

Neighbourhood News

from the Bell Tower Community Association

Issue 30 - December 2012



Season's greetings to all our readers

A place to rest in Randolph Road



QUIET SPOT: The area by the substation in Randolph Road where we expect to install a noticeboard and seat.

We have received a grant to provide a bench and noticeboard, and intend to install these near the electricity substation in Randolph Road. This will give neighbours a chance to rest, have a chat and read the latest local news on our second

noticeboard. We already have a noticeboard by the main entrance to E P Collier School in Swansea Road, and are pleased to be able to put another in a more visible place. We hope to have the seat and noticeboard in place early in 2013.

Got an idea for improving our area?

It's your last chance to make suggestions for our priorities for next year's round of Community First funding - the deadline is 31 December!



Managed by the Community Development Foundation
Supported by HM Government's Office for Civil Society

Community First is an £80 million government-funded programme that will run for four years, until March 2015. This program of funding for community projects will help our community come together, to identify our strengths and suggest ideas for improvement. Abbey and Battle have been identified as the two target wards for the scheme in Reading, so our area is eligible for funding.

We are looking for ideas that could address one or more of the following:

- ♦ improve the local environment
- ♦ promote cohesion between different groups
- ♦ address antisocial behaviour

As a result of applications made in the first year we have received funding for a new bench and noticeboard and a floral competition for next year. Applications for next year's grants can be made right now - the deadline is 31 December.

If you have any suggestions for a funding application please talk to Barbara at 77 Addison Road, telephone 0118 950 7685.

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FOR ADVANCE FLOOD WARNINGS

Don't forget that our area is within the Thames floodplain and most households in the area can receive flood alerts. Have you signed up yet? The Environment Agency provides free telephone, email and text alerts - contact Floodline on 0845 988 1188 for details.

Get growing in 2013!



We will be holding a floral competition next year, so now is the time to start thinking about designing your entry! Proposed categories are: front garden, flower boxes, hanging baskets and best children's garden. Further details and application forms will be available in 2013 - there will be valuable cash prizes for the winners.

News in brief

- A planning application has been submitted for change of use of 69 Caversham Road into a 24 hour gym. The site is currently occupied by Oliver Matthews furniture store, and the application does not include the Dawson's Music shop. According to the applicants the number of users during night time hours is predicted to be low.
- Work continues on the railway development behind Cardiff Road and Barry Place. The sidings are under construction, with the track now laid. Work has started on access paths and the track will be aligned during the winter, with overall

completion expected in March. Planting on the embankment will start in January.

The tall steel poles that have recently appeared on the embankment are for overhead lines, in preparation for electrification. The region's main routes are due for electrification by 2015. The train care depot in Cow Lane is reported to be three months ahead of schedule, and is expected to be ready for use by the end of next May. The existing depot can then be demolished to make way for the new viaduct.

Meanwhile, the new station entrances, bridge and additional platforms are going up fast, and are due to open in April 2013. Details at www.networkrail.co.uk/reading.

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