



# PEMBURY MATTERS

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Autumn 2010

*The Pembury Society Newsletter*

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## Your Chairman Reports

Greetings members. I am sure that you are very much aware of the prime project that has been to the forefront of the minds of the Officers and Committee this year – the ornamental Village Sign. I am pleased to report that Planning Approval has now been given by the Parish and Borough Councils and under the firm hand of Les Cook, our vice-chairman, the manufacture of the Sign has been started. If all goes according to plan the pole and the Sign will be erected on the Village Green early in the New Year.

Many of you made generous donations to the fund that was set up to finance this Sign and to date more than £4000 has been collected. We should make a point of thanking those who, in particular, gave a range of large amounts; these were Kent County Council, Tesco Pembury, The Camden Arms, Barnes Kingsnorth and past and present Chairmen who have served on the Committee over the years. The generosity shown by all of you is much appreciated, as will be the Sign over the years ahead by the people of our Village and the many visitors who come here.

Our Spring Meeting in April was successful and Roger Smith gave an illustrated presentation of Village Signs and their histories. **The next meeting will be on 21st October** when we have a most interesting speaker. He is Rick Bayles who is a founder member of the Pembury Eco Group and is on the Editorial Working Group of the Pembury Village News. Rick is currently spending a lot of time out in the Gulf of Mexico filming oil spill clean up work for BP. He will give an illustrated talk on this project and the environmental impact of the spill in Mexico and the lessons to be learnt from it to safeguard our local flora and fauna.

The AGM will have special significance in the light of the item on page 3, written by Richard Snow. There can be no doubt that we have reached a turning point in the affairs of our Society and in the reluctance of our Members to volunteer to help in the running of the group, and so we have to face this and make the management decisions that will now have to be taken to shape the future, or otherwise, of our Society. Do come along as it will be your views that need to be heard.

Finally, I would like to refer to Simon Galwey, who has been a well known member of the Pembury Community and an active member of the Committee of the Society for many years. We would like to thank him for all his work and wish him and Stella all the best in their new home.

*Ken Watts* - Chairman

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## Nominations for Committee Members to the Pembury Society

Nominations should be submitted in writing to **Ken Watts, 48 Romford Road, Pembury, TN2 4JE**, before the AGM on 21st October 2010. The agreement of the person nominated should first be obtained together with the names of the **Proposer** and **Seconder**.

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

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

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

## Planning Report

One of the aims of The Pembury Society is to monitor planning applications for the parish of Pembury and to make representations to the Borough Council when applications are made for developments that we deem to be detrimental to the village. Over the last 6 months there have been very few planning applications affecting properties in Pembury and most of them have been for modest extensions to existing houses, details with regard to the new hospital and other non-controversial matters.

However, a proposed development in Canterbury Road proved to be very controversial to the residents of that area. This was for a block of flats on a very small site and The Society was happy to add their voice to the objections. We are pleased to report that the application was refused, although another is in the pipeline.

Currently there is an application to demolish a pair of semi-detached houses in The Grove and build 7 houses on the site. The Society has written to the Borough Council expressing grave concerns at this overdevelopment and requesting that it be rejected. As the Parish Council have also objected this application cannot be passed by the officers and must be determined by the planning committee.

Members are reminded that, if you have any concerns over a planning application in your area, you can always let me or another member of the committee know. It is possible that a particular application may slip through our scrutiny system, but if you are worried and let us know, we can re-assess our decision as to whether or not its implementation would be detrimental to life in Pembury.

*Kathryn Franklin* - Planning Officer

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## Planning System Shake-up

An article in the current Kent Voice outlines the Government's proposed changes to the planning system. It intends to introduce a Decentralisation and Localism Bill this year. Key aspects of the bill will be to:-

- ▶ Abolish regional strategies
- ▶ Abolish the Infrastructure Planning Commission
- ▶ Create Local Enterprise partnerships (to replace Regional Development Agencies)
- ▶ Create new local housing trusts which will have powers to undertake housing development. Under the slogan "the community right to build" development proposed by a trust that is supported by the local community would be allowed without the need to apply for planning permission provided it meets "some basic planning criteria".

If you would like to learn more Protect Kent is offering parish councils and other local groups training sessions on various aspects of the planning system. For more information contact Brian Lloyd by telephone 01303 815184 or e-mail at [brian.lloyd@protectkent.org.uk](mailto:brian.lloyd@protectkent.org.uk).

