



# PEMBURY MATTERS

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Autumn 2008

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## *The Pembury Society Newsletter*

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### **Your Chairman Reports**

Hello, fellow members. Here we are entering the last quarter of 2008 and now thinking of our next Annual General Meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October. This is the opportunity for members to get together and discuss the things that are of interest or concern about our village. Support for our Society is as strong as ever and we still look to you to do your bit and introduce new members to our cause. Indeed, the aims of The Pembury Society are shown later in this Newsletter.

Jan Cook, our Secretary, has had to resign for personal reasons and we need someone to fill her position; the work she has been doing is varied and interesting and brings with it considerable satisfaction. Please speak to me at the Meeting if you are interested, or give me a ring.

Did you come to the Spring Meeting in April? It was well attended and the main speaker was from the Campaign to Protect Rural England (C.P.R.E.). He was followed by Roy Brazier from Pepenbury and both made excellent entertainment. The village Family Fun Day in July attracted a goodly number of our fellow villagers and our Pembury Society tent was visited by young and old. Those of our members who volunteer to man (and woman) the games that we create for such occasions certainly had a fun day and we even enrolled new members who liked what we stand for.

I look forward to seeing you at our A.G.M. on October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7.45 p.m. in the village hall. Refreshments will be available during the evening and as there is a growing interest in personal safety these days, Tom Younger and others will be providing suggestions and advice on this and other matters.

*Ken Watts.*

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### **New Sign for Pembury Village**

Some 85% of Kent villages have village signs and in the Tunbridge Wells area alone, 13 villages have ornamental signs that catch the eye and the imagination. Therefore, it seems timely that Pembury should have its own on the village green and The Pembury Society has been pressing for this for some time. The Parish Council has now agreed with us, and will be providing two delegates to join a committee to see this project to fruition. We will keep you informed of progress.

*Ken Watts*

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### **Nominations for Committee Members**

Nominations should be submitted in writing to the Secretary **Mrs J Cook, 9 Woodhill Park, Pembury, TN2 4LH** at least **2 weeks** before the A.G.M. The agreement of the person nominated should first be obtained together with the names of the **Proposer** and **Seconder**.

**We nominate** \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposer** \_\_\_\_\_

**Seconder** \_\_\_\_\_

## **SUCSESSES AND FAILURES**

**There has been a considerable drop in the number of planning applications affecting Pembury.**

During the period from 1 March 2008 to 30 September 2008 only 46 new planning applications have been made to the Borough Council, compared to 71 during the same period last year.

The Committee of The Pembury Society have made comments on, and objected to 3 Planning Applications since the beginning of March.

These applications are as follows :-

### **Land at the rear of 34, 36 and 38 Romford Road**

Since the Successes and Failures Article in the Spring 2008 Newsletter the applicants withdrew their application for the erection of 3 four- bedroom houses on this garden land and a new application for 2 four-bedroom and 1 three-bedroom detached houses has recently been received by the Borough Council.

The Pembury Society felt that there had been no substantial change to the original application and therefore considered that this new proposed development would still harm the landscaped character of the area and detract from the contribution that the existing garden land makes to the locality. The proposed houses would overlook and dominate existing properties in the immediate area. It was also felt that if planning permission was granted it would set a precedent and encourage other property developers to build on other garden land within the immediate vicinity to the detriment of the existing character of the area.

The Borough Council are still considering this application.

### **37 Hastings Road**

Following the withdrawal of the original application the applicant submitted a further application for the change of use to the property to multiple occupation. This work had already been carried out.

The Pembury Society considered that the work which had been carried out was of poor quality and substandard.

The Borough Council however granted planning permission subject to the property being occupied by a maximum of 8 residents.

### **120 Henwood Green Road**

The Society considered that the erection of a new terraced house adjoining 120 Henwood Green Road would, because of its scale, form and design, be overbearing and unduly prominent in this location. It was also felt that it was an overdevelopment and intensive use of land in a very cramped setting. If allowed it would also result in the reduction of the amount of amenity space available to the residents of 120 Henwood Green Road and to the surrounding properties in the area.

The applicant withdrew the application as there exists a right of way at the rear of the property for the residents.

*Les Cook*

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**Proposed new Tesco store** and development of the whole area. What do you think?

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## **From the Membership Secretary**

Once again our volunteer helpers, 27 in all, have done an excellent job in delivering our Newsletter and collecting annual subscriptions. We thank those two who have had to resign, as we appreciate the work they have done for the Society, and welcome the two who have offered to take their places. Twenty-one new members have joined us recently, which is good, and as a similar number have left the village this year, our numbers have remained fairly constant overall. As you know, membership forms are readily available and all you have to do is ask your friends and neighbours to join us and you will find that they readily agree.

