
WADRA

WADRA January 2020 Newsletter

Happy New Year to all of our members and thank you to all who have supported the Association over 2019, we look forward to getting more of you involved in initiatives and events in 2020. We normally send a Newsletter in October, at the time of our AGM, but in an effort to communicate some recent changes in the Committee as well as a bit more often with members we will be putting out 3-4 newsletters a year.

Changes in the WADRA Committee

Sadly our Chair, Robin Bentham, has decided to step down. Robin has been a member of WADRA for over 25 years and acted as Chair for the last 20, leading WADRA through some of its most challenging, and some of its successful years. Thankfully, Robin will remain a valuable member of the Committee. From 1 January, Elisa Miles has taken the position of Chair, Martin Brommell will act as Secretary and Hayley Brommell will move from Secretary to Treasurer.

Communicating with Members

We would like to improve our communication with our members. We will use MailChimp which is a free service for groups with under 2000 members. In order for this to truly improve our communication and not just make it easier for the Committee, we need to ensure that we have the current email address of all of our members. For those members who do not have an email, we will continue to deliver correspondence to their home. **Can you please send an email to info@wadra.org.uk - stating your name, and address so we can ensure that we are all up to date.**

Information that is not limited to 'members only' will continue to be posted on the WADRA Facebook Group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/warrenanddistrict/>).

WADRA Website (www.wadra.org.uk) is being updated and will be re-released shortly.

Proposed Events and Initiatives for 2020

From 2010 WADRA began a programme of events and initiatives for the community and for fundraising particularly to refurbish the MPF Pavilion. This included Summer Fetes,

Christmas Fayre's, Dinner Dances, Car Boot Sales, Dog Shows, metal recycling, Vintage Car Rallies, and working with Festival Republic on reclamation, sale and donation of camping gear from Reading Festival. Ten years on and with a soon to be fully refurbished Pavilion, we would like to re-instate a number of these events as well as new initiatives that our members would like to support.

Please let us know via email (info@wadra.org.uk) about any of the previous events you would particularly like to see re-instated and any new events or initiatives you would like WADRA to support. Please note that we are planning on bringing back the Summer Fete to MPF, but this may have to wait until the Playing Fields have settled after the re-arrangement of pitches in 2021.

Replacement of MPF Trees: The first initiative that WADRA will undertake in 2020 is to replace some of the many trees that have been removed from MPF because of the school and rearrangement of the football pitches. We will liaise with the MPF Management Committee and the Trustees to obtain permission to replace trees strategically to provide screening and noise reduction for residents as well as reduce dangerous parking in the community. We plan to hold one or more fundraising events during the year to support the purchase of trees and shrubs. If you would like to support this initiative please contact the Committee at info@wadra.org.uk.

Update on Mapledurham Playing Fields and Pavilion

1. Pavilion

Via a donation from WADRA of over £45k and the project management support of David Maynard, Martin Brommell, and Alistair McLean, we have been able to re-open the Pavilion after four years of closure. There are further and more extensive refurbishments scheduled to start in February.

2. Central avenue / perimeter path

At the WADRA AGM in October it was made abundantly clear that members continue to object strongly to the planned central avenue. It would cut through the playing fields and encourage parking in the narrow roads to the south of MPF. Instead of a central avenue, members were overwhelmingly in favour of a path that would run round the entire perimeter of the playing fields. WADRA will continue to address this issue with the MPF Trustee Sub-Committee.

3. MPF Schedule

- The work on the Playing Fields was stopped due to the weather and is not due to start again until the weather improves in spring.

- The ground around the fenced area is muddy and slippery. In November RBC told local residents that wood chips would be put down in the muddy areas but some parts are still very dangerous.
- Work on the Car Park is not complete. Planning permission required completion of the car park before work on building the school started.
- Work on the Pavilion, including adding new kitchen equipment is due to start in February.
- Next meeting with the MPF Trustee Subcommittee is on 10 February.

4. **Complaints from residents**

WADRA has received and is addressing numerous complaints from residents about KEIR's work on the school in particular the noise, loss of privacy, congestion caused by heavy delivery trucks, working outside of hours dictated by planning permission, the destruction of Footpath 43 and abuse of the details detailed in the planning permission

Pavilion renting

5. Details for renting the pavilion will be sent to all members and have been posted on the WADRA FB group.

6. **Reading Borough Council Trial of wildflower verges**

Last year RBC funded a trial across Reading of planting wildflowers in verges to assess the impact of their mowing schedule on the wildflowers and wildlife. Hewett Avenue is one of the areas. It will be monitored this year and results, including impact on wildlife reported to RBC.

Update on Footpath 43

This is a small grassed area bounded by Hewett Avenue, the school boundary and the properties in Hewett Close and Hewett Avenue. It is an **active footpath**, as Reading Borough Council did not apply for a closure order when approving the planning permission for the new school. Access to this footpath from the playing fields is being denied at present because the school contractor has erected a fence along the entire boundary of the school and the footpath. We are in consultation with RBC and the Government Ombudsman to have the fence removed and the footpath reopened, until such time as a closure order is in place and a suitable alternative footpath is provided. We will keep you updated on progress with this matter in future newsletters.

Changes in Planning Application Reviews

The WADRA Committee will continue to monitor Planning Applications filed with RBC that are relevant to our area, i.e., those within the WADRA boundary and those outside our catchment that may have a negative impact on our residents. We will filter these applications by a set of criteria including, the impact on the immediate vicinity, and the consistency with existing properties. We will also consider amendments to make an application more acceptable, write appropriate letters of objection to RBC Planning and attend Planning meetings to object in person.

If you are concerned about a Planning Application within the WADRA boundary and would like support from the committee, please contact us at info@wadra.org.uk

Dates for your diary

- 1. The Mapledurham Playing Fields Management Committee will be meeting at the MPF Pavilion on Thursday 6 February at 18:30**
- 2. The Mapledurham Playing Fields Trustees Sub-Committee will be meeting at the Civic Centre, Monday 10th February at 18:30**

Volunteering to support WADRA

If you have an idea for a community event, a fundraising event or a community initiatives or would like to volunteer to help with the running of an event, please contact the WADRA Committee at info@wadra.org.uk.

Best regards,

Elisa Miles, Chair
Martin Brommell, Secretary
Hayley Brommell, Treasurer
Robin Bentham
Phil Darlow

Pam Reynolds
Robert O'Neill
Alistair McLean
Jane Bickerstaffe