



CADRA News

Caversham & District Residents' Association
The Voice of Caversham since 1967



Round Up April 2025

We look forward to seeing members at the **AGM and Open Meeting at 7.30pm on Tuesday 13 May in the New Testament Church of God** next to Caversham Library. After a brief AGM we welcome speakers from Savills Planning Division to discuss the Planning System – how it works and what is changing. The meeting is open to everyone so please pass on the invitation to join us. You can find more details and news from the last six months in the [Spring Newsletter](#) just issued.

New Reading Golf Club Planning Application

Fairfax have recently launched a [virtual consultation](#), seeking views on their proposal to build 70 homes on **land in South Oxfordshire owned by Reading Golf Club**. This is presented as an extension to the current development under construction off **Kidmore End Road**, with access through it. Any planning decisions would be for South Oxfordshire District Council.

Fairfax have requested responses by 13 April 2025. If they close the online survey after that date, emails can be sent to mail@your-feedback.co.uk. We have approached Fairfax seeking further information and consultation and are also keen to hear from other interested groups.

There will be some complex issues once a planning application is submitted to South Oxfordshire DC. If you would like to understand more about the general process, you should find our Open Meeting helpful.

Other Planning Applications

Conversion of the large Edwardian House at **92 Albert Road** to two semi-detached properties and a new modern house behind ([PL/25/0422](#) and [PL/25/0425](#)). At **53 Prospect Street** a loft conversion including a large dormer at the front ([PL/25/0269](#)) - CADRA has objected to the impact on the street scene. The **Thames Valley Service Station on George Street** has applied for a digital advertisement screen ([PL/25/0468](#)). Approval has been given at **10B Bridge Street** for a studio flat behind and five HMO rooms above. A detailed Management Plan for refuse management must be submitted and approved ([PL/24/1098](#)) and we will be monitoring for that and for the construction method.

Various tree works at **High Ridge on Upper Warren Avenue** have been applied for, including some which are dead or diseased. **Thameside School** has applied to upgrade external play areas including impact on several trees.

For other planning updates, please check the [Latest Planning List](#).

New Local Listings

The Planning Application Committee has approved three new entries for listed status, which will now require more detailed planning control: **Caversham Road Fire Station Complex** and eight residential properties on Barry Place, both from the inter-war period; **2 Mill Green, Caversham**, an exceptional and rare example of unaltered 1930s suburban architecture; **Hemdean House School and Lodge**, which with their architectural and cultural significance constitute a group, and remain important markers in the history of education and the built heritage of Caversham and Reading. The full papers are available at [PAC Agenda Items 6, 7 & 8](#).

Licensing

The Griffin has applied to extend its licensing hours to: Sunday to Thursday, 08:30hrs to 23:30hrs and Friday – Saturday, 08:30hrs to 00:30hrs. Responses can be sent to [RBC Licensing](#) up to 18 April. **The Village Hotel** (previously the **Crowne Plaza**) has applied for licensing Monday to Sunday, 07:00hrs to 02:00hrs. These are the same licensing hours that Crowne Plaza had. This application has been granted.

Emmer Green

Work to clean and repair the [Village Sign](#) is now complete. A small celebration is planned to involve all those who contributed to the project and the various organisations whose logos are on the post.

The Emmer Green **playground** is due to close in May for the installation of new play equipment. It should be open again in time for the school holidays. Look out for signs on site.

Kidmore Road Closure

A meeting for residents will be held in the Caversham Heights Methodist Church Hall on Thursday 17 April at 6pm with **Thames Water**, Stantec and RBC representatives. This will be an opportunity to hear from Thames Water about the water leak, the remedial work needed and the next steps. Councillor Ballsdon has kindly agreed to provide a summary for those unable to attend.

Neighbourhood Safety

Residents are invited to the new format **North Reading Safer Neighbourhood Forum** at 6.45pm on 15 May in the Weller Centre on Amersham Road. This will be the first of three meetings in North Reading, when residents can discuss issues with the local Neighbourhood Police Team and Reading Borough Council representatives.

CADRA will raise the following topics at the forum: a recent spate of fires in public parks, motor bikes and very fast electric motor bikes in public parks, doorstep traders in Caversham, and two concerning events in the vicinity of Co-op on South View Avenue. The meeting is free to attend. If you are unable to attend but have an issue that you would like to raise, then please reply to this email so that CADRA can raise the issue on your behalf.

Emissions Based Parking Charges

The consultation has now closed, and we await further updates - [Introduction of Emissions Based Charging](#).

Thames Valley Flood Scheme

The Environment Agency has just issued their [Latest Newsletter](#) confirming that they are unable to proceed with the Thames Valley Flood Scheme and giving information on some local measures.

Events

The **Friends of Caversham Court Gardens** will be holding their spring meeting and AGM on Wednesday 23rd April. <https://home.fccg.org.uk/home>

Beanpole Day will be on Saturday 26th April 2025 10am to 3pm in Caversham Court Gardens. Local groups will have stalls selling plants and garden or wildlife related items.

Easter Trails

The **Friends of Caversham Court Gardens** will be holding their Easter Trail in the Gardens on Saturday 19th April between 2pm to 4pm where young competitors can enter the Easter Egg Quiz. <https://home.fccg.org.uk/home>

Eagle eyed residents may have noticed the painted wooden **Easter Eggs** and letters along the north bank of the river Thames, and the south bank on the Promenade and Thames Path. They have been put there by Thames

River Cruisers as part of their Easter offering. Anyone can join in by looking for the letters. There are 14 letters to spot, and they spell a well-known Easter phrase (three words).

Bowls in Focus

The **Caversham Bowls Club in Albert Rd Park** invite you to join them for their Open Days on Saturday 26th April & Sunday 27th April from 10am to 1pm.

If you prefer your bowls on an island in the River Thames, then the **Island Bohemian Bowls Club** is based on Fry's Island (often known as De Montfort Island). It has its [Open Days](#) on Sunday 4th May and Monday 26th May, from 2pm to 7pm.