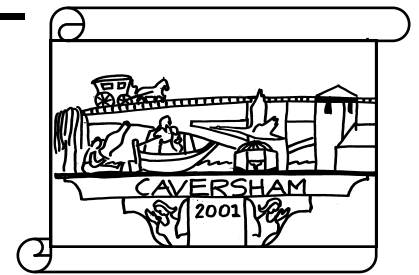


CADRA news

Caversham And District Residents' Association

The voice of Caversham for over 40 years



Volume 13 Issue 1, March 2012

www.cadra.org.uk

Local Health Services

GP and hospital services have seen all sorts of change over 30 years or more and Health is again in the spotlight in a time of financial stringency.

Dr Rod Smith, a partner at the Balmore Park Surgery, has been involved for many years with local and national initiatives to integrate community and hospital services.

He chairs both the Commissioning Group for North West Reading and the West Berkshire Federation of Clinical Commissioning Groups. This makes him particularly well placed to give an insight into how clinicians in hospitals and local



*..... to integrate
community and hospital
services.....*

surgeries have been able to shape the ways in which patient services are provided. It promises to be an interesting evening.

Changes to bus services for Caversham have produced some strong and sometimes opposing views. CADRA has kept in touch with Reading Buses, not to push a particular route but to ask for a proper review. See page 2 for further changes.

Many people have raised concerns about crossing over to the bus stop by Apex Plaza to return home. In November, the Council approved design work for a pedestrian refuge just east of the Blagrove Street/ Forbury Road. Work was delayed by sewer works in Blagrove Street but construction is due to start at the beginning of April 2012 and should be completed within two weeks. We would be pleased to hear views on how this works in practice.

It will be a busy summer with so many local events for both the Jubilee and Olympics - see details at www.cadra.org.uk. News is just in that the Olympic flame will leave from Caversham Court at 7.59 am on Wednesday 11 July.

Meanwhile, the Caversham Traders Association goes from strength to strength. Their website www.choosecaversham.org.uk gives details on a wide range of local organisations.

2012 Annual General Meeting

**7.30pm on Tuesday 15th May 2012
at Thameside School, Harley Road**

**“Is the NHS safe in the hands of
local clinicians?”**

Dr Rod Smith

**Caversham GP and Chair of the local
Commissioning Group**

Some parking by the school. 3 minutes walk from Waitrose parking.

Helen Lambert

Reading Station

The improvements to Reading Station continue at a rapid pace. The southern bridge in Cow Lane was replaced by a new bridge during the Christmas period and the road was re-opened on time at the end of January. Replacement and widening of the northern bridge is continuing.

The new bridges, apart from helping to remove the bottleneck for trains at Reading Station, will provide space for two-way road traffic and proper footways for pedestrians.

Unfortunately CADRA members have noticed that no footway has been provided on the new southern bridge

on its eastern side. People walking between Salisbury Road and Beresford Road towards Richfield Avenue and Cardiff Road have suffered since the dawn of the motor age from the dangerous lack of a footway through the bridges.

We are told the layout under this bridge is the final arrangement, which is: an excessively wide footway on the western side and no footway on the eastern side. It seems that the very wide footway is intended to take a cycle track but this ignores the dangers to pedestrians who will twice have to cross what will be a fast and busy road.

The Highway Authority (Reading Borough Council) and Network Rail have said this was dictated by land ownership issues. Apparently when completed, pedestrian refuges will be provided to help people cross the road to the new footway. This appears to be a poor arrangement for pedestrians, wheelchair and pushchair users. CADRA will watch progress on the scheme carefully and will, if necessary, approach Reading Borough Council to ensure that the best possible facilities are provided.

Bus route

The changes to Reading Buses services in Caversham that took place between September and November last year continue to operate with varying levels of support.

At the time, James Freeman, Chief Executive of Reading Buses indicated there would be a review of the services and a further public meeting early in the New Year. CADRA wrote to Mr Freeman asking about the current position.

On 16th March Mr Freeman announced that:

"After careful consideration we have decided that from a date to be decided Pink Route 22 will be diverted back to the route it took prior to 26th September 2010, i.e. via Priest Hill in both directions."

The reason given is that the compromise route from Oakley Road to The Mount via Kidmore Road is too indirect and awkward and that the original route will be quicker with better timekeeping.

As a consequence, Hemdean Road services will be every half hour. It is expected, that the Council will withdraw Community Link buses 18 and 28 from Caversham Heights and redeploy them elsewhere in Caversham.



Mapledurham Pavilion

Plans for the refurbishment/rebuilding of the pavilion in three separate sections, including the hall, have been prepared and discussed with the various user groups and other interested parties.

The current estimate for building the changing facilities, kitchen and toilets is about £260k and it is hoped that this can be funded by £100k Section 106 monies, £50K from Festival Republic and the balance from a grant application to the Football Foundation.

The current estimate for refurbishing the tennis room, toilets and other accommodation is about £180k and it is hoped that a substantial part of this cost can be met from a grant application to the Inspired Communities programme.

Both of the above grant applications are currently being prepared by Officers from Reading Borough Council supported by the user groups, local Councillors and Management Committee.

The Fundraising Group continues to organise events and explore other

ways to raise money for the refurbishment of the hall which is likely to cost in the region of £250k. Details of the forthcoming fund raising events can be found on our website.

