HGVs, air quality and 'Park and Ride''



finding a way forward which might have the support of the different authorities. The intention is now to submit an application jointly with neighbouring authorities for special funding from the Transport Innovation Fund, aiming to resolve major problems for each of the authorities.

The application is expected to include a third Thames crossing, improved public transport, control of HGVs, air quality and 'Park and Ride' schemes. These are all hot topics for many areas

including Caversham and so an obvious choice of subject for the meeting this April. Unusually, we have invited Councillors to speak and to maintain CADRA's declared aim of avoiding party political bias, we have invited the Lead Councillor and the Transport Spokesmen from the other two main parties.

CADRA continues to work closely with other local associations. We would like to congratulate the Friends of Caversham Court on a very successful start to their work. We look forward with them to the re-opening of the gardens this summer. The final part of the work will be to fix the wind vane on the newly restored gazebo.

You may be interested in an exhibition of photographs, 'Then and Now', at Reading Museum supported by Reading Civic Society who have taken the new photographs and developed the text

Finally, we would like to wish a very 'Happy Anniversary' to our friends in Emmer Green who are preparing to celebrate twenty five years of their association on Saturday, 9 May.

2009 Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, 29th April 2009

**At the BAPTIST FREE CHURCH, PROSPECT ST.
at 7.30pm**

To be followed by a talk on

Transport in and around Reading

A third bridge and other plans.

**A presentation by Cllr Tony Page, Lead Cllr for Transport, with
Cllr Ricky Duveen and Cllr Richard Willis, Transport Spokesmen.**

Planning

Work on the various stages of the Local Development Framework (LDF) which replaces the Local Plan have come closer to home. The **Site Allocations** process aims to identify land required for housing and other purposes as well to protect land based on a list of different criteria. The local associations had previously worked together to propose areas across Caversham for protection as well as some small derelict areas which would benefit from development. These formed part of a list of sites across Reading proposed for development or for protection. CADRA

responded to proposals for other sites. The **Development Principles Document** sought views on a range of potential and existing policies against which individual planning applications should be judged. The committee spent many hours considering these and sent detailed proposals on many issues. These are available on the CADRA website. In South Oxfordshire, the decision process for areas of housing development is moving forward. The preferred options are for the majority of housing to be located in the towns and larger villages

but landowners have put forward a number of sites close to the Reading border. See links from CADRA website.

Detailed planning applications have been fewer but CADRA continues to review all significant applications north of the river and to display monthly reports on the CADRA website. We have been involved recently in applications at South View Avenue, All Hallows Road, St Peter's Avenue, Chazey Road, Upper Warren Avenue, Hemdean Road and Henley Road.

Local Consultations

CADRA has continued to follow up and respond to local consultations. A series of consultations from Thames Water included one on their Water Resources Management Plan for 2010 to 2035 showing how they intend to respond to climate change, tackle leakage, improve water efficiency and deliver high quality customer service. There is now a Statement of Response which can be seen on www.thameswater.co.uk.

Allied to this is a new consultation from the Environment Agency on River Basin Management giving an opportunity for people and organisations to work together to improve the quality of every aspect of the water environment. The E.A., with the Thames liaison panel, has produced a draft River Basin Management Plan for the Thames River Basin District. The plan describes what everyone has to do to improve the water environment over the next

20 years This consultation runs until 22 June 2009 - see link from the CADRA website.

On a very different topic, RBC is seeking views on the expansion of Holy Brook Special School which currently has 24 places for children, aged 7-11, with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties (BESD). Views are requested on expanding the school to 32 pupils and extending the age range to 5-11. The school is having growing success in providing education for their pupils, most of whom have previously had unsuccessful times at previous schools. This not only helps the individual children but eases pressures on other schools. The consultation runs until 5 May 2009. You can respond on line at www.reading.gov.uk or by contacting the Admissions Team at the Civic Centre.

Caversham Centre

CADRA has for some time been building support to resurrect the Caversham Traders Association. The viability and appearance of the businesses in Caversham makes a big difference to the quality of the area and the businesses need to have a single voice in communicating with RBC services and in dealing with local issues.

