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1. More School Site Works

See below for a letter from The Heights School on scheduled works at MPF to conform with their Planning Conditions. We have asked that all works vehicles NOT use the MPF car park during works to allow MPF users access to the Playing Fields. If you encounter any issues please contact us at info@wadra.org.

The Heights Primary School
129 Upper Woodcote Road
Caversham
Reading
RG4 7LB
Tel: 0118 357 0123
info@theheightsprimary.co.uk

Thursday 4th June 2026

Dear Local Resident,

As a matter of courtesy, we are writing to inform you of planned improvement works which will take place near The Heights Primary School.

The works will entail:

- Extending the existing footpath from Upper Woodcote Road to improve pedestrian access and safety, including the relocation of the pedestrian drop kerb further away from the main road junction
- The installation of an acoustic fence, on school boundaries, to absorb sound; this fence will not restrict views.

The works have been scheduled in order to meet the remaining planning conditions required by Reading Borough Council to our school. Construction is expected to begin on Thursday 23rd July 2026 and be completed by Friday 7th August 2026, subject to weather and site conditions, with some preparation work scheduled for the second week of June.

Access to Mapledurham Playing Fields and the tennis club will be maintained at all times, with one lane restriction to carry out the works. We do appreciate your patience and understanding while these important improvements are carried out. The completed works will provide a safer pedestrian route, and improved noise mitigation for some of the properties adjacent to the school playground.

Our contractors will make every effort to keep disruption to a minimum limiting the use of machinery, whilst maintaining safe access for residents. For out of hours / emergency contact, should there be an issue with the traffic management system, please contact Mr Tom Moyse on 07815 739553.

Bellevue Place
EDUCATION TRUST

2. Breaking News on Number 22 (Pink) Bus

As you may be aware, for now the 22 bus has been saved. We have attached the schedule below. Many thanks go to a number of people who made this happen. The strength of the community and showing up to make their voices heard was paramount. WADRA committee members and representatives attended the meeting held at Highdown School on 6 July. After attending this meeting one of our members has also pointed out,

having read the RBC handout, regarding an Equality Impact Assessment it says "the decision to withdraw the service was made by Reading Buses rather than the council. The council understands that Reading Buses is not required by law to undertake an Equalities Impact Assessment prior to making commercial decisions such as this."

One of our members also reviewed the available information on the internet, it indicated that Reading Buses should not be taking the decision BEFORE conducting an Equalities Impact Assessment. Reading Buses, according to the information available could be taken to court to face a judicial review. It is also suggested that this cancellation of service is scheduled before March 2027, when the council will be required to designate socially necessary bus services. Note that there is a high percentage of over 60's and under 17's in the Caversham Heights area. CADRA also met with councillors and Reading Buses and was able to put forward pertinent information on the economics of cancelling the 22 bus and provide valuable information on possible solutions.

WADRA's letter to Mr. Rodda is below for your reference.

Dear Mr Rodda,
We are writing to you on behalf of the Warren and District Residents Association (WADRA) and in connection with the Pink 22 Bus Route.
Following the meeting held at Highdown School on 6th July 2026 and with reference to your email of 7th July, which provided an Update on the outcome of the meeting, WADRA wish to make the following comments:
It is, in some way, reassuring that Councillor Ennis of Reading Borough Council has made a commitment to try to find a way, to allow a bus service to continue on the route served by the No 22 bus. It is less comforting to learn that RBC is "currently investigating an option with Reading Buses that ***could allow some form of service to continue****, but which would not require ongoing revenue support from the council.*
The 22 Bus route is only 1 of over 50 routes served by Reading Buses (i.e., 2% of buses), it only operates on an ***hourly basis during off peak weekdays and Saturdays and not at all on Sundays****. Furthermore, it ceases to operate from Friar Street to Caversham Heights after 19.35 Monday to Friday and 19.00 on Saturdays.*
Compare that with the Purple 17 route which has buses every ***8 minutes*** *throughout the day up until 20.00 hours, but continues to run during the night until 04.00 hours the following day,* ***7 days a week****.*
Similarly, the No 26 Route through Calcot operates at intervals of between ***15 minutes and 30*** *minutes each day and continues to run up until 03 .00 hours on the following day, 7 days a week.*
Additionally, there are several other routes which operate a ***30-minute service throughout the day and at weekends,*** *to locations* ***not even within the boundary of Reading Borough****.*
From the above it can be seen that No 22 bus route is an extremely small part of Reading Buses business, so if they really want to make savings and reduce costs, reducing some of the buses on the above routes would produce significantly more savings than eliminating the 22 route. By example, if the 17 bus operated at say every ***10 minutes instead of every 8 minutes****, this would reduce the number of buses required by 1.5 per hour and if spread over a week would produce savings far greater than cutting the 22 service. Similarly, reducing the interval between buses on some of the other routes would also produce substantial cost savings, but still provide residents living along these routes with a good regular bus service.*
It must also be remembered that the residents of Caversham Heights pay the same Council Tax to Reading Borough as do the residents of East Reading, Calcot and other parts of the Borough and are therefore entitled to a regular bus service in line with other residents.

