



A Welcome from CADRA in 2006

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www.cadra.org.uk



CADRA news

Caversham And District Residents' Association

The long awaited consultation on the future of the Mapledurham Playing Fields and Pavilion is finally with us.

Leaflets were distributed by the council to a small area around the playing fields and information is available in a number of public centres.

Following years of little or no maintenance of the existing buildings they became largely unusable. In 2003, the Mapledurham Management Committee recommended that the rebuilding of the Pavilion should go ahead, funded by the sale of a portion of land at the playing fields.

In 2005, we heard that there was to be a wide consultation on up to four proposals. These are the proposals.

Option A—New sports pavilion and changing rooms.

Option B— New building with changing rooms and a meeting room but no hall

Option C—Re-provide only changing rooms for sports pitches.

Option D—Provide facilities in partnership with a new Caversham Primary School on the site.

Options A, B and C will be funded by the sale of a portion of land—the larger the

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building—the larger the portion of open land sold. We are told that there are new streams of funding available from the National Lottery and other agencies, which could help provide changing facilities and minimise the loss of open space on the site.

Compensatory open land and a sports pitch would be provided at Clayfield Copse.

There will be many differing views across Caversham.

Some may welcome the opportunity to resolve problems at Caversham Primary and perhaps in time review catchment areas. Others may be concerned to maintain a community facility open seven days a week—particularly following the closure of the Arthur Legge Centre and the threat hanging over the Caversham Adult Education Centre. Many will be worried about the potential loss of accessible open space as Caversham becomes a more crowded place to live.

Whatever your view, the important thing is that you should express it before 27 October 2006.

Public displays are in the library, Mapledurham Pavilion, Milestone Centre, Civic Centre and Highdown and Caversham Primary Schools. Voting forms can be collected and deposited there as well as at Cavendish Meats,

Emmer Green and Woodcote Way Post Office.

Road shows are planned at the pavilion on:

- Sat. 7 Oct 10am—12noon
- Wed. 11 Oct 2pm—4 pm
- Wed. 11 Oct 7pm—9 pm

This will give you an opportunity to drop in and put questions to Council staff.

You can request forms by calling 939 0771 or vote online at www.reading.gov.uk/consultations/mapledurham.

The next stage will be for the National Playing Fields Association and the Charities Commission to scrutinise the proposal and decide, among other things if it meets the requirements of the Trust Deeds.

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Open Meeting about *Caversham Court Gardens*

Tuesday 7th November at 7:45PM

At the BAPTIST FREE CHURCH CENTRE, PROSPECT ST.

Come and meet the Parks Team.

Learn about the history of the gardens, the plans for their restoration and the ways that we can all be involved

See page 2

For the first time, festivals such as **Reading Festival** and **WOMAD** have had to apply for a license under the new provisions of the act. A formal hearing for the Reading Festival License in June was well attended.

The organisers, Mean Fiddler, were permitted an increase in ticket numbers, a car park and camp site on Mapledurham Estate, revised sound levels and recorded music and entertainment after midnight.

The 24 hour alcohol license was refused and the number of tickets allowing early admission were severely restricted.

After problems last year with noxious smoke, bonfires were prohibited. Mean Fidler gave many assurances on the effective management of a whole range of potential problems and we congratulate the panel of Councillors for binding them to comply with these as set out in the operat-

ing schedule.

Information is still being gathered on the operation of the festival and problems experienced and CADRA is active in this process. If you can provide more information please send it to John Mullaney at John.Mullaney@cadra.org.uk or the address on the back page.

There have been two recent applications for revisions to licenses in Caversham. The Island Bar and Restaurant has been granted permission to serve alcohol and play music until midnight and sell food until 12.30am, seven days a week. The Riverview Brasserie have applied for an extension to 3.30am Thursday to Saturday and for the rooftop terrace to remain open until 11pm. A hearing is to be arranged.

Caversham Court

In May 2006 the **Heritage Lottery Fund** approved funding to support the restoration of Caversham Court gardens. A large amount of the funding will be used to restore the 17th and 19th century features of the garden, including the gazebo and its causeway, the crinkle-crankle retaining wall, and the ancient yew family and hedge.

Some historic features that have been removed over the years will

be replaced, like the ornamental Pugin-designed gateway. The planting will also be restored to try and recreate the intimacy of the private garden with its flower borders and riverside walk.

Proposals have also been made that include a tea garden run for the benefit of charity, and a boat landing stage. The gardens will be a base for horticultural training of staff, apprentices and volunteers, as well as an educational resource

for schools.

