



PEMBURY MATTERS

The Pembury Society Newsletter Autumn 2019

Dear Members,

Our coming meeting is on Wednesday 9th October, at 7.45 pm, in St. Peter's Upper Church, when we shall have our AGM, followed by our guest speaker Dr Andrew Cameron who will be speaking to us on

Pembury; a provision of purpose, personal and professional

Dr Cameron has been known to most of us in the village, as senior partner in the Waterfield Practice. He retired last year from the practice, and is currently undertaking training for the Priesthood in the Church of England. We shall also be having short updates on the Local Plan – where it has got to, and its implications for Pembury, plus an update on the proposed Hendy car dealership on the Tesco's site. We look forward to an interesting evening.

At the short Annual General Meeting (agenda and accounts attached) I commend the Committee to you for re-election. They all work hard in their different roles and interests, but there's always room for others to join us. Do let me know if you are interested in joining with us. Also, do let me know if you know of a speaker who might have a topic of interest to members.

Annual Subscriptions

Thank you again for the many standing order subscriptions that have been received during the year, and welcome to new members for whom this is your first year. We hope you are enjoying our meetings, and finding the speakers and topics interesting.

April 2020 meeting

We have our April meeting provisionally booked for Wednesday 22nd April, speaker to be announced.

Important village meetings regarding the Draft Local Plan

Consultation evening on 23rd September arranged by the Parish Council in the Village Hall. Drop in Session with Parish and Borough Councillors 6pm - 8pm, Public Meeting 8pm – 9pm.

TWBC have an exhibition programme around the parishes in connection with the Local Plan.

Pembury has its opportunity on Wednesday 2nd October in the Village Hall 4pm - 7pm.

We look forward to seeing you on **Wednesday 9th October**. Put the date in the diary!

David Hanes - Chairman

Planning Officer's report

The draft new Local Plan has now been published and a limited consultation period will run from the end of September. As stated in the latest edition of the PVN the Parish Council have organised a public meeting in the Village Hall on 23rd September from 6pm to 9pm and the Borough Council will have an exhibition, also in the Village Hall, on 2nd October, 4pm to 7pm.

The number of planning applications in Pembury over the last 6 months is up considerably compared with recent times. The majority are for extensions to residential properties.

As you will all no doubt have seen, the redevelopment of 3 High St is progressing but it is still not possible to tell how it will look within the street scene.

Below is a round-up of the more controversial applications that are on-going:

1) Hendy's at Woodsgate (19/00884/FULL)

The residents of Pembury have made their feelings very clear on the application to build a Motor Village at Woodsgate. Over 500 people have written to the TWBC Planning Dept. to express their opposition. The main issue is increased congestion and proof, if proof was needed, came at the end of August when a burst water main in Longfield Rd brought the whole area to a complete standstill for nearly a week. Increased parking in the Woodsgate area and a threat to Tesco's viability, which could leave us with no local shopping facility, are also serious concerns.

The Parish Council are so worried about this application they have employed a planning & highway expert to support their objections. His excellent report is on the TWBC planning's Hendy website.

There is little more we can do at present but await the date when the application goes before the planning committee and representations can be made directly to them. We can only hope that common sense will prevail and the application is rejected.

2) Sturgeons, Henwood Gn Rd (19/01424/FULL)

The application for 7 affordable flats and 12 houses that was approved last year has been re-submitted with the 'affordable' element removed. The developer says the scheme would be unviable if it had an affordable element.

3) Stonecourt Farm (19/01430/PNQCLA and 19/01696/FULL)

Despite strong local opposition Barn 'B' was granted permission for 3 residential units under 'Prior notification for change of use'. However, the application status has since been changed from 'decided' to 'unknown', but there is no indication why.

The officer dealing with the application for 4 units in barn 'A' recommended approval for this too. Despite the many well-reasoned objections from the neighbours, these were dismissed as 'not warranting refusal' and despite being 'called in' so that it was decided by the committee the application has now been granted.

Your committee feel that this makes a mockery of the planning system since this site is within the Greenbelt, outside the Limit to Build and was strongly opposed by the immediate neighbours

4) Owlsnest Wood (19/01600/FULL)

The original application for a 76 bed care home and 20 independent living units was rejected after 3 years. This new application is for the care home alone and it is obvious that a significant amount of pre-application work has been done. The applicants are offering the hospital a guaranteed 10 beds for a 'halfway house' between hospital and discharge. The Parish Council are NEUTRAL but have asked for several projects for the benefit of Pembury residents to be considered under Section 106. KCC Highways are still not completely satisfied with the access arrangements, opposite the hospital service road, but these issues will no doubt be resolved. Removal of the 21 cottages will obviously lessen the impact on the ancient woodland that was an issue with the previous application but there will still be some loss. Also, the site is still within the Greenbelt and still has a sensitive ecology.

Kathryn Franklin - Planning Officer

AGM Resolutions:

1 To confirm the re-election of the Committee (see below)

(We would appeal to any who may be interested in joining the committee in the future to contact the Chairman.)

2 To approve the Accounts for the year ended 31st July 2019

(see page 4)

Current Committee

Chairman:	David Hanes The Lodge, 7 Lower Green Road, TN2 4DZ	823174
	david@hanesfamily.co.uk	07702340821
Secretary:	Helen Castle	825185
	helencafc@gmail.com	
Planning Officer:	Kathryn Franklin	823212
	kathryn.franklin@outlook.com	
Promotions Officer:	Richard Snow	825428
	richardssnow@tiscali.co.uk	
Committee Member:	Tony Nicholls	
	tony.pastpages@gmail.com	
Committee Member:	John Evans	458729
	evansjohn@talk21.com	
Committee Member:	Bernard Tyson	825984
	Bernard.tyson@btinternet.com	

Financial Commentary:

Membership subscriptions continued to increase as new members have joined, and previous members re-joined the Society. Expenses have come down since we had the extra expenses of arranging for memberships to be transferred to standing orders.

We were able to transfer £300 to the Projects Fund, and from this we made a contribution to the "Stop Hendy" Campaign.

We are always interested in hearing about any project that you think might be worthy of a contribution from our Projects Fund.

Our thanks go to John Franks for being our Independent Examiner.

THE PEMBURY SOCIETY

SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

GENERAL FUND	2019	2018
INCOME, from subscriptions and other income	<u>1,235</u>	<u>1,092</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Meetings and activities	167	182
Newsletters and posters	190	130
Stationery and postage	42	229
Insurance	184	184
Subscriptions to other Societies	35	35
Notelet purchases		-
Total Expenditure	<u>618</u>	<u>759</u>
Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year	617	333
Less: Transfer to Projects Fund	<u>-300</u>	<u>-300</u>
General Fund balance for the year after transfer to Projects Fund	317	33
General Fund balance brought forward	<u>1,685</u>	<u>1,652</u>
General Fund balance carried forward	<u>2,002</u>	<u>1,685</u>
PROJECTS FUND		
Transfer from General Fund	300	300
Donation to Stop Hendy Fund	-100	-600
Projects Fund balance brought forward	<u>134</u>	<u>434</u>
Projects Fund balance carried forward	<u>334</u>	<u>134</u>
TOTAL FUNDS at 31 JULY 2019	<u>£2,336</u>	<u>£1,819</u>

The Pembury Society



Autumn Meeting & AGM

on

Wednesday, 9th October

in

St Peter's Church, Hastings Road at 7.45pm

GUEST SPEAKER

Dr Andrew Cameron

“Pembury; a provision of purpose, personal and professional”

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