

Report to Cottenham Parish Council from Nigel Bolitho August 2008

Apart from the full council meeting, I attended two other Council-organised meetings in July. They were:-

1. Electoral Arrangements Committee

The main topic being discussed by this committee is a proposal to tidy up the ownership of parts of the boundary between SCDC and Cambridge City Council. It has been agreed that a new parish should be created to serve the Arbury development on the other side of the A14 and it may become part of Cambridge City. The only contentious suggestion is that Cambridge City Airport and two-thirds of Teversham district should also come within the

City boundaries. These matters may take some time to resolve.

2. Shadow Housing Board

I am also a member of the Shadow Housing Board. It has been set up with councillor, tenant and independent representation to pave the way for occupiers of SCDC's 6,000 tenanted and equity share properties to decide whether they want to stay with SCDC or become tenants of a new standalone housing association. In terms of maintaining expenditure on repairs and refurbishments, a transfer is a no-brainer but will the tenants agree?

Other Matters

Street Lights

My latest survey suggests that but one of Cottenham's street lights that were on during the day (because of faulty sensors) are now off.

Development at Orchard Close, Cottenham

The SCDC planning committee will visit this site just after 12 noon on Wednesday 6th August following by a decision in the afternoon. It is the last agenda item. I and local resident Jonathan Burch are likely to speak in opposition of the scheme. Mr Burch has produced some impressive research, particularly in relationship to planning policies in the South Cambridgeshire Local Development Framework.

Trees

As Cottenham's tree warden, I HAVE had a useful meeting with Ken Hewitt. You will have noticed that the leaves of local horse chestnut trees have turned brown. This is because they have been attacked by the larvae of a moth, *Cameraria ohridella*, the horse chestnut leaf miner. The larvae does not hurt the tree. To control the larvae it's necessary to dispose of the leaves when they fall- ie don't compost them.