A part-time project officer and a new full time Head Gardener are now in post. Do come along to the open meeting on Tuesday 7 November, to meet the team, to learn about the history and to hear more about the plans and how you can play a part as they begin to take shape. See the front page for details of the meeting.

Safer Caversham Forum

The Safer Caversham Roadshow in Westfield Rd Park on 22 June was particularly well supported; across Reading, 400 questionnaires were completed. Residents were given insights into the work of different groups and agencies to build community safety and provide positive activities for young people. It took the form of a fun day with activities for children to encourage family participation and to introduce them to the summer youth programme of events.

Forum meetings included discussion of funding for lighting and CCTV in strategic places and presentations on several youth projects, including provision of sports facilities, mini-moto training days, arts and music projects, and suitable youth meeting places.

Graffiti remains a problem in Caversham, which can be reduced by having any incidents dealt with quickly. Discussions are underway about providing Neighbourhood Watch groups with graffiti removal kits. The police believe that

graffiti is not only annoying, but is seen by criminals as indicating an area that is a soft touch for further crime.

The Police Surgeries (see back page) are a useful opportunity to exchange information and views. Residents often provide information, which they would not bother to register through the rather formidable 'phone system, but which is valuable in assisting police to direct their finite resources. Antisocial behaviour often has a timing pattern, which if advised to the police, will help them deal with occurrences more effectively.

News from the police is that the new style neighbourhood policing model will be rolled out in the Caversham area towards the end of this year and this will bring new PCSO community officers for Caversham. Crime in the Caversham area is down by 23% from the same time last year which is excellent news.

This has been a quite a year for transport issues—the most prominent and controversial being the IDR. The Borough Council have now decided to proceed with the scheme with a starting date early in 2007. Concerns from neighbouring authorities are still to be resolved. CADRA remains concerned about the potential impact on traffic in Caversham and to and from Caversham and will continue to attempt to maintain a dialogue with the Council.

On a more prosaic level we have been campaigning for improved bus routes in Caversham. After lobbying from CADRA and others, the Council has agreed to run the Number 9 service on Sundays for an experimental period of about a year. It follows the normal route and the timetable is as follows:

- Buses depart St. Andrew's Church at 10.20 and every

hour until 17.20 for Central Reading.

- Buses depart St. Mary's Butts (stop CR) for Caversham Heights at 11.03 and every hour until 17.03.
- An additional journey departs Friar Street at 10.06.

However, under government regulations, the Council is obliged to run an 'economic' service. Should the number of passengers prove inadequate then the service will cease. Over the last couple of years CADRA has had many requests to ask the Council to run this service. It is now up to the public to use the no 9 bus. Do let your friends know about it and encourage them to use it.

Use it or lose it!!

Reading Voluntary Action

James Frost

"Without independence there is no voluntary sector and without an independent voluntary sector there is no civil society, no freedom."

Reading Voluntary Action is a registered charity which helps other charities and community groups with advice, expertise and an extensive library of books and pamphlets at its office in 8 Cross Street. It is fortunate to have extremely knowledgeable and helpful staff, both full time and part time, paid and voluntary.

It is funded from several sources, Reading Council, the community fund, the Earley Charity, Reading Primary Trust and other sponsors.

For the last two years the Treasury has funded organisations which it regards as front-line through the *Change Up* framework. These include RVA which has now received £100,000. RVA has a board of directors who all bring individual skills, experience and enthusiasm. All volunteers of course!

Planning Issues

Looking back at planning applications we have reviewed over the past six months, it is heartening that many larger applications have been unsuccessful so far.

In central Caversham, the plans for George Street and School Lane were refused. On the Henley Road, a plan for 65 flats on the edge of Caversham and another between All Hallows Road and Copse Avenue for 13 units were refused.

A scheme on Woodcote Road adjoining Mapledurham playing fields was refused at appeal and another adjoining the golf

course was refused by RBC.

Schemes can always reappear, either at appeal or with a revised plan as is now the case for Upper Woodcote Road. We all need to remain vigilant to make sure that local concerns are voiced and properly considered.

CADRA is now producing a monthly summary of Caversham applications of wider concern. This will be available on our website with a direct link to the RBC site for detailed information on each application.

Can you help?

Following our appeal in the last newsletter, we were delighted to receive offers of help. We are pleased to welcome Mick Simmons as our new Membership Secretary and Jo Munday who has kindly taken on the job of distributing the newsletters twice a year. This has freed time for Ruth Perkins, who joined the committee in 2004 to take on the job of developing the new website.