Finally, we are concerned that if Reading Buses do find a way to support the 22 bus route, they will seek to significantly reduce the present service and as this is already much inferior to those other services in the Borough, such a proposal would be unacceptable.
It is therefore strongly recommended that the No 22 bus service is not withdrawn and we therefore ask that you support this recommendation and do all you can to ensure this bus service is retained in its present form.
Yours sincerely,
WADRA

Central Reading | Caversham Heights

via Caversham Bridge, Caversham Centre & Albert Road

pink 22

Mondays to Fridays except public holidays

	am	am	am	am	am	am	am	am	pm	pm	pm	pm
Central Reading Friar Street stop FJ	6.05	6.45	7.25	8.20	9.10	10.00	10.45	11.30	12.15	1.00	1.45	2.30
Reading Station North Interchange stop NA	6.08	6.48	7.29	8.24	9.14	10.04	10.49	11.34	12.19	1.04	1.49	2.35
Caversham Library	6.12	6.52	7.36	8.30	9.19	10.09	10.54	11.39	12.24	1.09	1.54	2.42
Caversham Heights St. Andrew's Church	6.15	6.55	7.43	8.36	9.23	10.13	10.58	11.43	12.28	1.13	1.58	2.47
Caversham Heights St. Peter's Avenue	6.22	7.02	7.52	8.45	9.32	10.22	11.07	11.52	12.37	1.22	2.07	2.56

	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm
Central Reading Friar Street stop FJ	3.20	4.10	5.00	5.50	6.35	7.20	8.05
Reading Station North Interchange stop NA	3.25	4.15	5.05	5.56	6.40	7.24	8.09
Caversham Library	3.32	4.22	5.12	6.02	6.46	7.29	8.14
Caversham Heights St. Andrew's Church	3.37	4.27	5.17	6.06	6.51	7.33	8.18
Caversham Heights St. Peter's Avenue	3.47	4.37	5.25	6.14	6.59	7.41	8.26

Saturdays

	am	am	am	am	am	am	am	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm
Central Reading Friar Street stop FJ	7.00	7.45	8.30	9.15	10.00	10.45	11.30	12.15	1.00	1.45	2.30	3.15
Reading Station North Interchange stop NA	7.03	7.48	8.33	9.18	10.04	10.49	11.35	12.20	1.05	1.50	2.35	3.19
Caversham Library	7.07	7.52	8.37	9.22	10.09	10.54	11.40	12.25	1.10	1.55	2.40	3.24
Caversham Heights St. Andrew's Church	7.11	7.56	8.41	9.26	10.13	10.58	11.44	12.29	1.14	1.59	2.44	3.28
Caversham Heights St. Peter's Avenue	7.18	8.03	8.50	9.35	10.22	11.07	11.53	12.38	1.23	2.08	2.53	3.37

	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm
Central Reading Friar Street stop FJ	4.00	4.45	5.30	6.15	7.00
Reading Station North Interchange stop NA	4.04	4.49	5.34	6.19	7.04
Caversham Library	4.09	4.54	5.39	6.24	7.09
Caversham Heights St. Andrew's Church	4.13	4.58	5.43	6.28	7.13
Caversham Heights St. Peter's Avenue	4.21	5.06	5.51	6.36	7.21

