

**Caversham
And
District
Residents
Association**



**Caversham
Traders
Association**

Caversham – a vision for the future

Sharing our Streets – Responses

1 Background

- 1.1 On the evening of 12 November CADRA and CTA held a joint meeting at Thameside School Hall. The purpose of the meeting was to consider if a 'Vision' for traffic measures in the centre of Caversham is needed.
- 1.2 Simon Beasley, Network Manager for Reading Borough Council explained the Council's duties and constraints, as the local Highway Authority, and how improvements are funded
- 1.3 Current proposals for Caversham include:
 - **Prospect Street mini-roundabout** – a double mini-roundabout to improve safety
 - **Church Street pedestrian crossing** - to be moved nearer to the petrol station
 - **Church Street cycle facilities** – a dock for the cycle hire scheme
 - **De-cluttering** –too many signs and markings may reduce drivers' focus
 - **Parking** – particularly on residential roads
 - **Peppard Road** pedestrian facilities – plans for three new crossings including one zebra crossing
 - **Church Road/Church Street Junction** – MOVA, a new adaptive control system will be introduced here and on all traffic lights in Caversham.
- 1.4 Mr Beasley urged Caversham to look to the future and work with Councillors to develop a 'Vision for Caversham', in order to seize funding opportunities.
- 1.5 Paul Matthews, a member of the CADRA committee, gave a short presentation comparing Caversham with other local centres. He gave examples of what had been achieved elsewhere to make roads more 'friendly' to non motorists. Although major schemes costing several million pounds may not be attainable in Caversham there are many smaller changes that could have a positive impact.
- 1.6 Over 100 people attended the meeting including five local Councillors.
- 1.7 Those present at the meeting were asked to record their views on whether a 'Vision' is needed for Caversham, the current problems and possible solutions. This note is a summary of the written views received at the meeting, and subsequently, and those collected from the CADRA web site. This summary will be used by CADRA and CTA in future discussions with Councillors and Officers.

2 Introduction to the summary of views

- 2.1 The primary purpose of the meeting was to seek the views of people who have an interest in Caversham Centre. Residents and traders were asked:
- **Do YOU think anything needs to be done in Caversham Centre?**
 - **Do YOU think Caversham needs a new vision and a new approach to traffic?**
- 2.2 To the first question, people were asked for their views of the problems and, to the second, what they would like to see done to improve the centre.
- 2.3 Respondents could, if they wished, provide additional information about their membership of CADRA and CTA, how they use the 'village', contact details etc. A copy of the questionnaire is appended to this summary.
- 2.4 This summary is similarly divided into two main parts:
- **Problems and issues**, as perceived by respondents; and
 - **Possible solutions.**
- 2.5 As with most requests for individual views, there were almost as many perceptions and ideas as respondents; therefore, we have gathered the responses together under more general subject headings.
- 2.6 The meeting was primarily about the centre of Caversham but many people took the opportunity to raise other concerns about areas outside the centre. We have not ignored these concerns and they will help CADRA and CTA in any discussions with the borough about other areas. A list of concerns that are not specifically about Caversham centre are given in the Appendix.
- 2.7 Over 100 people attended the meeting which was not restricted to CADRA or CTA members. A total of 83 responses were received.
- 2.8 Caversham is a large settlement within the Borough of Reading and the numbers of responses received represents a small proportion of the local population. However, the questionnaire responses were from people who use Caversham Centre, have taken the trouble to attend an evening meeting, have thought carefully about and provided detailed written views on the issues confronting the 'Village'.
- 2.9 In many cases the total numbers of responses exceeds the total number of written responses this is due to many people giving multiple answers to the questions. For example, a person may have answered 'yes' to live in, work in, run a business in, shop in, eat out in and drive through (ie six 'Yes' responses).

3 Summary – membership of CADRA & CTA

- 3.1 Of the 83 written responses 43 people were CADRA members and 6 were members of CTA. Of the remaining 34 respondents, some are members of The Warren and District Residents Association or Emmer Green Residents Association but many left the questions blank.