In early February, twelve Caversham businesses met, to hear a presentation by the local Thames Valley Police team describing several ways they could work together. The traders appointed two representatives to investigate their participation in the Safer Caversham Forum and a Neighbourhood Action Group. Other topics were aired including a new name to reflect the fact that many

business provide services rather than trading. Ways of increasing the profile of Caversham businesses were suggested.

The next meeting will be addressed by a RBC planner describing the proposals for the Caversham Business District in the 15 year development plan. Businesses interested in participating should contact Patricia at 'Delicious' on Prospect St.

New Bus Routes

Since James Freeman, CEO Reading Buses spoke to CADRA members in November, he has been busy trying to work out ways of improving the service to Caversham and other areas. CADRA has kept in touch with Reading Buses during this period. New timetables for the number 9 and the 137/138 will be introduced on 20 April. New leaflets will be available shortly and timetables are now available on www.reading-buses.co.uk.

Although we regret that not all Caversham Heights services will go through to the hospital, we hope that the new services will improve reliability. The new Premier Route 22 from Caversham Heights to Central Reading will extend half-hourly to RBH and

Lower Earley. New route 922 from Caversham Heights direct to schools in the RBH area will run on school days only. Unlike the number 9 which in the evening, runs every 40 minutes until 21.00, the new 22 to Caversham Heights will run every 20 minutes until 23.15 - a great improvement in the evening service. The new route 2, replacing the 137/137 will include an evening and Sunday daytime service. This route forms part of an overhaul of the main rural service corridors.

We hope to continue direct links with Reading Buses as well as through the RBC Transport Users Group and would welcome comments from members.

Caversham Lock Area

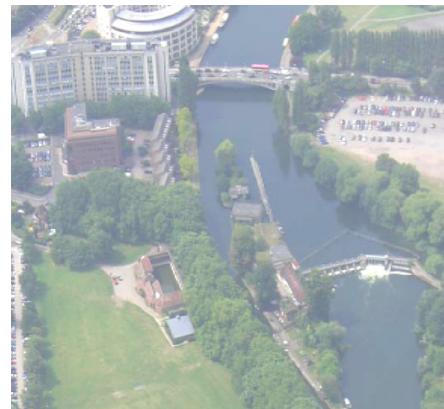
The future of the Kings Meadow pool and the Lock Island has moved another step. CADRA has maintained close involvement throughout the process, at times having privileged access.

In 2006, Development Principles for the area were adopted following public consultation. These included the Lock Island, owned by the Environment Agency and the Kings Meadow Pool, now Grade II listed and owned by the Borough Council. Bids were later invited to develop the Lock Island, the pool area or both. More detailed applications from the two short-listed bids have been received. The Council now has to decide whether to offer a period of exclusivity to one of the bidders to enable them to prepare an acceptable detailed planning application and secure finance for their proposal.

One bid, for the pool area only, is to restore the pool to create a heated semi-outdoor pool during the summer and a dry indoor area to promote other activities. There would be a restaurant and perhaps an ice skating rink in the winter. This is very much a community scheme for community benefit. It would require considerable support to raise the capital required and to ensure its continuing viability. The Environment Agency would draw up a separate planning application to develop the Lock Island to secure capital receipts in support of its services.

The other bid is for an integrated scheme bringing new facilities to both the island and pool area. It would provide bars and restaurants by the Thames on both Kings Meadow and the Lock

Island and a 'boutique' hotel incorporating the restored swimming pool. The pool would be available for public swimming as well as forming a spa for the hotel. This scheme would provide welcome new facilities. However, the current outline scheme is considered too large to secure planning permission and there will inevitably be divided opinion on the best way forward.



At its meeting in March, the Scrutiny Panel considered the two bids and heard comments from CADRA and Caversham GLOBE. Both highlighted areas of concern and the importance of the agreed Development Principles. The panel decided by a narrow margin to recommend to Cabinet that a period of exclusivity be given to the commercial scheme. During this period the Council would work with the company to develop a revised scheme which could go forward for planning permission. It is now for Cabinet to make the final decision.

