

villas, again often paired, fronts the Middleton Road. Streets are named from compass points and some pubs (notably *The Prince of Wales* and the *Our House* beerhouse) and shops were integral to the development.

Whilst some other Freehold schemes suggest rapid development with a coherence in period and style, Grimsbury evolved over a fifty year period, although the availability of plots, and more recently of garden portions, shows evidence of continual evolution. Modern additions and infill, though seldom incompatible in form or style, are very much part of the Freehold tradition and it will be interesting to see how Conservation policy captures this characteristic.

We do know that the facades facing Middleton Road had a very specific design purpose. James Cadbury owned five plots here and envisaged what would now be termed a 'gateway' entrance to Banbury.¹³ In contrast, the streets behind Middleton Road are inward looking, with few views out, a characteristic reinforced by more recent traffic calming measures. The façade terrace was established as, and remained, a residence for professional and business families, hence retaining evidence of servants' accommodation.

Today the area has a multi-cultural population and some multi-occupation. A series of local authority initiatives has raised the area's quality although it largely remains in the lower area of the housing market. Frontage and fenestration revision, together with the demands of the motor car, have had a major impact on the image of the area.

In a note prepared in March 2006, three Banbury Town Councillors¹⁴ provided an initial survey of the prospective conservation area for Grimsbury. This includes a substantial collection of photographs, together with a street-by-street survey of the types of property involved, some historic comments, and observations on evident threats to building integrity. The Cherwell D.C. Conservation Area Appraisal report provides a detailed account of the design and condition of the area.

Brian Little¹⁵ interviewed Mr Stanbra of the estate agents, Stanbra Powell, who noted the recent rise of the Freehold Estate in Grimsbury as

¹³ Potts, William: *Banbury Through One Hundred Years*, The Banbury Guardian Office, 1942; quoted in Cherwell D.C.: Grimsbury Conservation Area Appraisal: Consultation Draft, Sept. 2006. p.9; (On Line) Retrieved 7:II:2007 from <http://www.cherwell-dc.gov.uk/talktous/publications.cfm/publication/778/>

¹⁴ Robbins, Stuart, Parish, George & Bonner, Ann: *Grimsbury: Conservation Area for Grimsbury*, duplicated note dated 22:III:2006.

¹⁵ Little, Brian: 'Homes for the working man,' *Banbury Guardian*, 13:IV.2006: p.8.