Caversham Heights | Central Reading

via Albert Road, Caversham Centre & Caversham Bridge

pink 22

Mondays to Fridays except public holidays

	am	am	am	am	am	am	am	am	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm
Caversham Heights St. Andrew's Church	6.15	6.57	7.43	8.36	9.23	10.13	10.58	11.43	12.28	1.13	1.58	2.47	3.37	4.27
Caversham Heights St. Peter's Avenue	6.22	7.04	7.52	8.45	9.32	10.22	11.06	11.51	12.36	1.21	2.06	2.56	3.46	4.36
Caversham Library	6.29	7.11	8.01	8.54	9.41	10.29	11.13	11.58	12.43	1.28	2.13	3.03	3.53	4.43
Reading Station S.W. Interchange Stop WN	6.34	7.16	8.06	8.59	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼
Central Reading Friar Street stop FJ	6.37	7.19	8.10	9.03	9.49	10.37	11.21	12.06	12.51	1.36	2.21	3.11	4.01	4.51

	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm
Caversham Heights St. Andrew's Church	5.17	6.06	6.51	7.33	8.18
Caversham Heights St. Peter's Avenue	5.25	6.14	6.59	7.41	8.26
Caversham Library	5.32	6.21	7.06	7.48	8.33
Central Reading Friar Street stop FJ	5.38	6.27	7.12	7.54	8.39

Saturdays

	am	am	am	am	am	am	am	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm
Caversham Heights St. Andrew's Church	7.11	7.56	8.41	9.26	10.13	10.58	11.44	12.29	1.14	1.59	2.44	3.28
Caversham Heights St. Peter's Avenue	7.15	8.00	8.49	9.34	10.22	11.07	11.53	12.37	1.23	2.08	2.53	3.37
Caversham Library	7.22	8.07	8.56	9.42	10.30	11.15	12.01	12.45	1.31	2.16	3.01	3.45
Central Reading Friar Street stop FJ	7.27	8.12	9.01	9.49	10.37	11.22	12.08	12.53	1.39	2.24	3.09	3.53

	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm
Caversham Heights St. Andrew's Church	4.13	4.58	5.43	6.28	7.13
Caversham Heights St. Peter's Avenue	4.21	5.06	5.51	6.36	7.21
Caversham Library	4.29	5.14	5.59	6.43	7.28
Central Reading Friar Street stop FJ	4.36	5.21	6.06	6.49	7.34

3. Chazey Heath Chazey Heath Geological Ramble

Chazey Heath Geological Ramble

Sunday 16th August - Led by Ross Garden
10:15 for 10:30 start from the park side of Mapledurham Memorial Pavilion (What3Words: //daring.first.stack)

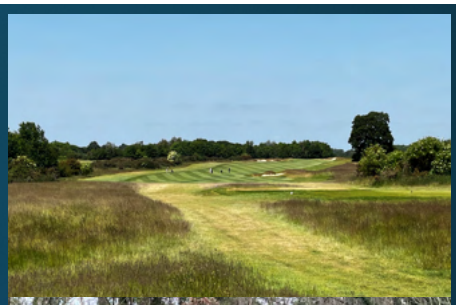
- A morning walk around Chazey Heath to look at how the local geology impacts the scenery (and our gardens)
  - Approx. 4 mile walk

✓ Thames River Terraces - why is my garden so pebbly?
  ✓ Glaciers north of Oxford and the impact south of the Chilterns

✓ The Warren – when dinosaurs roamed the land, we were under the sea
  ✓ Geology, the watertable and transportation

✓ Sunken Lanes – connecting Caversham Heights heathland to the Thames water meadows
  ✓ We will all have seen them but why and how do they form?

✓ Dry Valleys - Valleys without rivers in the Chilterns
  ✓ Why are they there and why do they have the shape they do



The route will be on public footpaths/bridleways but robust footwear is recommended. Bring water/drinks.

