



## Round Up February 2025

There is plenty of news this month. As always, please do share this with anyone who may be interested. For just £3 a year, they could receive copies directly.

### Changes at CADRA

We are delighted to welcome Nick Haskins and Suresh Sukul to the committee. There are still opportunities to become involved, either on the committee or behind the scenes. Please let us know if you might be interested to know more.

The [CADRA Podcast](#) is still available, with video clips, independent testimonials and the transcript. We are very grateful to Maria Lloyd ([My Local Marketer](#)).

### **IN THE NEWS**

#### **Kidmore Road Burst Water Pipe**

The road remains closed with some homes having temporary pipes to them. Buses have been rerouted via Richmond Road and Upper Woodcote Road, with temporary bus stops in Richmond Road and Shepherds Lane. The traffic signage has improved. The Thames Water website shows some information - [Thames Water-RG4](#).

Thames Water have since submitted a request to RBC for a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) for the continued road closure of Kidmore Road. This is planned to go through till 31st May, to facilitate the continuation of works including further investigation and repair following the burst main. The current signed diversion route would remain in place. Should works be completed before this, the closure will be lifted earlier accordingly.

#### **Henley Road Allotments**

Following a public consultation, a [recommendation](#) to return the allotments to their original intended use as a cemetery ground will be considered by RBC's Policy Committee on 17 February.

#### **Road Resurfacing**

A programme of resurfacing is already underway, including many roads north of the Thames. This list shows all the roads, the scheduled dates and times and the surface type. [Road improvements - Reading Borough Council](#)

#### **Reading Climate Strategy Consultation**

The consultation took place last year, many Reading residents responded on how to build the next stage of the Climate Strategy 2025-2030. The strategy is quite broad: covering all aspects of life in Reading, addressing how change can reduce the town's contribution to climate change and increase its resilience to future climate shocks.

CADRA provided input to the consultation. The consultation results and next stages can be found at: [January 2025 Update](#). The strategy will be refined over the coming months by volunteers at Reading Climate Change Partnership and Climate Action Network (sponsored by the Council and the University).

#### **Head of the River Race - 1st March 2025**

The rowing community will be keeping an eye on the weather this month. **Reading University Boat Club** will be hoping that the Head of the River Race will be able to run.

This is the only event on the River Thames which allows the river to be shut to other river traffic. The event dates back to 1935 and is free to watch with the best vantage point being Thames Promenade. The crews start from Christchurch Meadows.

Reading University supporters shout “Go Clams!”, the nickname for the crews. Those interested in the history of the race can find more information about the race here: [RUBC History](#)

## **PLANNING**

Trees feature this month. Pruning the **Holm Oak** ([PL/25/0141](#)) at the entrance to the **Caversham Precinct** is a necessary task every few years, which is overseen by the council’s arboriculturalist. A crown lift is proposed for this, and for the precinct’s tulip trees. The oak was originally in the garden of the Georgian house which became Caversham House Academy. There is also a request to fell a silver birch in the **Surley Row Conservation Area** ([PL/25/0107](#)).

The **Persian Palace in Bridge Street** ([PL/24/0022](#)) are appealing against the refusal of the outdoor seating terrace and canopy that they built over the river. Also in **Bridge Street**, at **no. 18**, ([PL/24/1627](#)) permission was refused for conversion to flats and change of use, whilst at **10B** ([PL/24/1098](#)) we await the recommendation on a rear extension, flat and HMO.

CADRA has expressed a preference that the HMO conversion at **62 Prospect Street** ([PL/24/1475](#)) be individual apartments. We are concerned for how well the bin storage arrangements would work. Whilst providing much needed homes, bin storage and street placement on collection days has become an increasing issue as more Caversham centre shops and offices are converted.

Across the border in **Mapledurham Parish, Reading Golf Club** ([P24/S4063/FUL](#)) have applied to create a training course and driving range in fields to the east of the existing course, which raises issues about landscape change and tree retention, as it is within the Chilterns National Landscape.

There is another application for **Great Brighams Mead** offices in **Vastern Road**, proposing design changes to the permitted conversion to apartments, a sign that after many years and applications, these new homes will be available. Also on **Vastern Road** at the old SSE site, Berkeley Homes want to erect sales hoardings on both river and road sides. We previously asked that hoardings have a pleasant appearance during construction.

CADRA has provided flood pictures to assist the planning officer dealing with the proposed rebuilding of the **Warren Creek** property in The Warren ([PL/24/1614](#)).

## **EMMER GREEN**

The temporary parking restrictions on **Kidmore End Road** were lifted last May. The work to reinstate lines and signs to restore the lost parking spaces finally started this week. Sadly, it has not been straightforward getting the right lines back in the right places, but we are nearly there now. CADRA has applied sustained pressure over the past eight months, including the past week, and we are grateful for the support of both Matt Rodda MP and Councillor Stephen Goss in helping to press both RBC and the developer Vistry.

Work is nearing completion on the repairs of the **Emmer Green Village Sign**.

## **READING SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM**

At the recent forum, **Crime Rates** were reported as broadly flat, as were possession of weapons and ASB (Anti-Social Behaviour). There was an increase in shop lifting. Violence and sexual offences are continuing to fall.

The **Safety Survey** found a 5.2% improvement in people thinking Reading is a safe place to live. However, there was a reported increase in verbal abuse (48%) and a small increase in reported crime (3.5%).

In the **North Reading** survey, residents’ concerns are: aggressive begging, perception of a rise in crime committed by young people, drug misuse, speeding, worries for females running at night, lack of police presence.

In March, RBC will be proposing a new approach to **Litter and Fly Tipping**.

**Prevent** is the statutory programme that supports people who are at risk of becoming involved with terrorism through radicalisation. If you are concerned about someone potentially being radicalised, go to: <http://www.gov.uk/prevent>.

Following **Thames Valley Police** moving from 11 LPAs (Local Police Area) to 5 LCUs (Local Command Unit), the Berkshire West LCU, which includes Reading, will become operational from 7th May. Reading's three **neighbourhood inspector roles** will be performed by one officer, James Tribe.

**Reading Police** will move to the new Atlantic House station in Imperial Way by October 2025. CADRA welcomes the retention of a small office in the centre of Reading, as it will provide a quicker commute for North Reading Police. Officers are still attending some regular events outside Reading, but they hope this will be less frequent under the new structure. Jason Hogg has been reinstated as Chief Constable.

The **Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS)** report the number of fires is down, and things have been relatively quiet.

**Tap for Reading** is a great initiative to help homelessness, where you can [Tap to Donate](#). This will ensure money will go to those who need it most. Police hope it might also deter some of the non-homeless people who beg aggressively.

The last **North Reading Safer Neighbourhood Forum** asked for a solution to get **SpeedWatch**, which involves residents in monitoring speeding, up and running. Subsequently, an operation on the Upper Woodcote Rd caught seven drivers speeding and one with no insurance, no seat belt and driving while using a mobile phone.