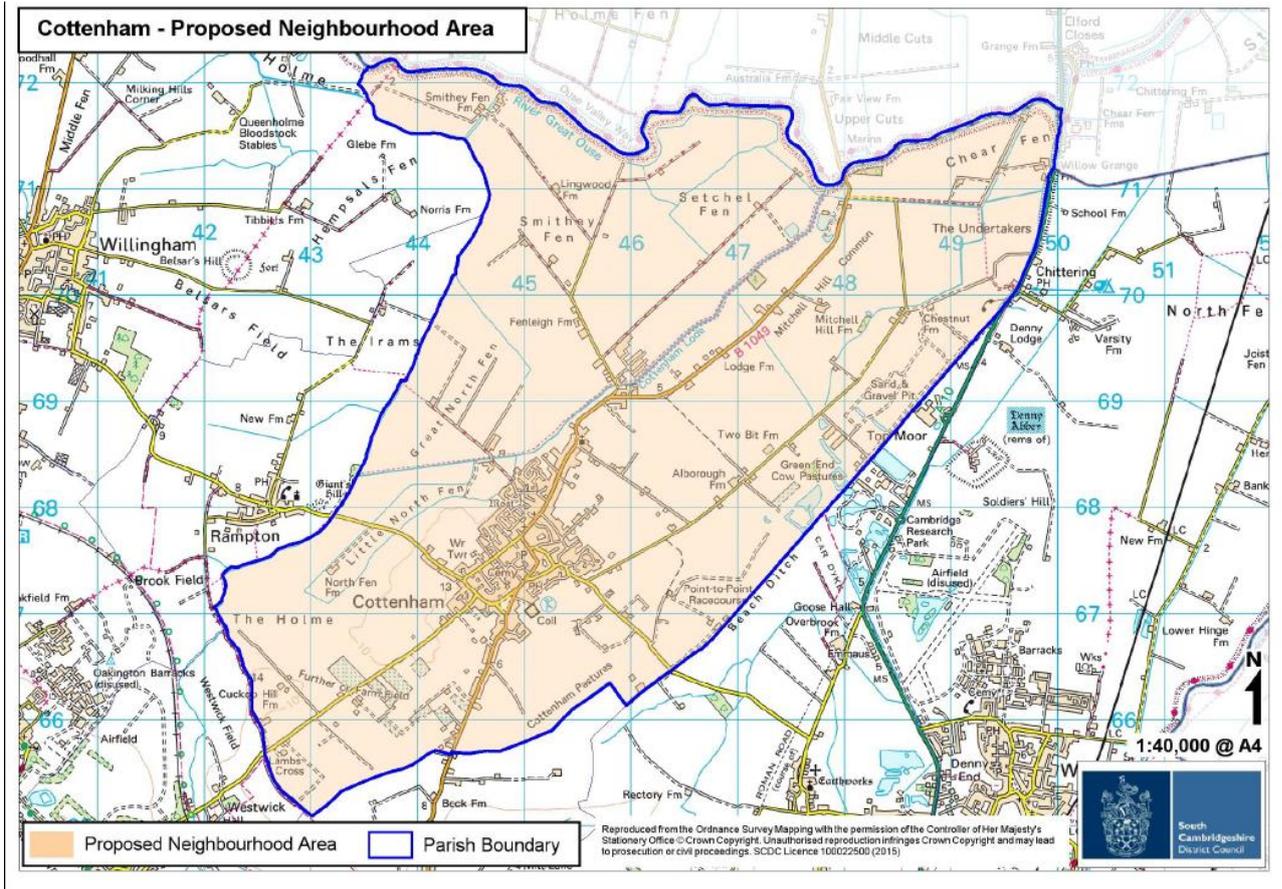


Cottenham Civil Parish
Neighbourhood Development Plan
2017 to 2031



Cottenham Parish Council

Pre-submission short-form draft

October 2016 (short – 8th)

Why should Cottenham have a Neighbourhood Development Plan?

Cottenham risks becoming an expensive dormitory town for rapidly-growing Cambridge, with through-traffic increasing as commuters move to lower-priced housing further away. Too much development and the character of the village would be lost forever. A Neighbourhood Development Plan, sitting alongside South Cambridgeshire's Local Plan, can control where and how much of that development is allowed.



1. Key issues

A sustainable community is one that provides ample opportunity for sociability, personal development, and community participation. That requires a combination of amenities and facilities that are readily accessible to most residents, preferably by being affordable and within easy walking distance.

