



CAVERSHAM & DISTRICT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 1996

Welcome to Caversham & District Residents' Association. Thank you for your subscription which entitles you and your family to membership until the year 2000. Please accept this Newsletter as a receipt for your payment.

What Does the Association do?

You have become a Member of a long-established, active and thriving organisation. CADRA has been in existence since 1967, working to protect the environment in Caversham and to provide a voice for the local community. The Committee usually meets once a month. We scrutinise and comment on local planning applications, and raise matters of local concern with Councillors and Council Officers.

We hold liaison meetings with eight other local community associations, so that we may co-ordinate our joint approach to major issues in Caversham. Together with these other groups we have raised issues with our local Councillors and through the Press which have included the Caversham One Way System, safety for pedestrians, the traffic lights in Church Street and overdevelopment with too few facilities in the Amersham Road area. We are also concerned with the high density housing currently planned for the Abbotsmead site in the centre of Caversham.

In addition we have taken up concerns ranging from obstruction of pavements, and distracting road signs to damage to protected trees which have been reported to us by individual members.

Our Committee is invited to send representatives to sit on groups such as Caversham Liaison Group, Reading Traffic Forum, North Reading Neighbourhood Network Group, South Oxfordshire Parish Working Party, and the Civic and Chiltern Societies.

Our Annual General Meeting is usually held just before Easter, when we arrange for a Speaker to come and talk to us on a topical subject. In addition we hold occasional meetings for Members to discuss matters of interest and relevance to the local community. Past meetings have included speakers on traffic problems in Caversham, Borough Council planning decisions which affect the area, bus services, waste disposal and environmental health.

What is the Association most concerned with at present?

We are anxious to prevent another large supermarket being built in Caversham. We welcomed Reading Borough Council's decision not to grant planning permission for retail use of the Elliotts' site in Gosbrook Road, because this would lead to increased traffic, and loss of business for the smaller shops. However, the Council is being challenged over their decision by Safeway, who are taking the issue to a Public Enquiry in their effort to overturn the Council's plan.

CADRA will mobilise local opinion to support the Council's decision and try to prevent local decision making being overturned in the appeal process.

What future actions are being planned?

CADRA is liaising with all the other local community associations within Caversham to represent residents' views as fully as possible at the Enquiry. We plan to hold a Public Meeting for all Members in the New Year, on a date yet to be fixed, but before the Public Enquiry. This will enable us to hear members' views and represent them as fully as possible to the Inspector.

Meanwhile, we are producing a Petition, copies of which will shortly be available from Committee Members of all the local groups including CADRA, and from some of the local shops, which together have their own Traders' Association.

Doris Thomas, CADRA's Planning Officer, is primarily responsible for organising the Petition, and will welcome any offers of help in collecting signatures. Her telephone number is 0118 947 2864.

What else can I do to help?

Apart from helping to get signatures on the Petition, you can offer help to CADRA in other ways.

Firstly, you can encourage your friends to join and give their views on any matter of public concern. Secondly, as a result of our recruitment campaign, we have experienced a huge upturn in our Membership over the last few weeks, and will need additional deliverers to distribute Newsletters such as the one you are now reading. We usually do this about twice a year, and ask deliverers to cover about twelve to fifteen houses close to their own address.

We try to keep our Members fully informed and consulted on issues as they arise.

Finally, if you have time to become involved on a regular basis, you might consider offering to join our Committee. We meet monthly and would warmly welcome a few new recruits to join longer-established Members.

You have, of course, already helped us a great deal in deciding to join and pay your subscription. Your contribution enables us to pay for paper, printing and photocopying. We also have to pay to hire rooms or halls for public meetings. Obviously we become increasingly effective as a local pressure group as our membership goes up. So thank you for joining. We look forward to an opportunity to meet you at the meeting planned for the New Year.

Annette Hendry (Chair)

Who are the Committee Members?

President	Molly Casey, for many years our Secretary (947 2300)
Chair	Annette Hendry
Vice Chair	Ian Brown (947 4201)
Secretary	Situation currently vacant.
Hon Treasurer	Stewart Bolton
Planning Officer	Doris Thomas (947 2864)
Membership Secretary	Marian Fallowfield (947 1647)
Minutes Secretary	Pam Fuad

Other Committee Members are:-

Tom Chadwick
Jim Frost
Dorothy Gardiner
May Leach
Judy Brooke-Wavell