4. MPF Family Treasure Hunt

5. Extension of Reading Festival Licensing

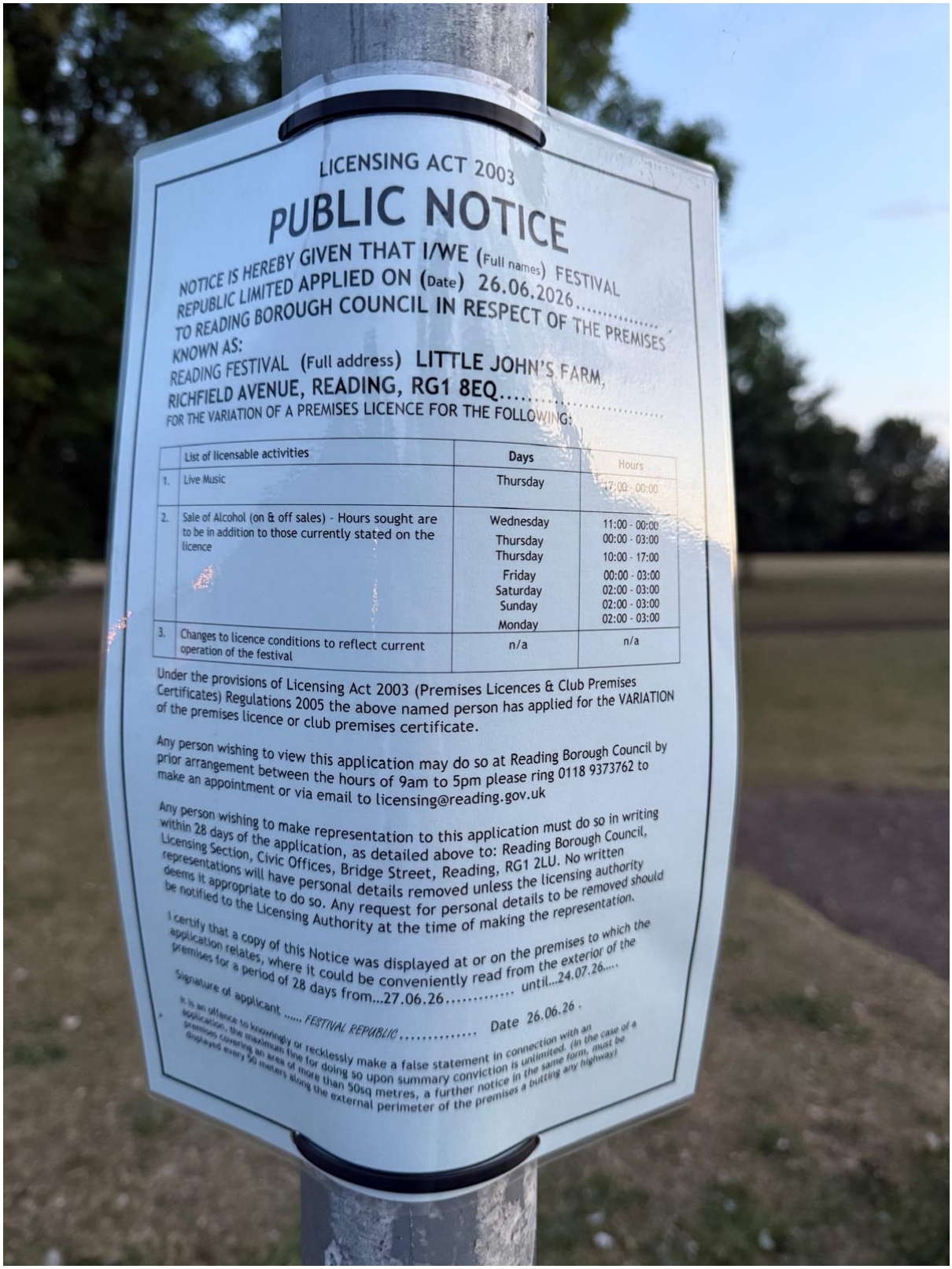
This recent licencing request from Festival Republic includes extending its license for live music to Thursday (4 days of live music) and extend their alcohol sales to 3am from Wednesday through to Monday morning. The Planning Application posters is below.

WADRA are not against the Festival. Over a decade ago we created an alliance with FR to help it understand some of the negative impact the Festival can have on residents. WADRA have worked collaboratively on solutions to benefit both residents and festival goers. We have worked on licencing, traffic, noise monitoring, lighting adjustments, security, free tickets via volunteers, staffing volunteers, distributing information to the community, and salvaging. Via our collaboration with Festival Republic we have been able to improve the relationship with the immediate community. With our knowledge of the wellbeing initiatives, activities organised on each campsite, a silent disco, and a carnival we know there is plenty for early arrivals to do. Many residents will also be working on the Friday, so noise in the evening will not be welcomed. Therefore, we have taken the position that an additional afternoon/evening of live music is unnecessary.