4 Summary – connection with or usage of Caversham

4.1 The 'Yes' column in Table 1 shows the respondents' connection with and use of Caversham Centre.

	Yes	No	Blank	Other	
Live in	78	3	2	0	83
Work in	15	64	4	0	83
Run Business in	12	68	3	0	83
Shop in	65	15	3	0	83
Eat Out in	62	19	2	0	83
Drive through	61	20	2	0	83
Other connection	0	0	75	8	83
Number of responses	293	189	91	8	581

Table 1 Use of Caversham Centre

5 Summary – Vision for Caversham

- 5.1 In response the question 'Does Caversham need a new Vision, a new approach to traffic?' 71 'Yes' responses were received with six people answering 'No' and six people left the answer blank.
- 5.2 In **ALL** cases of a 'No' or blank response, problems were included together with suggestions for improvements. Therefore, it is fair to conclude that **EVERYONE** who responded to the questionnaire would like improvements to the centre of Caversham.
- 5.3 Several people included suggested solutions within their reply on the current problems in Caversham Centre and some identified problems amongst their suggested solutions. Where possible we have allocated the responses to the general subject heading.

6 Summary – Problems

6.1 Table 2 shows the respondents' views on the current problems in Caversham Centre grouped under general subject headings.

Problem	Responses
Street Scene /use	39
Pedestrians	49
Cycles	27
Buses	8
Parking/loading	17
Traffic Signals	12
General problems	68
Total responses	220

Table 2 Respondents' perceived problems

Street Scene/Use

- 6.2 Of the 39 responses that identified Street Scene/Usage problems 23 were concerned with the use of the centre by large lorries/heavy goods vehicles (HGVs). Examples of this issue were shown at the meeting. However, most people mentioned the use of A4074 Church Road/St Peter's Hill by HGVs.
- 6.3 Six responses related to severance between each side of Church Street and Prospect Street caused by high traffic flows or speed
- 6.4 The remaining 10 responses referred to the need for improved appearance, a more village like look to the centre, sign and road marking clutter and litter.

Pedestrians

- 6.5 The largest number of problems mentioned (49) concerned poor pedestrian facilities, too few pedestrian crossings, difficulties in crossing roads and pedestrian crossing times at signals being too short. Specific crossing points causing concern include: Church Street/Church Road/Bridge Street signals, Prospect Street mini-roundabout and Waitrose access, Hemdean Road at Church Street, Prospect Street Zebra crossing, Priory Avenue at Church Street.

Cycling

- 6.6 Of the 27 responses on cycling problems, 14 mentioned poor cycle facilities and lack of cycle parking. The remaining 13 respondents objected to cycling on footways and aggressive cyclists.

Buses

- 6.7 The eight responses about buses included comments about the lack of buses and stops being too busy or in need of relocation.

Parking and Loading

- 6.8 Of the 17 responses about parking, 11 people were concerned about the need for more parking spaces, five people were unhappy about vehicles parking on footways and one person was unhappy about the use of Caversham streets being used by commuters

Traffic Signals

- 6.9 12 people had concerns about traffic signals, seven people were unhappy about signal timings. Four people said that there are too many signals or that they are too close together. One person was concerned about motorists running red lights.

General Traffic Problems

- 6.10 Of the 68 general responses, 33 were concerned about too much traffic in the village centre and would like it diverted, perhaps over a third Reading bridge. 15 people were concerned about speeding and driver behaviour. 10 were unhappy about the 'Waitrose' access. The remainder were concerned about right turns and give-way priority at junctions, school run traffic, the Esso/Tesco access and too much emphasis on motorised traffic.

7 Summary – Solutions

7.1 The suggested solutions by respondents largely related to their perception of Caversham’s traffic problems. Street scene, cycles and pedestrians, again, dominated the detailed responses.

Suggestion	Responses
Street Scene /use	51
Pedestrians	29
Cycles	30
Buses	7
Parking/loading	7
Traffic Signals	8
General solutions	67
Total responses	199

Table 3 Respondents’ suggested solutions

Street Scene/Use

7.2 23 respondents would like improvements that produce a more village like appearance with reduced or improved street furniture. 19 people would like raised tables, speed humps and shared areas. The remainder would like to see HGV diversions or restrictions.

Pedestrians

7.3 Of the 29 responses about pedestrians 23 would like improve or increased pedestrian facilities. Five people would like increased pedestrian areas, a pedestrian ‘feel’ to the centre or pedestrianisation during shopping hours. One person would like an increase in the amount of guardrail (pedestrian safety barrier).

Cycling

7.4 Of the 30 suggestions relating to cycling, 21 would like improved cycle facilities, cycle parking or advance cycle stop lines at traffic signals. Two people would like pedestrian/cycle shared areas but seven people would like Police enforcement to prevent footway cycling. One person mentioned the difficulty for cyclists entering or leaving the Thames Cycle Path at Bridge Street.

Buses

7.5 Five of the seven suggestions for buses involved improved and accessible bus stops and two people suggested more bus services.