The idea to dispose of the water pumping station with some additional land for development has been opposed by a number of interested parties and is against the current declared policy of Reading Borough Council.

We wish everybody involved in this important local project every success.

Bid for 'Green' Transport Fund

In December, the Council submitted a bid for £24.2 million to the Local Sustainable Transport Fund. This would allow schemes including a new pedestrian/ cycle bridge across the Thames, expanded Park and Ride facilities in neighbouring boroughs and a bike hire scheme for Reading.

The aim is to reduce carbon emissions, cut congestion and increase alternatives to travel by car. The bid also includes funding for a range of reduced bus fare offers for local trips and payment by a single card or mobile phone, similar to London's Oyster Card. The result is expected in June.

Caversham 100 Years On

2011 was a busy year for CADRA and the other groups involved with a range of projects made possible by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The exhibition boards travelled round and were then printed into a booklet provided to schools and libraries. They have been sold at WordPlay since before Christmas with high demand requiring a reprint. Copies are still available to order and will also be on sale at the AGM.

The overall project continues to the end of 2012. A heritage map is being developed with a local artist. Subject to the necessary permissions, this will be attached to the railings at the side of Caversham Library which was the site of the old Scholar Tree and we think, the village whipping post.

A team from the Friends of Caversham Court Gardens are developing a heritage guide of the gardens.

We are currently discussing with Highdown School how volunteers with longer local memories could work alongside pupils to 'pin' early photos on the Historypin website. www.Caversham100yearson.org.uk still shows links to many sources of local history.



Local Policing

The new non emergency 101 police number is now in use across England and Wales. Calls are automatically transferred to the local County Police force. The cost is 15p from landlines or mobiles regardless of the length of the call. 101 should be used to report non emergency crime or to give information. There is also a non emergency reporting form on www.thamesvalley.police.uk.

You should call 999 if a crime is being committed or if there is risk of injury or serious damage to property.

The Neighbourhood Action Groups for Lower and Upper Caversham continue to meet every two months. Their current focus is on speeding, burglary and parking. Recent speeding checks showed between 1% and 3% of cars driving over 34

mph and the highest speed 45mph. Warning letters were issued. A trial is being conducted in Tilehurst to see the effect of a 20mph zone.

Parking is the responsibility of the Council and the police are only involved in the case of an obstruction. The NAGs are currently looking at ways to address problems with parking near schools.

Planning

CADRA continues to prepare a monthly summary of the significant local planning applications which is routinely available on the CADRA website. The level of applications for new building is still lower, the most recent being an application to demolish and replace the Old Bakehouse on the corner of Hemdean and Rectory Roads.

There has been an unusual level of applications for large new signs, including several for the new development of sheltered housing which you can see from Waitrose car park. CADRA has objected to a number of these.

The process of confirming strategic plans has continued including those for Sites and Detailed Policies. The hearings conducted by an Inspector on behalf of the Secretary of State resulted in a number of changes for

controversial sites in Reading. There were no changes north of the river though CADRA opposed an application from the developer to increase the height and density of the housing indicated for Napier Court, Napier Road following demolition of the current office blocks.

Strategic planning for South Oxfordshire has followed a different timetable though again some changes were required to meet national policies. The policy continues to state that development on the Reading borders was examined and rejected which we understand would imply refusal of all but the smallest applications. However, the Council was required to make specific provision for new housing and the larger villages including Woodcote and particularly Sonning Common will see increases.

Can you help?

To remain an active and vibrant association, CADRA is always in need of new blood and would welcome offers of help. Specifically we would like to hear from anyone

who could offer general support as a co-opted member of the committee. Alternatively if you have technical and/or editorial skills which could support the production of this

newsletter and other regular communications, we would really like to hear from you. If this might be of interest, please contact Helen.Lambert@cadra.org.uk

About CADRA

The Committee

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159 Kidmore Road, RG4 7NJ Tel: 947 8744
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Licensing & Lower Caversham NAG: Mike Gil-
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Upper Caversham NAG: Les James,
Wincroft Road
Transport: Paul Matthews, Albert Road
Planning: Mo Prins, Haldane Road
Safer Caversham: John Roach, St. Peter's Ave
Website: Ann Goodridge, Henley Road
Voluntary Liaison: James Frost, Gurney Drive

Committee Support

Planning Research: Liz Killick, Upper Woodcote
Road
Transport and footpaths: John Lee, Hemdean
Road
Informal Links: Jo Munday, South View Avenue
IT support: David Ferguson, Patrick Road

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"*

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 a wide range of information on local issues and quick
links to the relevant detail on large official websites.

Membership

Membership of CADRA is just £3 per year for the household.
Leaflets are available in Caversham Library and Wordplay in
Prospect Street or from the Membership Secretary, tel. 947 6984.
Please encourage your friends and neighbours to join!

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting
on **Tuesday 15th May 7.30 pm.**
at **Thameside School**
Harley Street, Caversham.

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

AGENDA

1. Minutes of 2011AGM
2. Chairman's Annual Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Election of Committee
5. Re-appointment of Chairman
6. Any Other Business (items advised in advance only)

Committee: Retiring and Co-opted Members

Under the rules of the Constitution, David Ferguson, Mike Gilbert and Les James will retire at the AGM. Mike Gilbert has indicated his willingness to stand for re-election. Paul Matthews (co-opted member) and Ann Goodridge (recently co-opted) have also indicated their willingness to stand for election.

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.....