



April 2022

Dear Members,

I am pleased to be able to let you know of our coming meeting on **Wednesday 20th April at 7.45pm at St Peters Upper Church** when we have John Wotton coming to speak on "The Local Voice and the Local Plan". John is Chairman of the Kent area of Campaign for the Preservation of Rural England (CPRE), and in the context of the Local Plan and the Neighbourhood Development Plan will be giving us a slightly different view from the perspective of looking after our environment and countryside. As a village that has been careful to maintain its independence from being integrated into Tunbridge Wells, and with a historic defined boundary for development, we need to know about the pressures being placed on us, how to respond, and indeed how to campaign to keep the best of our environment should that be necessary.

Sad to say we have lost our **Community Warden, Emma Poole**, who was with us at the last meeting, and has moved on to other activities. So far she does not appear to have been replaced.

We are continuing to monitor all planning applications and commenting as necessary on those we feel might have a public interest for residents of Pembury.

Our Planning Officer, Kathryn Franklin has written:

#### Planning Report - Spring 2022

First a round-up of the unresolved controversial items mentioned in last newsletter:

1. The Meadows, Pastheap - This is still on going but as the enforcement officer is now involved it is important for us not to make any further comments.
2. 36 Henwood Green Road - Having had the application for two 4-bed houses refused they submitted plans for one 5-bed and that has been granted. We objected and so did PPC.
3. 25 - 31 High Street - Following refusal of a 2-bed property they submitted plans for a 1-bed, but that was again refused on grounds of overdevelopment of plot and harm to adjacent listed building. The worrying thing is that the report particularly mentioned that lack of access was not a reason for refusal which, given the location, seems ridiculous.
4. Amhurst Hill Farm, - The applications for conversion of various farm buildings to residential have been granted.

Secondly, although the number of applications has risen considerably over the last few months, there are only two outstanding that the committee consider controversial:

1. Sunhill Place, High Street - They are applying to 'infill' along the front and add a large

square block on the back so that they can turn the existing 11 1-bed units into 11 2-bed units. This is a reduction from the original 12 2-bed units. We have objected on both occasions. Apart from the size of the proposals this building is in the Conservation Area and, although not listed, is also considered a Heritage Asset.

2. The Police houses, Amberleaze Drive - It is intended to demolish the 2 houses and replace them with four 4bed detached. The size of the plot means there is little room between each property and we consider the footprint of each property is too small to cater for 4 bedrooms. We have objected on the grounds of overdevelopment.

It is no secret that the TWBC Planning website is not the easiest to navigate so, although all our objections are available to view on that website as public documents, it is intended that these objections will be available to view on the Pembury Society website once it is properly up and running.

Kathryn Franklin  
Planning Officer

If you would like to contact us .....

**Current Committee**

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We look forward to seeing you at the 20th April meeting.

Every good wish

David Hanes

# **The Pembury Society**



## **Spring Meeting**

on

**Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> April**

in

**St Peter's Church, Hastings Road at**

**7.45pm**

**GUEST SPEAKER**

**John Wotton**

**Chair of "Campaign for the Preservation of Rural  
England", Kent**

**'The Local Voice and the Local Plan'**

Open to members and non-members. £3 admission for non-members