



Autumn Show Quiz

The Design Group ran a free prize quiz at the Autumn Show on 6th September, giving away a framed photograph of Cottenham race course by Richard Heeps.

A total of seventeen entries were received, with eight answering all questions correctly. The lucky winner drawn at random was J. White of Comberton.



J. White receiving his prize from Alex Thoukydides, Chair

What Makes a House 'Eco'?

We have all seen the term plastered across the news, especially in stories about Northstowe, but what does it really mean?

Award winning architect Meredith Bowles will attempt to answer this question in a talk on **Tuesday 11th November**.

Meredith will illustrate his narrative with examples of appropriate contemporary architecture, some of which can be seen on his practice's websites at www.molearchitects.co.uk and www.studiomgm.co.uk.

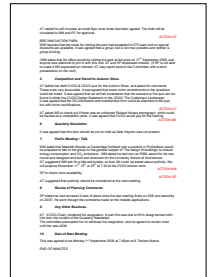
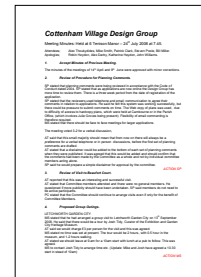


The talk will start at **7:30pm in Drama Room 1 at the Village College**. The event is free and open to all, although donations towards the cost of refreshments would be appreciated. For more information please contact our membership secretary Alan Leeks at membership@cvdg.org or on 250061.



What is your committee doing?

Minutes of committee meetings, starting with those from 24th July 2008, are now available on the group's website at www.cvdg.org/minutes.html



Planning Summary

Recent years have seen a lower level of development in Cottenham. However there were still 74 planning applications for development within the parish during 2007 with this year on-target for a similar number. A large proportion of these applications, close to half of them, were for extensions or alterations to existing domestic property. A small number continue to be for development, or re-development, of small parcels of land within the village - permission has been granted for 31 new dwellings on such sites during the last 3 years. A number of these have yet to be built, including 6 'affordable' properties on a site off of Oakington Road. A further proposal for 13 'affordable' properties on a second site in this area remains in the planning system.

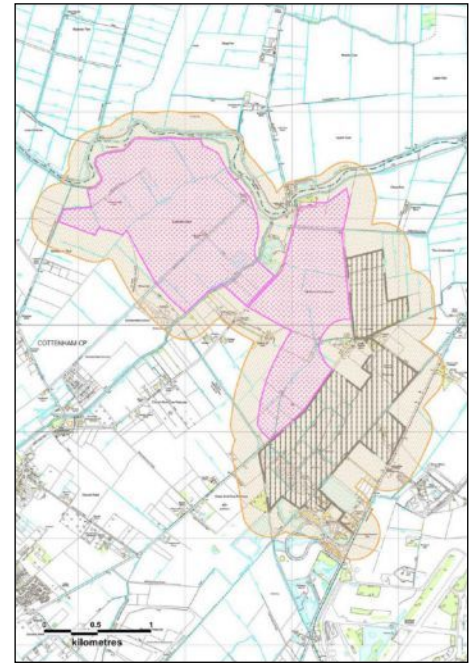
Perhaps one of the most visible developments ongoing in the village this year is that on the corner of Lambs Lane and Rampton Road. The Design Group were disappointed that this development required the demolition - rather than conversion - of the Victorian Cottenham villa that previously occupied this site and we did object strongly to this demolition at the time. However, clearance of the site has probably allowed a more efficient development (seven dwellings are

being created where there were once only two) and has provided an opportunity to add to Cottenham's rich variety of buildings. It's likely there will be differing views on the merits of this change.

The Design Group continue to monitor all applications for development within the parish. We prepare and submit comments to the planning authority when appropriate, these are always based solely on the principles and guidelines set out in the Village Design Statement. Copies of these are available on our website and in paper form at the local library. I am pleased to be able to report that we now make significantly more positive comments than negative ones; development proposals today, especially within the Conservation Area, are mainly of a good quality and in-line with the Design Statement.

