

Neighbourhood News

from the Bell Tower Community Association

Issue 3 - March 2006



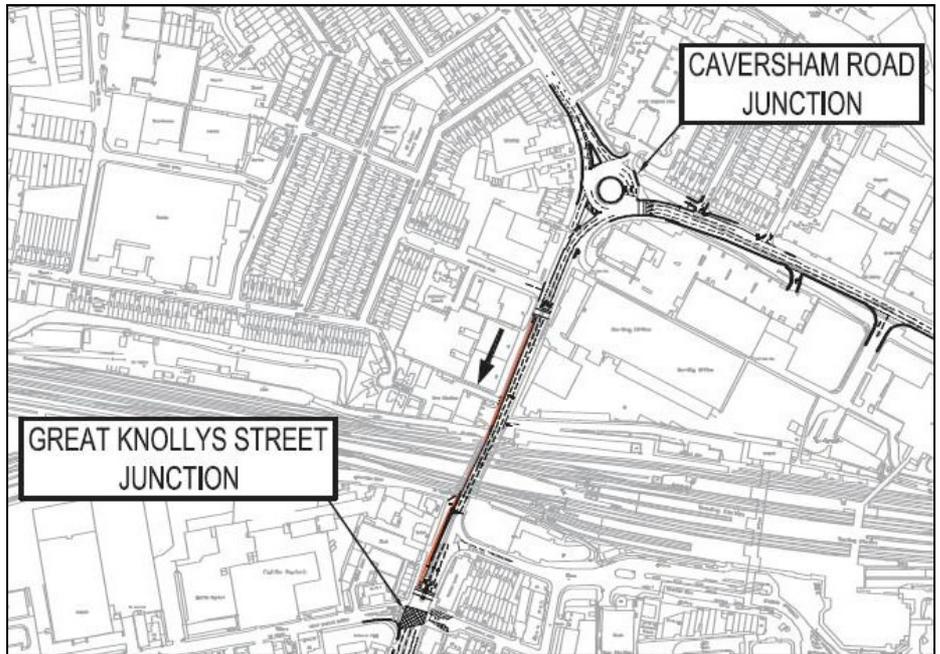
Relief road or rat run?

Second chance to comment on the one-way IDR plans

Plans for the conversion of the Inner Distribution Road (IDR) to a one-way system have now been published in the local press.

The proposal is to make the IDR run anticlockwise throughout, with reversed bus and cycle lanes between Chatham Street and Northfield Road and in the Forbury railway bridge area.

Two dual carriageway sections are expected to be retained - one near the Oracle and a short stretch in our area between Northfield Road and the TGI Friday's roundabout to allow vehicles to turn out of Northfield Road without crossing the reversed bus lane. Traffic lights would be installed at the the TGI Friday's roundabout. Additionally, some parking spaces on Vastern Road would be altered and the



Map courtesy of Reading Borough Council

nearby crossing would move closer to the roundabout.

John Howarth, Lead Councillor for Strategic Planning and Transport, said: 'The proposals to make the IDR one way is vital for the future of Reading. Residents, businesses and key stakeholders have already been involved and this provides a further opportunity to make comments in line with the statutory process. All comments received will be considered by the council.'

So what do you think? A welcome relief or a potential nightmare? The consultation period started on February 23, and local residents will now be able to see the plans at libraries throughout Reading and have 5 weeks from that date to send their comments to the council. The plans can also be seen at the council's web site at www.reading.gov.uk.

Great discounts for Bell Tower Community Association members! See over for details.

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Volunteer at your local hospital!

What are you going to do with yourself when you retire? This was the question I asked myself.

Three years ago when I retired I felt I needed something to keep me in touch with people as I had been employed at a local golf club for over 20 years and knew that I would miss being in contact with people.

One day when I was visiting a friend at the Royal Berkshire Hospital I decided to call in at the Volunteers office and see what they had to offer in the way of voluntary work. I spoke to a very nice lady and she went through what was on offer in the way of positions available. I decided to work in the Haemodialysis Unit, for people who

have kidney problems and some who are waiting to have kidney transplants.

Well that was three years ago, and I am still there. I do approximately seven hours per week over two days. The nursing staff and patients really appreciate every little thing you do for them.

There are so many jobs that volunteers can do at the hospital and you can find hours to suit you - whether it is one hour or several hours a week it is all very much appreciated. Parking permits are provided for volunteers if you need to take your car; or the number 9 bus, which goes along Caversham Road, stops in Craven Road directly opposite the hospital.

Every hour given by a volunteer really helps the hospital. Without these volunteers the hospital would probably not be able to give as much support to the patients, so it really is worth thinking about helping your local hospital and it will also mean

that you are putting something back into the community.

So if you decide you might like to do this, please contact Lynn Bayliss on 0118 322 7061.

Sue Colliass

In brief

- A full planning application has now been submitted for the demolition of Trafalgar House and erection of 48 flats on the site. This includes some changes as a result of feedback from February's exhibition. If you wish to make any comments please send a copy to Councillor Tony Page at 115 Castle Hill, Reading RG1 7SY.
- The new Yellow Pages will be delivered soon, and old copies can be taken to E P Collier School for recycling.
- New Hope will be starting a Marriage Course in May. Details on 0118 959 6534.
- The BTCA has received a grant from the Berkshire Community Foundation towards this newsletter.
- Our next issue will be available in early June. Copy deadline is Monday May 15.

LIGHTS CAMERA ACTION!



Is this crossing on Caversham Road safe? Local resident Christine Reynolds doesn't think so. Christine has already had FOUR near misses on this crossing where vehicles have ignored the red lights and driven straight through.

Christine has taken the matter to Reading Borough Council and Thames Valley Police, and is campaigning for a red light camera

to be installed at the crossing. In the past year a cyclist has been killed here - but this alone is apparently not enough to justify a camera installation. Local pressure is also needed to achieve a result, which is why Christine is starting a petition for a camera at this site.

If you'd like to sign the petition or share your own experience of using the crossing, you can contact Christine at 2 Newport Road.

Who's who?

The Bell Tower Community Association committee are:
 Barbara (Chair); Teresa (Vice Chair); Simon B (Secretary); Sandie (Treasurer); David (Newsletter editor and webmaster); Tess, Sarah, Pat, Simon R, Jenny, Justine and Jon.

JOIN US NOW for only £1 per person per year. Membership has its advantages - some local businesses will give a discount on production of a valid membership card. Companies currently participating are:

- Koltrane Lighting
- Fan-c-Lights
- Jay's Barber Shop
- Drews
- Papa Gee's
- More to follow!

You can join at any of our public meetings and events or by contacting Barbara at 77 Addison Road.