

July has been a month when I seem to have been engaged in an awful lot of activities related to planning. Apart from the normal SCDC Planning Committee meeting a day and a bit were given over to attending Joint Development Control Committee – Cambridge Fringes meetings. Then there was Northstowe Parish Forum and there have been several local applications of note:

**Oakington:** The Primary School's application has just one more hurdle to get over – the archaeological survey - before Sally Daggianti can hopefully spend her summer holiday overseeing the work to provide additional space for September's intake

**Cottenham:** an interesting application for change of use of a unit at Broad Lane is receiving pre-application advice

There is also a new application at Smithy Fen coming up for consideration at August's Planning Committee meeting

The application for Cuckoo Hill Farm was approved whilst we are still awaiting a decision on Oxholme Farm.

The opportunity to respond to the call for sites by SCDC through the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment [SHLAA] ended on 29 July. I am not aware of anything that has been submitted by Oakington and Rampton but the Cottenham Parish Council working group has made submissions and at the eleventh hour Kate Heydon burned the midnight oil to ensure that they were made on time.

David Wilson Homes held an exhibition on their proposal to apply for permission to build housing on a site between Long Drove and Beach Road, Cottenham.

**Rampton:** August's meeting will see the first application for the village that has come before the planning committee since I have been a member – Lantern House.

Stretching the theme somewhat I will mention the trip on the Guided Bus that Tim Wotherspoon and I were invited to enjoy this month. This gave us the opportunity to view the Northstowe site – well part of it and some of us took photographs of the point at which the guideway will be developed to serve that community at some time in the future. Tim, as Northstowe Portfolio Holder was given the opportunity to inspect the Exhibition Centre which is currently under construction at the Longstanton Guided Bus Park and Ride site. The County Council is overseeing this project but its green credentials will be of interest to all of us. The building will also provide comfort and refreshment facilities for users of the Guided Bus. With regard to Northstowe itself: at the Parish Forum meeting this month a presentation by the Joint Promoters included a timetable for bringing forward a new planning application.

Meetings attended in July:

**06 July: Planning Committee Meeting**

**07 July: Cabinet Meeting**

**08 July: Planning & Sustainability PfH Meeting**

There was some discussion as to the merits of the new PfH adopting a similar, open style to other PfH's which allows for input from any elected member on a subject that may affect his/her parishioners. The other item of interest was the adoption by the PfH of the action plan for improvement/enhancement of SCDC's planning service.

**12 July: [i] Visit to Smithy Fen with Debbie Barratt re Library**

**[ii] Neighbourhood Panel Meeting**

**13&14 July: Joint Development Control Committee – City Fringes**

**13 July: Northstowe Parish Forum**

Attended by representatives of all 3 Parish Councils so I will not duplicate their reports here.

**17 July: Ramparts Exhibition of Local Artists' Work**

This was very well attended and demonstrated how much talent there is locally.

**18 July: Sustainable Cottenham Committee Meeting**

Notes from this meeting are available on the Sustainable Cottenham website.

**20 July: Training for Employment Committee members and named subs.**

**21 July: Full Council Meeting**

The news of the closure of Waterbeach Barracks had only recently become public but members of all colours supported the view that decisions made in relation to development of the site for housing should be made locally and not by central government.

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Your councillors are here to help you. Please feel free to contact us with comments, questions, problems or complaints. We hope we can help but, if we can't, we probably know a [wo]man who can.

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- 26 July:**       **Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership**  
Structure changes were discussed but greater detail will come to the November meeting.
- 27 July:**       **David Wilson Exhibition on proposal for land between Beach Road and Long Drove, Cottenham**  
This was a public consultation prior to any application. The proposal is for 50 houses of which 20 would be affordable.
- 28 July:**       **Guided Bus Trip**

### Dates to note for August:

- 03 August:**    **14.00** Planning Committee – SCDC  
Deadline for registering to speak is 12.00 on 01 August.
- 05 August:**    **19.00 – 20.00** Councillors' Surgery – Cottenham Community Centre

### Items to Note:

#### **Elite Athletes Award Scheme Grants** ***Congratulations to local athletes:***

Daniel Pembrey, 15 year old roller hockey player from Cottenham, competing in the U15 national competition regional team, eastern counties league winner and a member of the U17 final England squad for the European championships in 2011. Awarded £500.

Lucas Pembrey, 12 year old roller hockey player from Cottenham, competing in the U11 national competition regional team and eastern counties league for the club. Would hope to represent England in the U17 European championships when he reaches 16. Awarded £150.

Nicholas Pembrey, 13 year old roller hockey player from Cottenham, competing in the U13 national competition regional team and eastern counties league for the club. Would hope to represent England in the U17 European championships when he reaches 16. Awarded £150.

Scott Neville, 14 year old roller hockey player from Cottenham, picked for the reduced U17 final England squad for the European championships in 2011 and hoping to be part of the final squad. Awarded £350.

#### **Step-Up Business Competition**

Step-Up business competition was launched again this year. It aims to promote business start-up, creativity and innovation and encourages people to take an entrepreneurial step forward to establish new business ideas and initiatives in South Cambridgeshire. The final winner will receive around £30,000 worth of business support, including a year of office accommodation and legal, accounting, marketing/public relations' support and Cambridgeshire Chambers of Commerce membership. Further details, including the application form and guidance notes, can be found at: <http://www.scams.gov.uk/Business/StepUp/default.htm> Or contact Nicole Kritzing at SCDC.

Finally, may I wish you all a very happy holiday season. Whether you are travelling abroad, to other places within the United Kingdom or simply staying at home I hope you all get the opportunity to re-charge your batteries and take a well earned rest.

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