We also feel that an additional hours of alcohol sales up to 3am is unnecessary. The majority of festival goers are young, many under 18 and away from home for the first-time celebrating exams. The welfare initiatives and medical teams already have enough to do as do security, river security and police. Our objection to extending the alcohol licence is about ensuring that the Festival remains fun and safe as well as considering those residents that don't enjoy or benefit from it as residents or vendors.

If you have an issue with this change, please write to RBC Licensing before 24 JULY. YOU CAN WRITE TO THEM AT:

Reading Borough Council
Licensing Section
Civic Offices
Bridge street
Reading RG1 2LU
WADRA will be writing to object to the extension of their license



LICENSING ACT 2003

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT I/WE (Full names) FESTIVAL REPUBLIC LIMITED APPLIED ON (Date) 26.06.2026..... TO READING BOROUGH COUNCIL IN RESPECT OF THE PREMISES KNOWN AS:
READING FESTIVAL (Full address) LITTLE JOHN'S FARM, RICHFIELD AVENUE, READING, RG1 8EQ.....
FOR THE VARIATION OF A PREMISES LICENCE FOR THE FOLLOWING:

	List of licensable activities	Days	Hours
1.	Live Music	Thursday	17:00 - 00:00
2.	Sale of Alcohol (on & off sales) - Hours sought are to be in addition to those currently stated on the licence	Wednesday Thursday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday Monday	11:00 - 00:00 00:00 - 03:00 10:00 - 17:00 00:00 - 03:00 02:00 - 03:00 02:00 - 03:00 02:00 - 03:00
3.	Changes to licence conditions to reflect current operation of the festival	n/a	n/a

Under the provisions of Licensing Act 2003 (Premises Licences & Club Premises Certificates) Regulations 2005 the above named person has applied for the VARIATION of the premises licence or club premises certificate.

Any person wishing to view this application may do so at Reading Borough Council by prior arrangement between the hours of 9am to 5pm please ring 0118 9373762 to make an appointment or via email to licensing@reading.gov.uk

Any person wishing to make representation to this application must do so in writing within 28 days of the application, as detailed above to: Reading Borough Council, Licensing Section, Civic Offices, Bridge Street, Reading, RG1 2LU. No written representations will have personal details removed unless the licensing authority deems it appropriate to do so. Any request for personal details to be removed should be notified to the Licensing Authority at the time of making the representation.

I certify that a copy of this Notice was displayed at or on the premises to which the application relates, where it could be conveniently read from the exterior of the premises for a period of 28 days from...27.06.26..... until...24.07.26....

Signature of applicant ..... FESTIVAL REPUBLIC..... Date 26.06.26 .

It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with an application, the maximum fine for doing so upon summary conviction is unlimited. (In the case of a premises covering an area of more than 50sq metres, a further notice in the same form, must be displayed every 50 meters along the external perimeter of the premises a butting any highway)

6. Emmer Green Planning Appeal Rejected

The **Planning Inspectorate appeal reference 3377313** (linked with **3377314**) was officially **dismissed**. [1, 2, 3]

The appeal was submitted by Reading Golf Club and Fairfax Acquisitions against the rejection of a proposal to build **70 homes** on green land off **Emmer Green Drive** in Caversham (within the South Oxfordshire District Council jurisdiction). [1, 2]

Key reasons for the dismissal:

- **Non-alignment with policy:** Planning inspector Benjamin Webb stated that the project was not included in South Oxfordshire's Local Plan.
- **Ecological harm:** The inspector concluded that the development would be detrimental to the local ecology of the site.
- **Green space protection:** The decision was celebrated by local MPs and residents' groups aiming to protect green land from development sprawl. [1, 2]

WADRA's Statement Supporting CADRA's Position on the Proposed Development in Emmer Green

See below the statement from WADRA to support CADRA's opposition to further development in Emmer Green.

WADRA fully supports CADRA's position in opposing the proposed development in Emmer Green on the grounds that it is unsustainable and would significantly worsen already critical infrastructure pressures across Caversham and the surrounding areas.

There is currently no viable or deliverable solution to address the existing and well-documented issues affecting Caversham. These include excessive traffic volumes—particularly along the A4074—road safety concerns, inadequate and unsafe cycling infrastructure, and a growing reliance on private vehicles for essential journeys such as school travel. In addition, there is a clear shortfall in key local services, including access to GP surgeries, dentists, shops, banking facilities, and post offices.