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## From the Membership Secretary

At the moment we have 496 members. Once again our volunteer helpers have done an excellent job in delivering our Newsletter and collecting annual subscriptions. We thank them for all the work they have done, which is greatly appreciated. Membership forms are readily available so if you know of anyone who would like to join do not hesitate to ask for a form.

*Dave Osborn*

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**Autumn Meeting and AGM October 21st at the Village Hall at 7.45pm.** After the AGM business we will enjoy coffee and biscuits or wine and a chat followed by our speaker **Rick Bayles** who will talk about the environmental disaster of the Gulf of Mexico oil spill and the consequences. Looking forward to seeing you all and friends.

### HAS THE PEMBURY SOCIETY A FUTURE?

A number of members are wishing to resign from the Committee during the course of next year.

Some are key workers on the Committee and have actively served The Pembury Society for a considerable time. So we are now looking for new people to join us to participate in carrying out your ideas (not necessarily to serve as an officer).

**To put it bluntly if members of The Society do not come forward to actively serve on the Committee within the next 6 months then there will be a real risk the Society will need to be wound up.**

It has been suggested by members of the Committee that the following ideas could be a way forward for the Society, as well as just looking at planning applications, and would be a contribution to the community in Pembury :-

-  Looking at the Historical aspect of the village;
  -  Working with the Parish Council in areas of mutual concern.
- As part of help to the community The Pembury Society could involve itself with projects such as:-
-  Cleaning of War Memorial Names and revamping the garden around it;
  -  Providing a street map in bronze of Pembury Village, highlighting important and historical buildings in Pembury, maybe in the form of a village trail. This could be sited centrally in the village near or on the village green.

**In other words :**

**Do You Care about the Village ?**

**Would you like to put something back into the Village ?**

**Do you have any ideas for help in preserving the Village ?**

**Can You Spare a Couple of Hours a month as an active member of The Pembury Society in achieving any of these objectives outlined in this article?**

**If you would like to help please speak to a member of the Committee or complete the form below and send it to Ken Watts:-**



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### The Pembury Society

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number:- \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to help the Committee in future projects

I would like the Committee to consider the following ideas:-

## Badger Problems

Great Britain supports some of the highest densities of badgers *Meles meles* in Europe. Badger numbers have increased, especially in urban areas, and they can sometimes cause problems. These can range from damage to gardens, property and amenity areas, to problems with serious implications for human safety such as the undermining of roads and railways. In urban situations, where a number of adjoining properties may be affected, solving a badger problem may require discussion and co-operation between neighbours.



Badgers and their setts are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, which makes it illegal to kill, injure or take badgers or to interfere with a badger sett.

**Damage to lawns** - badgers eat invertebrates and may dig shallow pits in lawns when foraging for them. This is often what brings badgers into conflict with householders.

**Damage to fruits and vegetables** - badgers may damage soft fruit crops and are particularly partial to strawberries and raspberries. They have been known to break the lower branches of fruit trees whilst feeding on apples, pears and plums, and they also eat vegetables such as potatoes, carrots and sweetcorn. Even flower bulbs may be dug up and eaten.

**Damage to structures** – badger setts can be large, with extensive tunnel systems. When excavated beneath buildings, roads or fences, there may be a risk of subsidence.

**Further information** – advice on dealing with badger problems can be obtained by contacting Natural England at Bristol Tel: 0845 601 4523 or look at the website: [www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk)

## For new members - the aims of the Pembury Society

- (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 to give evidence for planning appeals and for planning inquiries.

## Committee

|                              |                    |                    |        |
|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------|
| <b>Chairman:</b>             | Ken Watts          | 48 Romford Road    | 822770 |
| <b>Vice Chairman:</b>        | Les Cook           | 9 Woodhill Park    | 822504 |
| <b>Secretary:</b>            | Vacancy            |                    |        |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>            | David Moore        | 8 Highfield Close  | 824663 |
| <b>Membership Secretary:</b> | Dave Osborn        | 34 Canterbury Road | 822726 |
| <b>Planning:</b>             | Kathryn Franklin   | 11 The Meadow      | 823212 |
| <b>Publicity:</b>            | Barbara Ballantine | 6 Maidstone Rd     | 822156 |
|                              | Richard Snow       | 1 Cornford Park    | 825428 |
|                              | Marie Williams     | 56 Romford Road    |        |

**Honorary President:** Derek Johnson 823150

**Pembury Society Website:** <http://www.pembury.org/society/>