Policing and Safer Caversham

With information from local people, the Neighbourhood Police Team have had success in tackling local burglaries. They would value details of anyone calling at home posing as a Council or utility worker or any 'dodgy sales'. They have also been tackling problems with inappropriate use of trials bikes.

If you have information to offer, please contact the Caversham team on 08458

505 505 or you can call anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Outdoor police surgeries are planned on a Wednesday and also a surgery alongside local councillors on a Saturday.

The RSPCA were on hand to help with swans that crash-landed on Caversham Bridge and worked with police

concerning a reported attack on swans near Deans Farm.

The role in representing CADRA on the Safer Caversham Forum, two neighbourhood Action Groups and other related events has grown considerably. We are pleased that Michael Gilbert has now joined John Roach in achieving acceptable CADRA participation.

Mapledurham Pavilion

WADRA and CADRA are in correspondence with the Council and met with them in November 2008 concerning the future of the pavilion. There is now greater clarity on the responsibilities for the Trust. The Council have made it clear that there is no

prospect of funding beyond that currently identified for the replacement of changing facilities. The associations are involved in an ongoing dialogue with the Council to consider other possibilities.

CADRA Administration Changes

CADRA has been reviewing membership arrangements to make it easier for new members to join and for existing members to renew. It is now possible for new members to complete the joining form on-line at www.cadra.org.uk by selecting 'Become a Member' and following the instructions.

Payment can now be made through an annual standing order or by electronic transfer. We hope that most members will in due course pay in this way. Those who find it a problem may continue to pay by cheque – where possible for three years.

The change makes this an appropriate time to review the subscription which has

remained unaltered for over ten years. The new annual rate is £3 per household.

Paper copies of the newsletter will now arrive by post. This gives us a more timely and flexible way of bringing you up to date news. Many thanks again to those who have kindly hand delivered for CADRA over the years.

About CADRA

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
Voluntary Liaison: James Frost,
Gurney Drive
Footpaths & Traffic: John Lee,
Hemdean Road
Planning: Jennifer Millest,
Mill Green
Licensing & Transport: John Mullaney,
Derby Road
Link to Committee Support & Newsletter:
Ruth Perkins, Woodcote Road
Safer Caversham: John Roach,
St. Peter's Ave
Website & Email: Clair Drever,
Rotherfield Way (co-opted)
Topical Issues: Mike Gilbert,
Notley Place (co-opted)

Committee Support

Membership: Mick Simmons,
84 Kidmore Road, RG4 7NA Tel: 954 3537
Planning Research: Liz Killick,
Upper Woodcote Rd
Website Support: Linda Barlow
Shepherds Lane

Contacting CADRA

Please write to the Secretary or better still, email us at:
info@cadra.org.uk

Our aim is to:

"preserve and enhance the quality of life in Caversham and the surrounding District"

We follow planned changes relevant to Caversham and look for opportunities to improve or protect our shared environment. We avoid party political bias, working closely with Reading Councillors and Officers, other local groups, the Police, companies and individuals.

We issue two newsletters a year, hold two public meetings, write columns for the Caversham Bridge local newspaper and maintain a website with a wide range of information on local and current issues.

Membership

Membership of CADRA is just £3 per year per household. Membership leaflets are available in Caversham Library and Wordplay in Prospect St. or from the Membership Secretary, tel. 0118 9543537. The stronger our voice, the more impact we can have on local decisions. Please encourage your friends and neighbours to join!

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting
on **Wednesday April 29th 7.30 pm.**
at the **Baptist Free Church Centre**
Prospect Street, Caversham.

Note: Only paid-up members of CADRA may vote at the AGM

AGENDA

1. Minutes of 2008 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, James Frost, Jennifer Millest and John Mullaney will retire at the AGM. James Frost has indicated his willingness to stand for re-election. Clair Drever and Mike Gilbert (currently co-opted members) have indicated their willingness to stand for election. Jennifer Millest and John Mullaney both wish to reduce their commitment but are willing to continue as co-opted members.

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.....