

Dates For Your Diary

Cosy Cottenham

10am Saturday 14th January
Cottenham Community Centre

Design Group Meal

7:30pm Friday 27th January
Cottenham Curry Palace

January 2012

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Talk & AGM

7:45pm Thursday 23rd February
Cottenham Community Centre

February 2012

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How Local is the Localism Act?

There has been significant press coverage over recent months of emerging changes to national planning policy including much focus on the statement '*a presumption in favour of sustainable development*'. Despite the apparent threat of increased levels of development, The Localism Act will also deliver more power on planning matters to local communities such as ours. This talk, by Andy Thompson, co-founder and director of Beacon Planning, will cover neighbourhood planning and what this means for local communities. Andy will also link this to the new National Planning Policy Framework.

This Design Group guest talk will take place on Thursday 23rd February 2012 at 7:45pm at Cottenham Community Centre (opposite the Co-op). It will be followed by the Group's AGM. The event is free and open to all.

Beacon Planning is one of the region's leading heritage and planning consultancies. Andy is a town planner and urban designer with 30 years experience spanning both the public and private sectors. He has worked with local communities to prepare planning briefs for sites as well as with developers to bring forward development proposals.

Steven Poole
Vice Chair



50 New Houses?

David Wilson Homes recently submitted a planning application ([S/2317/11](#)) to build fifty new houses on the corner of Long Drive and Beach Road. On Tuesday 13th December 2011 they presented their proposals at an open meeting hosted by the Design Group. The builders were joined by representatives from Grafik Architecture, Liz Lake Associates landscape architects, Bidwells, and public relations company HardHat Communications.

At an earlier consultation held at Cottenham Community Centre on 27th July 2011 two options were presented, both for fifty new dwellings, differing primarily in whether access was from Beach Road or Long Drive.

Feedback from this consultation was reported as being generally positive, but with concerns raised about traffic calming measures, privacy of existing homes in the adjacent estate, and the impact on local services and infrastructure. The revised proposal resembles Site Layout 2 with a single vehicular entrance near the existing gate on Beach Road. Two pedestrian accesses will be provided from Long Drive. This was selected primarily

to avoid needing to remove part of the existing hedge at the junction with Long Drive to comply with visibility splay requirements. To increase privacy for overlooked properties some gardens have been extended and obscured glazing used in first floor windows.

A mixture of two-storey terrace, semi-detached and detached houses have been proposed. Most of these are flat-fronted, but with a few gable ends, porches and bay windows for variety. The architect claimed to have based the designs on the Village

Design Statement, with features such

as window arches and stone lintels included, but the

proposed use of red bricks which are not typical in Cottenham raised some doubts. Solar hot water panels (but not photovoltaic) will be fitted flush with the roof.

Twenty affordable homes are included in the development, two of which are flats over garages. These are grouped together at the far end of the site with mews style landscaping. This controversial location was justified as being a requirement for the housing associations to aid maintenance.

No alterations are planned to Long Drive; in particular no footpath will be added. Existing trees and hedgerows will be retained, other than where the main entrance on Beach Road needs to be widened.



The landscaping will be maintained by a management company with a service charge to residents.

The 1.62 hectare site is currently agricultural land, but was controversially referred to as 'brownfield' during the presentation. It is also outside of the village envelope which would usually make it difficult to obtain planning permission, but the developers stated that the strong boundaries and hedgerow shielding make this a suitable site for development.

The Design Group's comments on the application can be found on www.cvdg.org, as usual. A decision on the application is expected during February with construction starting as soon as possible after that. If approved it is expected to take between twelve and eighteen months to complete.

*Alexander Thoukydides
Information Officer*



Invitation to Dinner

The Design Group's committee would like to invite you to join them for dinner at the Curry Palace from 7:30pm on Friday 27th January. If you would like to attend then please contact our chair Mike Smith at smithmichaelstanley@hotmail.com or on 251915.

The logo for Curry Palace features the words "Curry Palace" in a white, cursive script font. The word "Curry" is written over a red rectangular background, while "Palace" is written over a white background.

Cosy Cottenham

Sustainable Cottenham is holding an Energy Saving information day: 'Cosy Cottenham' on January 14th at 10:00–14:00 in the Cottenham Community Centre.

This will be an opportunity for all Cottenham residents to come along and find out how they can improve the energy efficiency of their homes. There will be a number of local suppliers to ask and plenty of activities for children.

You don't have to have a draughty old house to benefit – many modern houses could do with improved insulation (the recommended depth is now 270 mm or 11 inches). And you don't have to be on a low income to qualify for grants to improve insulation, they are open to all, subject to level of insulation already in place.

You will also be able to find out about more efficient boilers and the latest options under Feed-in Tariffs (for photovoltaics) and the Renewable Heat Incentive (for solar thermal hot water).



There will also be talks on the following subjects:

- 11:00 Insulation
- 12:00 Heating
- 13:00 A Greener 6th Form (about the new 6th form building at Cottenham Village College)

So if you are out and about on Saturday 14th January, do drop in to see us at the Cottenham Community Centre between 10.00–14.00.

Christine Ward
Sustainable Cottenham



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"Cottenham Village Design Group"



Email membership@cvdg.org
Web www.cvdg.org

