

PRESS RELEASE – for immediate use

Community celebrates saving heritage lamp posts

The Bell Tower Community Association in central Reading is delighted that many of the Victorian cast iron lamp posts in its area are to be kept and are about to be refurbished.

Campaigners have been told by Reading Borough Council that the first of the Caversham Road area's cast iron lamp posts will be updated during the week of 25 February, when the seven remaining cast iron columns in Addison Road will be converted to LED technology.

The association has been campaigning to retain the area's heritage lamp posts since 2017, when they were under threat of removal. The association supported the 'Love Your Lamp Post' red ribbon campaign around Christmas 2017 and has been working with the council to preserve as many cast iron lamp posts as possible.

As well as being converted to LED technology, the lamp posts will be fitted with a new swan neck bracket and will be repainted later this year.

David Neale, who has been leading the Bell Tower Community Association's campaign, said: "It's great to be able to announce a good news story. Our area still has a lot of its original Victorian character, and the lamp posts – which were made in foundries in the area – are an important part of that character. With new lighting technology they will be brought right up to date; they have been giving good service for over a hundred years, and could well outlast the modern lamp posts that have been installed more recently."

The refurbishment programme will continue in March with the lamp posts by the River Kennet in Chestnut Walk, and is due to be completed in the first half of 2019.

To see full press coverage of all the Bell Tower Community Associations activities go to:

www.bell-tower.org.uk/press

About the Bell Tower Community Association

- The Association was founded in October 2005.
- It represents 600 homes and businesses in the area bounded by Caversham Road, Northfield Road, Barry Place, the residential end of Cardiff Road, Addison Road, Denbeigh Place and Randolph Road.
- It represents the local community, organises events, publishes a quarterly newsletter and operates a members' discount scheme with local businesses.

- It won a Pride of Reading Award in 2007 in the Environmental Projects category for its graffiti clean-up campaign and won third place in the 2010 Reading area of the South East Community Empowerment Awards.
- The neighbourhood has no historic name so the association took on the name of a local landmark, the bell tower on E P Collier Primary School in Swansea Road. The tower can be seen from all over the area.

Further information on the Bell Tower Community Association can be found at www.bell-tower.org.uk

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