

## Dates For Your Diary

### Design Group Seasonal Meal

7:30pm Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January  
The Curry Palace

#### January 2010

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

### School Buildings Talk and AGM

7:30pm Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March  
Drama Room, CVC

### Visit to Donarbon MBT

2:30pm Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March  
Donarbon, Landbeach

#### March 2010

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## The Future for the Cottenham Village Design Group

In the last issue we covered aspects of the history of the Cottenham Village Design Group.

Now we need to look to the future. We want to encourage new members to join this thriving group.

Have a walk with friends through the village and observe and consider design features. Take a walk through other working villages and look at the design there. Are they interested? Would they like to help influence good design here? They and you can, simply by joining the Design Group.

The Cottenham Village Design Statement was prepared and finalised incorporating the views of Cottenham people. It covers Community, Economy, Landscape and Wildlife, Open Spaces, Buildings, Highways and Street Furniture so it is very wide in its application.

The Design Group exists to help promote good design for the village from the perspective of the Design Statement itself.

The Design Group comments on all planning applications concerning Cottenham and other wider planning documents. The comments always refer to the Design Statement that was adopted by South Cambridgeshire District Council as a Supplementary Planning Document.

The committee analyses the Design Group's comments and their impact on the planning process. This indicates that the District Council's planning decisions have increasingly reflected the Design Statement.

Non-committee members can volunteer to be on the rota for considering the planning applications and learn a great deal about planning and about proposed changes within the village.

The Design Group is controlled by its members, who elect a committee at the AGM. The 2010 AGM will be held at 7:30pm on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at Cottenham Village College (CVC) when we will be hearing about school building design – an increasingly important aspect to Cottenham bearing in mind the Extension to CVC to encompass a Sixth Form Centre. Please be there. Please tell all your friends and ask them to consider becoming members.

The Design Group arranges trips and talks for the benefit of members. The next talk is, as described above, at the AGM and the next trip is (a joint visit with the Parish Council) to Donarbon's new exciting recycling facilities at Landbeach. This will be on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 2:30pm and all members are very welcome. Please book your place with Alan Leeks at [membership@cvdg.org](mailto:membership@cvdg.org).

There are also occasional purely social occasions for members such as the meal at The Curry Palace on 15<sup>th</sup> January.

So please ask all your friends to come to the AGM/talk on 2<sup>nd</sup> March and join to help continue to influence design in Cottenham to preserve and enhance the beauty of this super Fen Edge village.

*Mike Smith  
Chair*



### School Buildings in Cambridgeshire

Just before the end of last year a planning application was submitted for a new sixth form block and a technology building at Cottenham Village College.

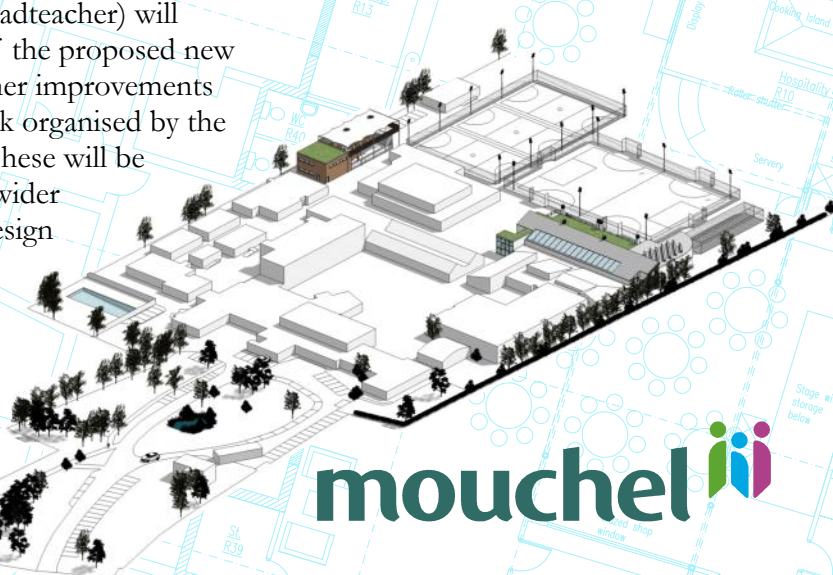
Architects from Mouchel (the firm responsible for that application) and Tony Cooper (headteacher) will present details of the proposed new buildings and other improvements to the site at a talk organised by the Design Group. These will be discussed in the wider context of the design and enhancement of schools more generally within Cambridgeshire.

The event will start at 7:30pm on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2010 in the college's Drama Room. Entrance is free and open to all, although a donation towards refreshments would be appreciated.

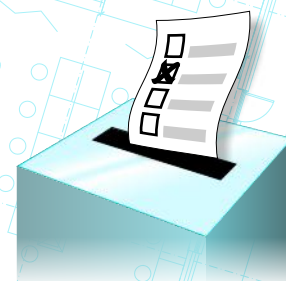
### AGM 2010

The school buildings talk will be followed by the Design Group's Annual General Meeting. This will include a review of activities over the last year and reports by the treasurer and planning comments coordinator. Elections will also be held for committee members. Finally, there will be an opportunity to ask questions.

