



CADRA News

Caversham & District Residents' Association

The Voice of Caversham since 1967



A friend to the consumer

Last autumn, Caversham suffered a lLspate of disreputable cold callers seeking to part vulnerable home owners from their money. They can be expected to return in the spring, citing supposed damage after the cold winter.



These rogues offer to do small jobs at very reasonable rates while apparently befriending the home owner. This then develops into further work at highly inflated prices which the owner feels obligated to pay.

'a friend to the consumer, an advisor to businesses and the scourge of the scammer, rip-off merchant and serious organized crime'

Cold calling is one of the many areas covered by Trading Standards Officers. While there are particularly topical issues including scams and frauds,

food safety and labeling, counterfeit goods, weights and measures and alcohol sales to children, their role extends to almost every financial transaction we make.

We look forward to hearing from Steve Hambridge about examples and anecdotes of his work in Trading Standards. Everyone is welcome and there will be an opportunity to sign up or renew CADRA membership.

Helen Lambert



Schools

During the well-attended CADRA open meeting in October, Kevin McDaniel from Reading's Education Department confirmed a shortage of school places in Caversham and explained that Caversham would need 60 additional places each year for the forthcoming years. For the September 2013 intake, Micklands Primary School and The Hill Primary School will each take an extra 30 pupils. On 16 April parents will hear which schools have been allocated to children starting in September.

A further stage of consultation by the Education Department took place in March to consider which proposals to take forward on the Reading-wide issue of primary and secondary school place shortages (www.cadra.org.uk/news.php). Meanwhile, a group of parents developing a bid for a new Free School will shortly be interviewed by the Department of Education (www.theheightsprimary.co.uk).

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 7 May 2013, 7.30pm
Caversham Baptist Centre, Prospect Street

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

Trading Standards

by Steve Hambridge,
Senior Consumer Protection Officer,
Trading Standards Service, RBC

Transport

Reading Station

The improvement of Reading Station is reaching a critical phase. The footbridge between Vastern Road car park and the station has been removed and the newly refurbished subway has reopened.

Network Rail's biggest ever new station commissioning will be carried out this Easter between 28 March and 8 April. The work includes new entrances on the North and South sides of the station and opening of the new passenger bridge. The new station will have: five new platforms, a new ticket office on the North side, a new passenger bridge with escalators and lifts for people with disabilities. The Improvements at Reading, including the Cow Lane bridges, are on target for completion in 2015.

The Easter closure of the station will cause significant inconvenience to passengers and revised timetables will be in operation from Friday 29 March 2013. Full details of the changes, timetables and rail replacement bus services can be viewed at www.firstgreatwestern.co.uk/reading.

Potholes

The prolonged periods of wet weather followed by freezing conditions has increased the numbers of potholes in our roads. In line with nationally agreed standards of good practice, the Council will treat potholes that are 50mm in depth over an area of about 300mm by 300mm. Council officers may decide to treat smaller potholes if they are considered to be a particular hazard for pedestrians, pedal and motor cyclists. The Council's highway inspectors will examine potholes that are reported to them but piecemeal inspections can disrupt their systematic inspections. Potholes can be reported to the Council directly or through www.fixmystreet.com. Give a precise description of the location and, if possible, provide a photograph.

Road Works

Major resurfacing work is programmed for roads in Caversham in 2013/14, including Rotherfield Way, Southdown Road Prospect Street, Church Street, Church Road and Bridge Street.

Following safety concerns, new schemes are to be developed for sections of Peppard Road and for the mini roundabout at the junction of Church Street, Prospect Street and George Street.

Mapledurham Pavilion

It is very disappointing that the application to the Inspired Facilities Fund for a grant was unsuccessful and that the meeting with the Football Foundation indicated we are not yet in a position to submit a full application for a grant. This has hardened the Management Committee's resolve to find a solution to the financial problem of the replacement pavilion, including a hall.

A number of options are being pursued and the Committee focused on two courses of action which are not mutually exclusive. Firstly, to work with the football clubs to address the concerns raised so that an application for a grant to the Football Foundation can be made later in the year. Secondly, progressing with the architect the least-cost building solution, using as much of the existing structure as possible. This solution could involve members of the community helping in the refurbishment subject to their skills and Health and Safety requirements.

The funding raising group, led by WADRA, have worked very hard and raised around £25,000. The Summer Fete this year is set for 22 June. If you would like to help please contact Elisa Miles at www.wadra.org.uk.

Caversham 100 Years On

On 1 February, an evening reception for over 100 people took place at Caversham Library to celebrate the



completion of the project. This was an opportunity to look back at what had been achieved and thank everyone who had taken part. The Mayor cut a celebration cake and unveiled a representation of the new Heritage Map. A Heritage Lottery Fund representative praised the extent of community involvement and the wide scope of the exhibitions and publications, declaring that the HLF grant that funded them had been well spent.

CADRA had particular responsibility for the production of the new Heritage Map outside Caversham Library. The associated leaflet is now on sale in the library at 50p. It provides a very brief summary of local history and can be used as a guide to walk around Caversham. This and other publications can be found at www.cadra.org.uk/history.php along with an online summary of sources for further study. Additional material for this would be very welcome.