Cottenham’s key issues which can be addressed within the Neighbourhood Plan are:

- **limitations of our facilities and services for education – both early years and primary – medical, welfare and day-care, leisure and recreation**
- **shortages of homes that are truly affordable for local people**

Other concerns not directly addressable in the NP include:

- **limitations of our local road network, especially if developments do not create local employment or increase local provision of services – increasing noise and pollution as certain junctions become heavily congested**

In addition, any improvements must respect the village’s character as a rural working village developed around a Conservation Area rich in architectural heritage.

2. Vision and objectives

Vision

By 2031 Cottenham will still be a safe rural village, proud of its character and retaining its sense of community with improved amenities and facilities, reduced impact of traffic, especially in the core of the village, and having more affordable housing for the next generation of residents.

Objectives

From the vision, there are five clear objectives, which link to specific issues:

	objective	related issues
A	Improving amenities and facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • day centre, education, medical centre, nursery, village hall
B	Making housing more affordable for the next generation of residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Land Trust, Linked housing clusters
C	Encouraging employment opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • employment, arts, sports facilities, teens, green spaces
D	Reducing the impact of traffic, especially in the core of the village	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging business relocation and linked housing clusters
E	Conserving the character of the village as a safe community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • character (Conservation Area, rural and new build), design, trees, events promotion, HGV limitation,

3. Objective A: Improving amenities and facilities

Sustainability considerations require improved leisure, medical and recreational facilities within 800 metres of the village centre to reduce the need for car-borne travel outside the village and encourage walking within the village.

Projects

Six projects have been selected as the means to meet the priorities.

- *Medical Centre, bringing together GPs, X-ray, other medical facilities and social services*
- *Multi-purpose Village Hall including Nursery*
- *Additional land for sport, including a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA)*
- *Additional Equipped Play Spaces on Brenda Gautrey Way and Tenison Manor*
- *Safe off-road links between key village locations*
- *Accessible waterway walks*

4. Objective B: Making housing more affordable for the next generation

Sustainability considerations lead to a plan to build 5 or 6 medium-density clusters, each of 40-50 mixed size homes, including 40% affordable, within 800 metres of the village core with an appropriate increase in local employment opportunities, services etc. If these clusters, providing some 250-300 homes over the 15 years, can be suitably located and linked they could help alleviate some of the through traffic issues in Cottenham.

Objective C: Employment - increasing local employment opportunities

Sustainability considerations require improved employment opportunities within the village and wider parish to reduce the need for commuting and encourage cycling and walking within the parish

Meeting the need

Employment opportunities can be created:

- *Within the village, mostly within improved amenities and facilities such as the nursery within the multi-function Village Hall and the Medical Centre and by improving access to shops by ensuring there are at least 2 short-term parking spaces on the High Street within 50m of each convenience store; encouraging relocation of businesses requiring heavy vehicle activity*
- *Within extensions to the existing industrial areas; improving public transport services to them*
- *Within the rural parish, new agro-tourism or eco-tourism related development will be permitted, whether as small additions to established viable rural businesses or modest-scale new propositions with demonstrable potential to create employment opportunities.*

5. Objective D: Traffic & Transport

Sustainability considerations require improved leisure, medical and recreational facilities in the village and improved public transport and cycle-ways to reduce the need for car-borne travel outside the village, safer roads with fewer HGVs and slower cars, and better footpaths and pavements to encourage walking within the village.

Meeting the need

Six priorities emerge:

- *Reducing traffic, especially HGV, flows through the village core*
- *Reducing the speed of traffic, especially at the village edges*
- *Improving footways and pavements, especially within the village core*
- *Ensuring safe routes for every day pedestrian or cycle travel throughout the residential area*
- *Improving public transport links, especially with Cambridge*
- *Improving cycle links with neighbouring villages*

6. Objective E: Character – Heritage & Rural assets

Residents value the character of this working village set in Fen-edge countryside; any improvements must respect the village's character as a rural working village developed around a Conservation Area rich in architectural heritage.

7. What next?

The long form of the draft plan is being reviewed and revised with assistance from South Cambridgeshire District Council.

A more complete draft, without the draft planning policies and some appendices, will shortly be available on the Cottenham Parish Council website. It will be updated from time to time over the next few months.

- In January, we will enter a formal “local consultation” on the draft plan involving publication on the CPC website and a series of consultation events in the village. Your comments and challenges will be especially welcome during that stage.
- In March, we hope to begin the formal consultation on the plan by publishing it on the District Council website and subjecting it to independent inspection by a Planning Inspector.
- Around that time, the District Council and Planning Inspectors are allowed to take some account of it when examining planning applications.

Later, you will be asked to approve or reject it in a referendum. If you approve, it will become part of local planning policy for the next 15 years.