Please contact our membership secretary Alan Leeks at [membership@cvdg.org](mailto:membership@cvdg.org) or on 250061 to find out more about the AGM or joining the committee.



**mouchel**



### Design Group Committee 2009–2010

<b>Cllr Nigel Bolitho</b>	Elected 2009	
<b>Claire Le Brecht</b>	Elected 2009	
<b>Henry Le Brecht</b>	Elected 2009	
<b>Patrick Clark</b>	Elected 2008 †	Vice-chair (2009)
<b>Alex Darby</b>	Elected 2008 †	Information officer (2009)
<b>Cllr Sue Gymer</b>	Cambridgeshire County Council nominee	
<b>Robin Heydon</b>	Elected 2008 †	
<b>Cllr Alan Leeks</b>	Cottenham Parish Council nominee	Membership secretary (2007, 2009)
<b>Bill Miller</b>	Elected 2009	Secretary (2009) & Treasurer (2007, 2009)
<b>Steven Poole</b>	Elected 2009	Planning comments coordinator (2007, 2009)
<b>Mike Smith</b>	Fen Edge Community Association nominee	Chair (2009)
<b>Alex Thoukydides</b>	Elected 2008 †	
<b>John Williams</b>	Elected 2008 †	
<b>Tim Wotherspoon</b>	Co-opted 2009 †	

*Five committee positions are due for election and up to two additional committee members may be co-opted to fill vacant nominee positions (Cottenham Village Society and South Cambridgeshire District Council). Other vacancies may be formed if committee members stand down.*

*Six existing committee members (†) are standing for re-election.*





### Shared Space

We've all been there – a pretty little village somewhere in the heart of England, with approaches from all directions marred by large speed limit signs with “Nether Wallop welcomes careful drivers” beneath. Views of the parish church are hidden by a mass of warnings about hazards arising from the street calming scheme, and a spaghetti of lines for lane markings and parking restrictions competes for the attention of your eyes with the line of buildings fronting the street.

As competition increases in creating places attractive to scarce skilled workers and quality investors the quality of everyday life is going to rank higher and higher in the choice of where to live. There is growing interest in handing streets back to people (as opposed to vehicles) and emphasizing their role as public spaces rather than mere thoroughfares.

I am particularly interested in getting rid of superfluous street clutter. I gather the situation is a bit like the building regulations. There is guidance, which gets you off the hook if you follow it, but you can also come up with alternative ways of meeting the requirements so long as you can justify them. But that takes imagination and courage.

What are streets for? According to the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, paragraph TD9/93, “single two lane carriageways up to 10m wide shall be designed with safety and the objective of uncongested flow in mind.”

Compare the implied precedence given to vehicles there with Manual for Streets 2.3.1: “streets shall have five principal functions: place, movement, access, parking, drainage, utilities and street lighting.”

According to the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, streets make up four fifths of public open space. The public realm is not just what is under the care and control of public bodies, but all that people have unfettered access to, either physical or visual.

For the Department for Transport shared space means a street or place accessible to both pedestrians and vehicles that is designed to enable pedestrians to move more freely by reducing traffic management features that tend to encourage users of vehicles to assume priority.



*Pushing over guardrails is the ultimate expression of community engagement*

People invariably walk where they are heading. And we tend to HOP: we are hypotenuse observing pedestrians. We prefer diagonals to perpendiculars. Crossing roads at right angles is of course the shortest route over the carriageway, but how many of us take an oblique when the coast is clear? And even when it isn't!

The classic example is Kensington High Street in London, where all the guardrails and segregated lanes have been removed. It was a bold experiment in changing the geometry of space and behaviour of users by subtly guiding people: psychologically you pick up steering signals though you can't “see” them.

The other icon is Oxford Circus. Two thirds of those passing through the junction do so on foot: 40,000 an hour. The corners of the footway have been brought closer together, so that pedestrians can cross more quickly. When the lights are all green people on foot can go in any direction they wish.

(In fact 25% of London journeys are taken on foot. I am often surprised how many journeys within Cottenham are taken by car.)

The ring road around Ashford – like Cambridge designated a growth area – used to be a three lane one-way collar strangling the town centre. It is now an attractive shared space. Average speed has reduced from 40 to 21 miles an hour, reducing both noise and accidents, but overall journey times have remained the same.

Councillors insisted on a controlled crossing. The irony is that approaching vehicles speed up to try to beat the lights, whereas at a courtesy crossing, where control of the car remains with the driver, vehicles tend to slow down to allow people to cross.

In rural areas, removing central white lines reduces traffic speeds. Advanced stop lines for cyclists dictate the speed at which traffic moves out of controlled junctions, helping to enforce 20mph zones.

*Tim Wotherspoon*  
Committee member

More information at...

*DfT Appraisal of Shared Space*  
[www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/sustainable/sharedspace](http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/sustainable/sharedspace)

*DfT Manual for Streets*  
[www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/sustainable/manforstreets](http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/sustainable/manforstreets)

*Cambridgeshire Design Guide for Streets and Public Realm*  
[www.cambridgeshirehorizons.co.uk/documents/publications/useful\\_guides/cambridgeshire\\_design\\_manual.pdf](http://www.cambridgeshirehorizons.co.uk/documents/publications/useful_guides/cambridgeshire_design_manual.pdf)

