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## Season’s greetings to all of our members

As the year draws to a close I wanted to provide a summary of some of WADRA's activities in 2025.

For greater detail, all of the committee meeting and AGM minutes can be found on the WADRA website at [www.wadra.org](http://www.wadra.org)

### Our Year in Summary

In the first half of the year we continued to run the **Community Café**. Although a success and popular with residents and MPF users, the cost of running the café, due to the hire cost of the Pavilion, made it financially unsustainable. We sadly decided to discontinue the café. I would like to thank all of our volunteers and patrons over the last few years for your support and the lovely experience of working with and meeting so many in our community.

In the place of the café WADRA have thought to run some other one-off events for the community in 2026. Our first endeavour was to trial run a **Quiz Night** this past November. We are delighted to report that it was a great success. WADRA will be periodically running more Quiz Nights at the MPF Pavilion in 2026. Thanks to all the positive and constructive comments, we will alter the quiz format slightly and are looking to run the next Quiz Night in late January or early February. If you are interested in helping with the setting of questions or the organisation on the evening, please contact [info@wadra.org](mailto:info@wadra.org).

For all of those in the local community, members and non-members alike, WADRA will be organising with a lot of help from one of our members, **Observer Walks**. More information to come closer to the Spring. If you would like to be involved in the organisation please contact [info@wadra.org](mailto:info@wadra.org).

**The Friends of Mapledurham in collaboration with WADRA have sourced 30 trees** from The Woodland Trust to be installed along the east fence of the school. The tree planting will be happening in January and FoMPF are asking for volunteers to help plant as well as any 'leftover' ground cover plants that may be surplus to your requirements and can them be planted around the trees.

There have continued to be **issues to tackle concerning MPF**, including light and noise pollution, school dominance of the car park, lack of transparency on the development of the promised Deed of Dedication, and the complete absence of financial accounts or yearly reporting to either the Management Committee or the Charity Commission. We believe that some form of accounts has been submitted to the Charity Commission (there were no accounts submitted since 2022) but as yet have not been able to obtain copies.

We have been told that the **Deed of Dedication** is currently in the process of being drawn up by RBC and will be submitted to Fields in Trust. WADRA continues to be concerned that the document will not, as promised protect the remaining undeveloped land at MPF from further development. We will continue to chase both the issue of accounts and the lack of a Deed of Dedication.

Many of our members have commented on the ferocity of the **lighting on The Heights MUGA**. It shines into adjacent homes and onto the playing fields, disturbing residents, MPF users and fauna. We have made a number of inquiries and requests that the lights be at the very least adjusted but preferably, the correct number of lights as detailed in the original planning application be installed. This would require the addition of two additional lights, but would allow all of the lights to be parallel to the ground, making it possible to restrict the light spill to the MUGA as intended. This week we received an email from Mrs. Hayley Harrison informing us that the lights will be turned off until the school reopens in the new year. They are also investigating any adjustments that can be made on the existing lights to limit their spill outside the MUGA fence.

Many of you may already know that **The Heights planning application to add an additional 70 children to the school numbers (+5 per form) has been approved by the Secretary of State**. The full document outlining the conditions of the decision can be found on the WADRA website under Mapledurham Playing Fields. The main conditions require an acoustic fence to be built behind the two adjoining bungalows in Hewett Avenue and an additional footpath alongside the MPF access road. The implications for these two main conditions will be the cost, presumably at no cost to the Trust or RBC and completely funded by the Academy.

The school cannot add the additional students until all conditions are met. The permission also requires that the travel plan is kept up to date. We have not seen a travel plan, although one was required when the school was originally opened. One of the conditions at that time was that the number of children being driven to school would reduce year on year. Unfortunately, we have seen the opposite with less than a third of the children now travelling sustainably to school. This has been a constant issue with both users and residents on both sides of the A4074.

WADRA has been liaising with our two Labour Councillors, **Jenny McGrother and Sam Juthani** on the issues of road safety. The first priority is to have a lollipop person monitor the A4074 crossing in the morning and afternoon, to ensure safety of pedestrians and to facilitate traffic flow. Both Jenny and Sam our helping to make this happen and we thank them for their efforts. Our aim is to see WADRA continue to work with the school to ensure that the planning conditions are met.

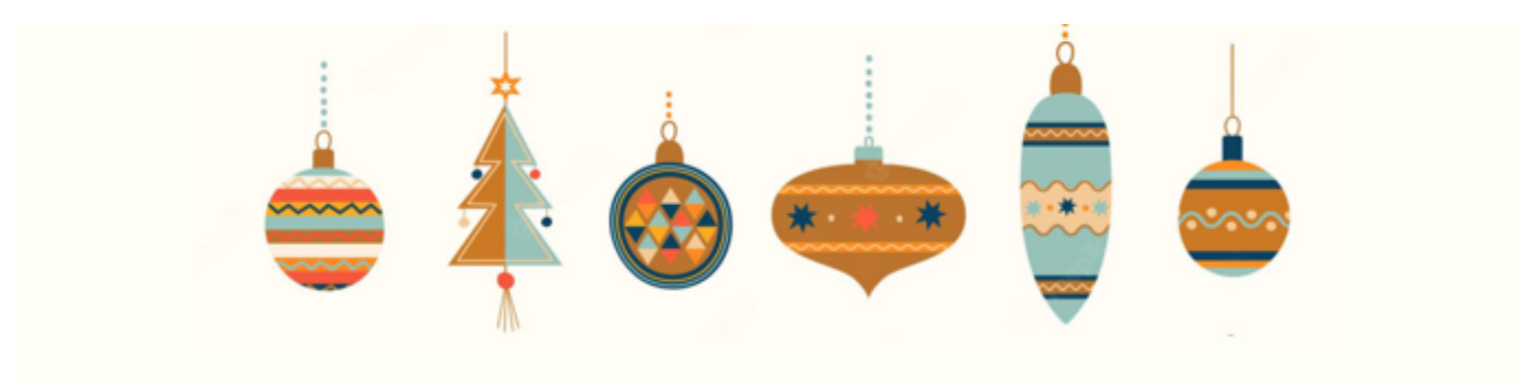
WADRA continues to sit on the **Mapledurham Playing Fields Management Committee**. Although all three councillors who sat on the committee have removed themselves and the council has removed any support from officers, we continue to work to ensure that the Playing Fields are maintained, managed, remain accessible for all users, and where possible enhanced. Just recently we have seen the Pavilion repainted and we are awaiting new tables. The current membership of the Committee includes representatives from, WADRA, Friends of Mapledurham, Caversham Trents Football Club, Mapledurham Parish, Mapledurham Lawn Tennis Club, and MPF Users. The Heights has a position on the Committee, but has not provided a representative since the end of summer term.

All members are encouraged to join the **WADRA WhatsApp Group** which will facilitate the Committee sending notifications of alerts and events in the Community. For more information, to volunteer time or expertise in areas such as event management, letter writing in support of the MPF Trust or just comment, please contact WADRA by email at [info@wadra.org](mailto:info@wadra.org).

I would like to thank all of those members and volunteers who have supported us throughout the year, helping with our community events, providing their time and expertise, and working with us to ensure that our area and the Mapledurham Playing Fields Trust is managed properly and protected from development. Your assistance, and the many letters, emails of support has been greatly appreciated.

We wish all our members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year

Elisa Miles  
Chair, Warren & District Residents Association



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