*Ken Watts.*

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## **Memorial Garden**

We have decided to hand over the Pembury Society memorial garden to the Parish Council, to be turfed over. The Barbara May plaque, which we had made to commemorate the remarkable work that she did for our Society, will be placed in the Parish Memorial Garden which is situated in the Pembury Burial Ground behind St. Peter's Upper Church.

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## **The Mary Standen Archive**

At long last the Local History Group have completed indexing the History Archive that Mary Standen left to the people of Pembury. This was done on behalf of the Parish Council, in whom the ownership is now vested.

The complete Archive was on display at Pembury Library's 30th birthday celebrations. Three framed panned drawings by Jim Holland have been hung in Pembury Library and everything else has now been taken to the Tunbridge Wells Reference Library where it will be looked after under controlled conditions, but still be readily available to anyone who wishes to look through it.

For practical reasons, it will be necessary to ask in advance if you wish to see anything from the archive (tel 01892 522352 and ask for the reference library). To make this easier, a copy of the index is held at Pembury Library so that you can see what is available and then order a selection to see. It will not be possible to have everything out at once as it is physically too large a collection.

*Kathryn Franklin*

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## **The Aims of the Pembury Society**

The Aims of The Pembury Society are:

- (a) To promote high standards of local planning and architecture and to protect the environment;
  - (b) To preserve features of architectural and/or historic interest within the Pembury Conservation Area and throughout the village;
  - (c) To monitor the local environment and to protect Pembury as a village;
  - (d) To promote civic awareness and encourage all residents to take a pride in their village and making it a safe and attractive place to live in;
  - (e) To ensure that an independent voice is heard in the right quarters when it matters;
  - (f) To scrutinise all planning applications which affect Pembury and to make comments to the Borough Council when required;
  - (g) To attend planning committee meetings of the Borough Council and meetings of the Parish Council when necessary; and
  - (h) To give evidence for planning appeals and for planning inquiries.
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## OUR GROTTY ENVIRONMENT

The Committee of The Pembury Society have received a letter from John Hawker expressing concern about the large amount of land surrounding Pembury which is not only uncultivated but has been allowed to become neglected.

Footpaths are becoming impassable, once cultivated land is fast becoming scrub and that neglect of agriculture and horticulture goes strongly against our traditions of self reliance and resourcefulness.

John's letter has prompted me to write this article about the lack of concern for our environment. For it not only affects Pembury, but throughout this country it is a national problem and a disgrace. People no longer seem to appear to care about their surroundings. In our throw away culture, the care of our environment has taken a back seat in recent years.

At the Hope 08 Family Fun Day in July The Pembury Society's stall mounted an anti-litter campaign, which encouraged youngsters to be aware of their actions and the affect on their surroundings. Litter is a very big problem throughout Pembury. The majority of us must, at some time, have had to pick up drink cans and bottles, crisp and chocolate/sweet wrappers and fast food containers which have been dropped, or blown into our gardens. This is more prevalent on the main roads and in the centre of the village including the extensive woodland which surrounds Pembury.

Fly-tipping and the abandonment of motor vehicles, old tyres, mattresses and old furniture have become a common sight in our hedgerows and country lanes, away from the lens of the CCTV camera. This problem is even worse around, and inside the M25 corridor. To avoid paying charges for the disposal of their rubbish "cowboys" see nothing wrong in dumping their waste for somebody else to clear up their mess at the tax payers expense. Many people have in all probability paid these characters good money to have their waste disposed of legally and in a satisfactory manner.

The authorities will argue that they do not have sufficient resources to keep on top of these problems. Hoping that over time, through education, we will all become more aware of the effect of our actions on the environment. They also hope that local communities and organisations will voluntarily, and at no cost, will come up with practical solutions to clear up the mess, clean up scrub and hedgerows and open up public footpaths.

*Les Cook*

<b>Committee</b>			<b>Committee Members</b>	
<b>Chairman and Membership Secretary:</b>	Ken Watts 48 Romford Road	822770	Simon Galwey 5 Lower Green Rd	822866
<b>Vice Chairman and Planning:</b>	Les Cook 9 Woodhill Park	822504	Richard Snow 1 Cornford Park	825428
<b>Secretary:</b>	Jan Cook 9 Woodhill Park	822504	Marie Williams	
<b>Treasurer:</b>	David Moore 8 Highfield Close	824663		
<b>Publicity Officers:</b>	Barbara Ballantine 6 Maidstone Rd Kathryn Franklin 11 The Meadow	822156 823212		
<b>Honorary President:</b> Derek Johnson 823150				
<b>Pembury Society Website:</b> <a href="http://www.pembury.org/society/">http://www.pembury.org/society/</a>				