



## Round Up October 2024

This is our regular monthly update. It follows our Autumn Newsletter sent earlier this week looking back over the half-year.

Incorporating such a lot of information is time consuming and we would really like your feedback on what is most important to you. We are also looking at the format of the newsletter as viewed on different devices.

Don't forget our open meeting on **Wednesday 13 November in the Caversham Baptist Church**. The details are in the [Autumn Newsletter](#) and everyone is welcome.

As always, please do share this email and the newsletter. The more people involved in caring for our community the better. Can you help spread the word?

## Planning

**Local Plans** are moving forward. **The South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Joint Draft Local Plan 2041** has just been published for [Consultation](#) ending on 12 November.

We have been working through the documents which show little difference from the Preferred Options Consultation version in January. The broad policies are encouraging in protecting important landscape, along with a separation between Reading and the South Oxfordshire villages.

The list of sites proposed by landowners and developers includes many sites close to our boundary. They have been assessed as appropriate for further investigation, providing evidence of potential capacity for housing. But, this **does not** imply approval.

The general policies in the plan, the development of Neighbourhood Plans by the parishes and the Chilterns boundary review will all be important for any decisions to approve sites for residential development.

Subject to approval by Council, the **Reading Borough Council Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan Partial Update** will also be published for consultation before submission to the Secretary of State.

New applications include permission to use **Reading Gaol** as a Firearms Training Centre for a period of five years. ([PL/24/1222](#)).

And the owner of the **triangle of land on the Gosbrook Road and George Street junction** has applied to build a terrace of five houses. ([PL/24/0900](#)). It raises many concerns including complex flooding issues and an existing requirement to replant trees confirmed as unsafe. Comments past the deadline (18 October) may be accepted.

The **telecom mast on Woodcote Road** was erected in April without planning permission. Although initially confirmed as 'not permitted development', we are now informed that planning considerations have concluded and that, after much debate, all provisions of legislation were checked and satisfactorily met. CADRA will write to the Council.

A Planning Enforcement Notice was served on **The Persian Place** including a requirement to dismantle the terrace extension including the canopy and decking.

## **Emmer Green**

Arrangements to restore the Emmer Green village sign are proving complicated and still being finalised. Frustratingly, despite contact with the Vistry head office, we are still waiting for confirmation of a timescale to reinstate the parking lines and signs on Kidmore End Road. It is planned to complete this at the same time as junction works.

## **Licensing**

We attended the review of **Reading Festival** earlier this week. Complaints about noise levels were up this year. Of course weather conditions always contribute, but a new stage layout and sound system were introduced. Disturbance late at night during set up, and control of illegal sales on Thames Prom were also raised and better liaison is needed with groups helping with the important salvage operation.

The license application for **Spill Bar in Church Street** is being heard this week. Reports from both Planning and Environmental Health indicate that a planning application for change of use is also needed. CADRA did not submit an objection but raised concerns over the proposed numbers outside. We urged the Council to find a balance between potential disturbance for people living close and the many others who would welcome this new amenity.

There is a new license application for The **Henley Road BP fuel station**, for its Londis store. The existing license for alcohol, food and soft drinks is from 6am to 11pm Monday to Saturday and 7am to 11pm Sunday. The new application is for sales of alcohol, food and refreshments 24 hours a day. The closing date for representations is Wednesday, October 30 ([License Applications](#)). Planning application ([230023](#)) allowed unrestricted opening hours of the service station for a temporary 6-month period.

## **Henley Road Allotments**

The [Consultation](#) to resolve the shortage of burial space is now open until 6 December, after which the Policy Committee will make a final decision in the new year.

We are told that, *“The consultation will be supported by several face-to-face meetings over the coming weeks with interested parties, including allotment holders and their representatives.”*

## **Safer Neighbourhood**

The latest newsletter from Neighbourhood Watch is now out - [Our News October 2024](#)

## **And Finally**

We make these monthly updates freely available. If you find them useful and value what CADRA does, please encourage others to join, and of course keep your membership going - it's just £3 a year for the household - [Join or Renew](#)

We look forward to seeing many of you on **13 November**.