Existing road safety concerns are already severe. Major intersections, including those at the Last Crumb and the Griffin, lack pedestrian phasing, creating unsafe conditions for residents attempting to cross. These problems are not isolated but affect the entirety of Caversham, including the Heights area, where similar issues of congestion, safety, and limited access to services persist.

From WADRA's perspective, continued overdevelopment north of the river is having a cumulative and detrimental impact across all parts of Caversham. Additional housing—even when geographically separate—inevitably increases traffic flows across the wider area. Drivers divert onto smaller residential roads in an attempt to avoid congestion, worsening safety and quality of life for residents. Increased development will also place additional pressure on already constrained river crossings, further exacerbating congestion.

Claims that cycling rates will increase by 10% are unrealistic and unsupported by current conditions. Cycling infrastructure remains inadequate and, in many cases, unsafe. There are no safe crossing provisions such as a lollipop person on the A4074 for school drop-off and pick-up, and the area's steep topography presents further barriers to widespread cycling adoption. While initiatives such as a weekly "bike bus" exist, they have generated complaints from residents due to the additional road safety risks they introduce.

Evidence from WADRA's own survey on sustainable travel to school at The Heights demonstrates that over 70% of children are driven to school—far exceeding targets for sustainable travel and highlighting the impracticality of reducing car dependency under current conditions. This contributes significantly to congestion and safety issues locally and would only be intensified by further development.

Given the absence of meaningful infrastructure improvements or credible mitigation strategies, any additional development—including the proposed scheme in Emmer Green—cannot be considered sustainable. The cumulative impact will be felt not only in the immediate vicinity but across all of Caversham, affecting residents, schools, and local businesses alike.

For these reasons, WADRA strongly supports CADRA's objection and urges that the proposed development be reconsidered in light of the clear and unresolved infrastructure constraints affecting the area.

7. The Caversham Golf Club Major Event

From 7th to 13th September The Caversham Golf Club will be hosting a televised golf event that will be bringing 156 top professionals from around the world to The Caversham.

The event is The English Trophy on the hotelplanner.com tour (formerly known as The Challenge Tour) with many up and coming golf stars of the future and some who have previously won at the highest level. Many of the players will be staying locally and this will bring some good income into the local economy. Entry to the event will be free however there will be a designated car park across the road from the club which will cost £20 petrol/diesel cars and £10 for electric vehicles.

We will need to marshal the public rights of ways at the crossings from an H&S point of view and at a couple of pinch points but we don't believe any closures will be necessary.

Hopefully some locals will come along to spectate...we will have a couple of additional food trucks out for food and drink stops but nothing that will impinge on the local houses.

We just wanted to keep local residents in the loop...we hope the you are enjoying the beautiful wild flower meadow at the minute near Blagrave Lane ...been great weather for them.

Best,
The Caversham

8 Other Local News

- There has been a change in the speed limits on the A4074 leaving Caversham and travelling North. The 50mph zone is now a 40mph zone. There are further reductions in speed limits as you travel north into Oxfordshire
- This weekend there was a small wildfire on The Caversham Golf Course. Luckily it was spotted quickly by local residents and the fire department notified as well as the Golf Club who turned on their sprinklers. This fire was very close to Three Chimneys. Please be aware that there is a very high risk of fire. All of the grass is bone dry. Do not discard cigarette butts or perhaps even smoke while out walking. Do not leave any rubbish, such as glass bottles which can also be dangerous.

- West Berkshire Council welcomes an announcement today that a new Ridgeway Council will be formed from April 2028.

  The new council will bring together West Berkshire along with most of the South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse districts in one new unitary authority - delivering better services and value for money for residents. It's part of a wider programme of reorganisation across Oxfordshire and West Berkshire which will see seven existing councils replaced by three new unitary councils from 1 April 2028.

  The new councils will be:

  - **Ridgeway Council** - covering West Berkshire and most of the existing South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse districts.
  - **Northern Oxfordshire Council** - covering most of the existing Cherwell and West Oxfordshire districts.
  - **Greater Oxford Council** - covering Oxford and its immediate surroundings.

More information can be found here:
https://www.westberks.gov.uk/article/45761/Government-confirms-new-Ridgeway-Council-in-landmark-decision-for-West-Berkshire