

A festive Report to the Cottenham Parish Council for the
meeting on 2 December 2009

From Nigel Bolitho

Various Topics:-
Orchard Close

It looks as if Twiggy has lost this battle as CPC supports the revised scheme with amendments. But it's also clear that the decision on what sort of affordable housing should be built has been decided by needs rather than the views of local and mainly elderly residents. Indeed I don't think there is any proof that the local residents have been contacted and I doubt if elderly residents would reply promptly to a questionnaire shoved through their letter box. SCDC wants 2-bed accommodation and the fact that on the site young families will jar with elderly residents who have enjoyed peace and quiet for many years does not seem to be a social services or planning consideration.

It is a pity that the acer tree has, apparently, to be cut down. There's a 30ft driveway between number 42 and the mature tree and the architect says that the tree might be shaved by construction vehicles. I would prefer it to be shaved and then cut down if necessary (which I doubt) if only because it will stop construction traffic going so fast. Acers are one of the top 5 carbon-capture trees from the research I have done. I also believe that this one is the only one in Cottenham and is a fine mature specimen. Nothing of any

size will be planted to replace it. If it is cut down I would like the trunk to make into pens etc.

193 High Street-rebuilt wall in conservation zone

As I live next door to 193, I have registered a personal but non prejudicial interest. It is a situation where well meaning residents did not follow the rules 100% partly because they went on holiday and assumed a well-known builder would comply. It means to me that at Mitchell House I should ask for permission every time I want to cut a dead twig off a branch. I tend to do nothing and let them fall off naturally but 2009 may be the year when Twiggy gets to work on his property!: 30 separate requests a month to cut off a dead twig on separately identified bushes or trees will do for starters.

In fact I am inviting ALL the planning enforcement department to my December birthday party so they can be reminded of the planning blight they imposed on the other side of Mitchell House- ie the picture framing shop formerly the mysterious wig shop.

A key factor to me against the enforcement proposal is the edict to use new rather than reclaimed bricks in rebuilding 193's wall. Apart from climate change factors, SCDC planners need to be reminded repeatedly how disastrous such a strategy can be and the picture-framers building is why they need to back off.

I am also grateful to award-winning master builder Cllr T. Wotherspoon for his erudite enunciations.

Unit J

I will be attending the first day of the Unit J hearing at SCDC on Tuesday. I can report back to CPC that evening but I suspect that some CPC councillors will be there. Wednesday I may be involved in the Orchard Close planning appeal.

Drains

I am hoping that CCC will carry out a drain-clearing exercise before Xmas or soon after.

Well done Histon.