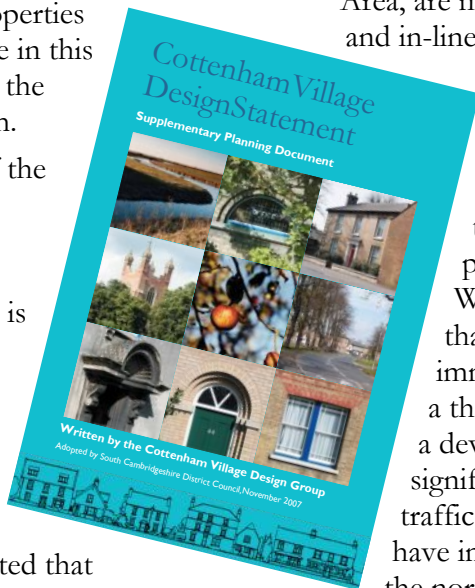
I must mention Mereham. As most of you will know, this was the new settlement proposed for the Wilburton-Stretham ridge that, although out of our immediate area, many saw as a threat to Cottenham. Such a development would have significantly added to our traffic problems and would have impacted the landscape to the north of our parish. The

Design Group opposed the development for these reasons and I spoke at the Public Inquiry to help get our message across. I am pleased to be able to report that the proposal has now been robustly dismissed by the inspector and Secretary of State and will not be going ahead.



Finally, we have a new Minerals and Waste Plan in preparation by the County Council which will guide minerals and waste development until 2026. This includes a proposal that will see a major area to the north of the parish - from the existing Donarbon site, across Long Drove and also across Twentypence Road and taking in the whole of Setchel Fen - used for sand and gravel extraction. The Design Group considers that this proposal will seriously impact the landscape, damaging the open fen-edge views currently enjoyed from footpaths in this area. Consultation regarding this plan is taking place now (until 20th October), please consider making your views on this known. Visit the County Council website (www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk) and look for 'Minerals and Waste Preferred Options 2 Consultation', alternatively contact me via info@cvdg.org or on 203961.

*Steven Poole,
Planning Comments Coordinator*



Guided Tour of Letchworth Garden City

On Saturday 13th September a group of eleven, comprising members and family of the Cottenham Village Design Group, were able to visit Letchworth Garden City for a tour of this first garden city. The tour was to be conducted by Mr Josh Tidy, curator of the First Garden City Heritage Museum.

A visit to the museum beforehand allowed for an understanding of the original vision of the founder, Ebenezer Howard; His ideas, first published in 1898, were for new towns that combined the best elements of town and country in a way that he hoped would end the poverty and slum conditions suffered by so many in the late Victorian era. The illustration 'The Three Magnets' shows the competing benefits of Town and Country combined in a new way; Howard dreamed of Garden Cities, well-planned towns with careful land zoning and a quality of life. A Garden City would have well designed houses with gardens set in tree lined avenues, clean and healthy work places and a pleasant and healthy environment in which to live, work and follow leisure pursuits.

Architects, Barry Parker and Raymond Unwin were appointed to design a master plan for the city; their 1903 layout was based on the principles of land use as defined by Howard. The museum is housed in a beautiful and unique building designed in 1907 by Parker and recreated inside was his office, filled with hand-made Arts and Crafts furniture.

Construction of this experimental city commenced in that same year on 3,818 acres of land at Letchworth, at that time a small hamlet. Today the Letchworth Garden City Estate comprises some 5,300 acres.

Josh Tidy was then able to conduct members on a tour of the immediate town centre showing them many original buildings built at the time to showcase the city's design principles. The continuing role of The Letchworth Garden City Foundation was also illustrated with a visit to the Spirella corset factory, familiar to those travelling to Kings Cross. The foundation fulfils an important role in the preservation of historically important buildings within the town and on this occasion was able to raise monies to restore the building to its original state following the closing down of manufacturing there. The building now serves as high specification lettable offices.

Members and their families were then able to take advantage of the seasonally good weather, taking lunch in continental style on seating laid on outside an eatery on Letchworth's Leys Avenue. The visit was enjoyed by all attendees, with special thanks going to Josh Tidy for his time.

*Alex Darby,
Information Officer (acting)*

