

Cottenham Village Design Group

Planning application comments

S/0458/14/CC

Cottenham Primary School Lambs Lane Cottenham - Two-storey extension following demolition of single- storey wing; single storey

The Design Group welcomes these improvements to the school, specifically the intention to remove the temporary classrooms from the site.

The design language and the use of materials seems appropriate for the use and location.

The intention for part of the building to rise to two storeys is acceptable in this location, the school is set back from the road, is well screened by existing trees and is relatively distant from other more domestic scale neighbours.

Careful specification of the coloured elements of the design, that give it the playful characteristic seen in the drawings, should be undertaken to ensure that the design intent remains intact for the future.

The use of energy saving and generating solutions, discreetly located on the new roof is welcomed.

Although not directly associated with the application, the use of the Village Hall for pre&after school clubs, together with the recreation ground car park for parents is an important part of the functionality of the school. The Design Group wonders if an opportunity exists between the County Council, the school and the Parish Council to work together to improve the access to this area – the lack of separation between cars and pedestrians is worrying, two cars cannot easily pass and the chain link fence separating the school and this access would benefit from a general improvement in appearance. This would seem to be an ideal opportunity to undertake these works.

'B/1: High-quality contemporary architecture is encouraged.

• Imaginative and original design can extend and renew the distinctive character and traditions of Cottenham's built environment.' (Design Statement p.18)

'B/4: Extensions should remain in scale with the original building and are usually most successful when matching materials are specified.

• Alternative materials can sometimes work, for example when it is important to separate components of an extended building.' (Design Statement p.19)

'B/8: Mobile homes or other less permanent buildings are unlikely to acknowledge their Cottenham context.

• Temporary buildings are acceptable when there is a short-term agricultural or educational need. Where there is an associated long-term need, consideration should be given at that time to how this need can be met resulting in the eventual removal of any temporary buildings.' (Design Statement p.19)

'B/9: Carefully considered local energy saving or generating solutions should be supported.

- Solar panels and other devices should be encouraged, so long as they can be installed without detrimental effect on the visual environment of the village.*
- Locations should be selected for solar panels or similar equipment based on maximising energy savings and minimising disruption to the appearance or fabric of the building.*
- Avoid locating equipment on public facing façades wherever possible.'* (Design Statement p.19)

Applications viewed and comments prepared on behalf of Cottenham Village Design Group by Alex Darby and John Williams, February 22nd 2014. All quoted text is taken from the Cottenham Village Design Statement, Supplementary Planning Document: <http://www.cvdg.org/design-statement-2007.pdf>. Comments are based solely on the principles and guidelines set out in this document.