Parking and Loading

7.6 Seven people made suggestions to improve parking and loading including: more shoppers and motor cycle parking; enforced footway parking bans; peak period loading bans and ‘Park & Ride’ services to remove traffic from the village centre.

Traffic Signals

7.7 Four of the eight people who made suggestions about traffic signals want timings to be changed and four people would like traffic signals replaced by roundabouts or zebra crossings.

General Traffic Problems

7.8 Of the 67 general responses, 28 raised concerns about speeding or aggressive driving and suggested a 20mph speed limit and some suggested police enforcement. 27 suggested improved junction or road design. Others suggested one-way systems or banned turns. The remainder suggested reduced traffic flow, traffic diversions and a third Reading bridge.

8 Conclusion

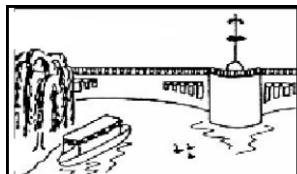
- 8.1 The responses to the questionnaire have produced some clear messages about the problems and possible solutions to those problems in the centre of Caversham.
- Improved pedestrian crossing facilities;
 - Improved street appearance and junction layout; and
 - 20mph speed limit possibly enforced by raised crossings or speed humps.
 - Reduction in traffic generally;
 - Reduction in numbers of HGVs
- 8.2 Cycling received a mixed response, many people are concerned about illegal footway cycling and many would like improved cycle facilities. It is possible to infer that some of the concerns about pedestrian/cycle interaction could be alleviated by safer on-road cycle facilities and conditions.

9 Where next?

- 9.1 Over the next few months CADRA and CTA will use the results of the questionnaire to produce a draft 'Vision' for the centre of Caversham. We expect that this will be some general statements about how CADRA and CTA members would like to see the 'village' improved.
- 9.2 These statements will be shown to the membership for comment, additions or deletions.
- 9.3 Later the 'Vision' may help Caversham residents and traders, with Reading Borough Council officers and Elected Members, produce a list of potential improvement schemes for the 'village'.

Appendix – Some other concerns raised

- A1 Difficulties for pedestrians at:
- Prospect Street/Henley Road/Peppard Road signals
 - St Anne's Road at Church Road
 - Westfield Road along its whole length
- A2 Too much school run traffic.
- A3 Parking in residential streets by commuters going to Reading Station (eg Patrick Road).
- A4 Too much traffic on A4074, particularly HGVs.
- A5 One person mentioned making Priory Avenue part of a one-way system; another suggested making Westfield Road/Prospect Street a one-way system.
- A6 A resident of Abbotsmead flats was concerned about the combination of pot holes and poor lighting in the Iceland car park which is the route from Abbotsmead to the centre.



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Sharing our Streets

People who attended the meeting on 12 November 2013 were asked to record their views. This is not a formal opinion survey but a gathering of views from local residents and traders. If you were unable to attend the meeting, your views are welcome too.

You can read a report of the meeting at www.cadra.org.uk. You will also find a copy of the CADRA presentation and an on-line questionnaire. If you prefer to complete this paper copy, please record your views overleaf and send to Walton's Jewellers, 2 Prospect Street, Caversham, Reading RG4 8JG.

Responses received by 29 November 2013 will form part of the initial report for discussion with Councillors and Officers. Responses after that date will be included in periodic updates.

You are asked to consider:

A. Do you think a review of traffic and transport in Caversham Centre is needed?

B. What do YOU think are the problems for ease of movement in Caversham Centre?

For example these might be for:

- Pedestrians
- Cyclists
- Children, Elderly and People with disabilities
- Shoppers
- Delivery vehicles
- Motorists
- Others

Please describe the problem briefly.

C. What would YOU like to be done to improve your experience of moving around or through the centre and using the facilities in Caversham Centre?

For example these might be:

- More or changed pedestrian crossing points
- Better cycle facilities
- Slower traffic speeds in off-peak periods
- Alternative junction layouts
- A more village oriented 'look' to street furniture and markings.

Again, please describe your ideas briefly but don't feel constrained by the examples given.

We hope to email the initial summary to CADRA and CTA members before Christmas.

Your views on traffic issues in Caversham Centre

1. Do you **live/work/run a business/shop/eat out/drive through/other** in Caversham?
2. Are you a current member of Caversham Traders Association or CADRA? **CTA/CADRA/Neither**
3. Does Caversham need a new Vision, a new approach to traffic? **Yes/No**

(Please delete as appropriate)

Your views on current problems in Caversham Centre

Your views on traffic measures which would help to relieve those problems

If you are willing to be contacted in the future, please give your name and email address or other contact details.