Ruth would be glad to hear from anyone who would be interested to work with her, gathering and updating information. No specialist knowledge is

required but your will need a home computer with email and internet.

We are also looking for more support 'back of house' to support our planning role. Would you be willing to spend a few hours each month compiling and maintaining records of the local planning applications. We have an established procedure and there would be plenty of support. You would need a home computer, email and internet. If you might be interested, please contact the Chairman or Secretary – see details on back page.

We are pleased to announce that we have a new web-site, : www.CADRA.org.uk. (same address) It has much more information and will be updated monthly with the latest developments on consultations, planning, licensing, transport, open spaces and local events that may be of interest. It will also continue to have the more static information about CADRA, the Caversham Bridge articles and useful phone numbers and links to other organisations in the Caversham, Emmer Green and Reading area. Please do have a look and let us know if there are other things you would like to see.

Our old web-site was designed, set up and maintained by

Sylvia Chumbly. We would like to thank her for all her work in helping us into the electronic era.

We would also like to thank Ken Good at Edge Impact (www.edgeimpact.co.uk) for designing the new web-site and donating the software with which we will be able to maintain the content without having to know anything technical.

We have a new email address: info@CADRA.org.uk. Please send any questions, comments or ideas relating to life in Caversham or the web-site to this email address or in writing to our secretary.

About CADRA

The Committee

CADRA Honorary President:

Molly Casey, 14 Albert Road,
RG4 7PE Tel: 947 2300

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
3 Grass Hill, RG4 7TJ

Footpaths & Traffic: John Lee
316 Hemdean Road, RG4 7QS

Planning: Jennifer Millest
40 Mill Green, RG4 8EX

Licensing & Transport: John Mullaney
29 Derby Road, RG4 5HE

Web-site & Link to Committee Support: Ruth Perkins

61 Woodcote Road, RG4 7EX

Safer Caversham: John Roach
3 Courtlands, St. Peter's Avenue, RG4 7DH

Committee Support

Membership: Mick Simmons
84 Kidmore Road, RG4 7NA

Newsletter Distribution: Jo Munday
46 South View Ave, RG4 5AJ

The Purpose of CADRA

The organization was established almost 40 years ago and has become a widely respected voice for the community north of the river. Our aim is to: *"preserve and enhance the quality of life in Caversham and the surrounding District."*

In essence this means trying to keep the good parts, improve the undesirable parts and prevent detrimental change. We resolutely avoid party political bias and work closely with Reading Councillors and Officers, other local groups, the Police, companies and individuals.

To be effective, we have to be able to hear our members' opinions and reflect their views. In addition to a wide range of informal links, we issue two newsletters a year and hold two public meetings.

CADRA Membership

At just £2 per year per household, membership of CADRA is a bargain! Membership leaflets are available in Caversham Library, Wordplay and Bangles or from the Membership Secretary, tel 0118 9543537. Please do encourage your friends and neighbours to join.

Contacting CADRA

We prefer you to contact us in writing, so that we can give proper attention to your comments and make a considered response. Please write to the Secretary, or better still, use e-mail. **Our e-mail address is info@CADRA.org.uk**

For urgent matters only, Officers' telephone numbers are given on the left, but please use them with consideration.

Ward Councillors

Contact via: 0118 939 0287

Mapledurham

Fred Pugh

Caversham

Andrew Crumpsty

Sue Stainthorpe

Steve Waite

Peppard

Bob Green

Annette Hendry

Mark Ralph

Thames

Isobel Ballsdon

Jeanette Skeats

David Stevens

Caversham Neighbourhood Police

Inspector Graham Dix and Sgt Warren McKeown

PC John Finnerty - Caversham Heights

PC Chris Manneta - Emmer Green & Caversham Park Village

PC Sally Jenkins - Lower Caversham

PC Stuart Murdoch— Lower Caversham

Web-site www.thamesvalley.police.uk

Police 'Surgeries' at Church House, 1st Monday of the month 5pm - 8pm.

To report crime, suspicious incidents and to contact individual officers call 0845 8 505 5050 or email: police@thamesvalley.pnnn.police.uk

In an emergency or if a crime is being committed call 999

Reading Borough Council

Switchboard 0118 939 0900

Call Centre including Refuse Collection, Graffiti Removal 0800 834 035

Planning permission & enquiries, Licensing, Road Safety 0800 626 540

www.reading.gov.uk, gives information on a wide range of issues including planning applications. Links to specific parts of the Council web-site can be found on the CADRA web-site