Planning

Recent decisions from the Planning Inspectorate have raised interesting local issues. For the new flats at Abbotsmead Place, McCarthy and Stone applied for three illuminated boards, each 8 meters tall with a flag above. This was refused by the Council as too obtrusive and dominant. The Planning Inspector agreed that the signs would be overbearing and were too tall, firmly rejecting the argument for local marketing. An application for a single, shorter board without lighting has now been approved.

The second decision concerned the proposal to build seven one-bedroom flats on the corner of Hemdean Road and Rectory Road, replacing the old bakery building. Local residents were concerned about extra pressure on the

limited parking spaces. The issue was considered at length by the Inspector. Concluding that occupiers would not be eligible for Residents Parking Permits and so would be unlikely to have cars, the Inspector granted permission. Time will tell.

The application from Lafarge on further gravel extraction, expected to continue to 2030, is due to be heard by the South Oxfordshire Planning Applications Committee in April. Residents in Sonning Eye remain very concerned about the impact on flooding.

A link to current planning applications and appeal decisions can always be found on the CADRA website at www.cadra.org.uk/planning.php.

Local Policing

Sergeant Nigel Scarratt joined the team last year, returning to an area he knows well. He is keen to show that motorists breaking road traffic laws will be dealt with firmly. Spot checks have resulted in tickets being issued for speeding, use of mobile phone while driving and failure to wear seat belts.

Parking around schools is a regular problem and the police have allocated an officer to each primary school. Burglaries from sheds and garages are still an issue as are con men calling at sheltered accommodation, including one claiming to represent 'Help for Heroes.'

The two Neighbourhood Action Groups are chaired by David Luckett (Lower Caversham) and Michael

Gilbert, from the CADRA Committee for Upper Caversham. For the past year, both groups have concentrated on burglary, vehicle issues (speeding/parking) and antisocial behaviour. A new consultation in September will canvas local views on priorities for the following year.

The Police are concerned to build a better picture of trouble hot-spots and would welcome reports of any incidents.

Anthony Stansfeld was appointed the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley. Under his direction, the new Police and Crime Plan for the Thames Valley for 2012–2017 is about to be published (www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk).

Aircraft Noise

There have been a number of reports recently of aircraft noise over Caversham very early in the morning. The Department for Transport's 'Night Flights Consultation' was published in January and is open until 22 April 2013. It is the first step in setting the next Night Flights regime to apply to Heathrow from 26 October 2014 (www.gov.uk/government/consultations/night-flights-consultation).

If you experience noise problems you can report these at www.heathrowairport.com/noise/help/make-an-enquiry.

Licensing

Reading Borough Council notifies CADRA of all new licence application for the Borough. These include licences for entertainment, alcohol sale and restaurants or bars and cafés. In the past year, CADRA has sought clarification on a number of applications and has had detailed communications on two licences,

having some success in getting conditions altered.

CADRA and other organisations meet with Reading Borough Council and Festival Republic to review arrangements in advance of the Reading Festival. Later in the year, there is a further meeting to review and to identify where improvements

can be made. In 2012, the major issue was traffic congestion on the Woodcote Road as festival goers left the White Camp at Mapledurham on Bank Holiday Monday. Festival Republic is examining ways to reduce the number of vehicles turning towards Caversham and we will ask for more details in advance of the 2013 festival.

About CADRA

Our aim is to *preserve and enhance the quality of life in Caversham and the surrounding District*; 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, Caversham Traders and individuals, always avoiding party political bias.

Together, we can make it better.

We issue two newsletters a year, hold two public meetings, and write columns for the Caversham Bridge, the monthly community newspaper. We email members on current issues and maintain a website www.cadra.org.uk with a wide range of information on local issues and quick links to relevant detail on large official websites.

We are always keen to hear local news and views from CADRA members.

Contacting CADRA

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

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.

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 Rd, RG4 7LB, Tel: 9476984

Vice Chairman, Licensing & NAGs: Mike Gilbert, 4 Notley Place, RG4 8PW, Tel: 947 4437

Website: Ann Goodridge, Henley Road

Transport: Paul Matthews, Albert Road

Planning: Mo Prins, Haldane Road, and Liz Killick, Upper Woodcote Road (co-opted)

Safer Caversham: John Roach, St. Peter's Avenue

Honorary member: James Frost, Gurney Drive

COMMITTEE SUPPORT

Transport and footpaths: John Lee, Hemdean Road

Informal Links: Jo Munday, South View Avenue

Continuity: Les James, Wincroft Road

Newsletter Editor: Helen Lambert

Design: Anke Ueberberg

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The opinions expressed are those of the contributors.

The Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 7 May 2013, 7.30pm
Caversham Baptist Centre, Prospect Street

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

AGENDA

1. Minutes of 2012 AGM
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, Helen Lambert, John Roach, Jacque Tomson and Linda Watsham will retire at the AGM. They have each indicated their willingness to stand for re-election. Liz Killick has agreed to continue as a co-opted member. We would welcome new committee 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