

Report to Cottenham Parish Council from Nigel Bolitho – November 2007

1. COTTENHAM'S CAMBERS

Following a letter sent to me and to the Parish Council by two local residents, I have spent some time analysing pavement cambers in Cottenham. There is a wide variety both in terms of width, unevenness and angle to the road. With specific reference to the two pavements mentioned in the letter as attached to this month's parish meeting notes, I would quite agree that the pavement on the corner of Denmark Road is unacceptable as a wooden house support (there for many years) protrudes out onto the pavement and the pavement itself is at a 30 degree angle which can easily tip over a top heavy vehicle. The pavement width there is just 74cms or about an arm's length.

But I am not sure anything can be done on such a tight corner. I would be grateful for any views from parish councillors.

The local residents also complained about the pathway between Peter Gidden's offices and the old garage building on the high street opposite the butchers. At the moment it is not accessible one way as a combination of scaffolding at 252 High Street and a crossing sign have together reduced passageway to just 73cm- and its not much wider at 113cm next door at 258 and between the privet hedge and the gutter.

But I really cannot complain about the general state of the pavement there as it is broader and less steep than other places in the village. Again, I would be grateful for PCs to consider this site as I may have missed something.

One of the most dangerous pavements in my view is the left hand corner going into Pelham Way.

I have asked the local resident who complained if I can use his buggy on a Sunday to assess the problem from a user's point of view. The number of such buggies being used in Cottenham seems to be increasing- I don't remember any 10 years ago.

2. LOCAL DRAINS AND STREET LIGHTS

The gutters were cleaned last month at least outside Mitchell House! I watched with amusement as the yellow sweeper passed by on the other side of the road, saw me watching and smartly reversed to pick up leaves it had missed. Reducing gutter cleaning from 4 to 2 times a year should be revered in my view when funds to acquire a second (and I suggest smaller to get up narrow lanes) cleaner are available.

As previously reported, there are about 20 manhole covers with green crosses in Cottenham that are either broken or could not be opened when the repair man visited our village in May. The contractors were supposed to keep a record of which ones were faulty but records have been lost! I am hopeful that the scouts will start counting the green crosses later this month.

As also previously reported, there were a number of street lights not functioning. The number seems to have reduced considerably over the past month thanks-presumably! - to CCC. But if you travel to other villages at night, it is noticeable that even fewer lamps seem to be malfunctioning.

3. **UNIT J, BROAD LANE**

I submitted a list of objections to the Planning Inspectorate on the appeal by Whitfield Estates to be granted retrospective planning permission to erect extractor fans and fume cabinets on the side and back of Unit J. My principal objection was not just the decibel noise (a quiet library sound it is not) but the frequency of the noise which is intensely annoying.

RESIDENT WITH PROBLEM MOWING A FIELD

No further update.

PORTAKABIN ON LONG DROVE

Eagle-eyed residents in Coolidge Gardens spotted a lorry depositing a building at the nursery at the back of Coolidge Gardens on Long Drove. It is a portakabin and the owner of the nursery assures me it is for temporary use only!