

## Report to Cottenham Parish Council from Nigel Bolitho July 08

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### Street lights

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I have reported the following street lights ON during the day:-

No 10 Rampton Road

No 13 Lambs Lane

No 8 Denmark Road at the bus stop

No 5 Telegraph Street near the doctors' surgery

No 36 High Street – a perennial problem

### Orchard Close

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I attended (as did Cllr Bristow) a planning meeting at SCDC regarding the proposed new development behind Orchard Close. It seems to me that rearranging the proposed properties can

probably satisfy concerns of being overlooked by residents in Rampton Road. Other specific points were:-

- CCC wants to do an archaeological dig on the site;
- It's not certain who owns the driveway;
- The number of car parking spaces will halve to 5 and the fine Royal Red maple gets the chop.

I am still trying to find out if there is a planning precedent at SCDC to give away ransom strips for free and in this case reduce amenities for existing residents and destroy council property (ie one tree). No success so far.

## Affordable Housing

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The development at Orchard Close is for affordable/social housing. We think this means housing essential workers but a recent article in the New London Government Network (and highlighted in the Daily Mirror) pointed out that 261,000 households in social housing earn over

£2000 a month **after tax** including 57% who pay less than £300 a month in rent. It also appears that a number of residents in social housing own second homes.

## Corporate Governance

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I also attended a training session on this subject at SCDC and attend a committee session on Monday 30 June. Most of the training session and most of the committee session was taken up with discussion and advice on strategic risk whereas I am much more interested in operational risk such as why the offices at Cambourne have no sprinkler system and is security really good enough.

## Tree Warden's Report

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I am honoured to be appointed to this venerable post. There are some very fine mature trees in Cottenham which need to be protected for future generations.

For starters I asked councillors if they knew who owned what trees on public land. The parish clerk was very quick in finding this information out and the information is as follows:

The PC are responsible for the following trees:

- The Village green
- The pond site - Broad Lane junction
- Open space at Tenison Manor
- The rec

Soon to be responsible for the Open space at  
Brenda Gautrey Way

SCDC responsible for trees at Victory Way,  
Coolidge, Franklins etc

CCC responsible for trees alongside the roads  
including the ones outside 333 High Street.

At the suggestion of Cllr Norman, I have also  
asked SCDC for a list of all trees with protection  
notices on them. (I failed to get the maple in  
Orchard Close protected).

## Tree Policy

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I believe that Cottenham needs to have one or  
more tree policies and two the CPC might  
consider are:-

- where there is group planting, there should  
be usually only one type of tree not a  
mixture;

- at a time of climate change, we should encourage developers and residents to plant trees and shrubs which grab the most carbon dioxide. The five fastest growing and largest native trees which meet this criteria according to the British Trees website are:-

The field Maple

Silver Birch

Wild Cherry

English white hawthorn

Common Alder

All can live a long time and the English white hawthorn for up to 250 years. None of these trees (I would suggest) are particularly suitable for large public spaces but they would be for new developments and gardens.

I have asked local tree experts on their views about developing a tree CO2 reducing scheme but have had no replies back as yet.