

Steering Committee of Pembury Neighbourhood Development Plan

Minutes of the Second Meeting held online on 12th January 2021 at 19.30.

1. **Present:** Alan Gaukroger, Christine Lane, Graham Hall, Alice O’Meara, Sarah Clarke and Nigel Stratton. **Action**

In Attendance: Jim Boot (part of the meeting) and Paul Mason.

2. **Apologies for Absence:** There were none.

3. **Welcome.** Nigel welcomed everyone to the meeting. As Jim had to leave for part of the meeting, it was agreed that Agenda items would be taken in a different order.

4. **Design Criteria.**

An initial meeting with AECOM had taken place last Friday. It was proposed with agreement from the committee that we would apply for a couple of packages:

- a. Design Guidance and Design Codes – this would consist largely of a style guide for new developments and would also include sustainability.
- b. A Masterplanning package linked to (a), particularly for the sites adjacent to the A21.

The Committee agreed to proceed as suggested and Jim would confirm with AECOM. An initial scoping meeting should take place in 2/4 weeks’ time.

Jim

5. **Communications.**

Nigel agreed to send Sarah, Christine and Paul the password for the Members Area of the NDP on the Parish Council website. All other members had already received.

Nigel

Alice reported there had so far been 85 responses to the Survey. She would be discussing the responses with Alison.

She was pleased with the responses to the Photo competition. There had been really high-quality photos submitted. The results would be published in the PVN.

Alice

She was also putting information on Social Media.

A discussion took place on emailing groups for consultation and it was agreed that a coordinated approach was needed so that people did not receive too many emails. It was suggested that both Sarah and Alice discuss with Alison.

Sarah & Alice

6. **Heritage & Housing.**

Alan gave an update. The group’s next meeting was to be on Friday.

He thanked Christine and Brian for their work on producing documents and photos gathering details of the local character and heritage.

The walkabouts had been completed.

The Group were now concentrating on researching other documents relating to housing including the Kent Design Guide.

7. Environment.

Graham reported on the work of the Group. They had held a meeting last week which Jim had attended. They were collating reports from the various members of the Group including:

Hugh Boorman – who had taken photos of various views of Pembury.

Graham – Green Spaces and Open Spaces. Jim explained the criteria for why some had been deleted from the Local Plan. Graham was also looking at the fields adjacent to the football pitches. There had previously been a plan for using these. Also looking at Downingbury Pond and also Pippins and areas that should be protected.

Fr. Ed Tomlinson had produced a report, “The effect of green spaces on public health and wellbeing”.

David Knight – had some ideas about how the disused orchards might be turned into a Country Park.

Alice reported that she was looking at external environmental agencies and would report back on their services and costs.

It was important to record Flora and Fauna and the importance of the environment and special species.

Mark Arnold has kindly agreed to do some “pro bono” work around noise measuring and noise pollution.

Graham mentioned about the possibility of setting up a Pembury Wildlife Group and to use this to include other local residents with expertise. There was to be a report in the PVN.

8. Transport Suggestions.

Paul Mason gave a presentation on his suggestions for inclusion in the NDP. He would circulate a copy of his slides and his report.

His suggestions included:

(A) Most of these were in the Kent Design Guide

1. Tight curve of roads into developments rather than bell mouth curves, in order to slow down vehicles.
2. Parking to be under ground or to the side of housing, leaving frontages free from cars.
3. Permeability – paths and cycleways provided to useful facilities.
4. Provision of cycle parking outside houses and in existing roads (42% of all journeys are less than 2 miles, yet 64% of them are made by car)

(B) Roads and Transport Infrastructure

1. 20 mph speed limit for whole village.
2. Twittens and Pathways. Currently no signage to say where they go. Need signage. (Cost £10K)
3. Ban pavement parking.

4. Kings Toll Road to be made “No Through Road” with bollards being placed somewhere in the middle. This would stop the “rat run”. Possibly residents to have keys to be able to lower the bollards.
5. The High Street to be one way west and Hastings Road, one way East. Various views were expressed about the viability of this suggestion – Emergency vehicle access and whether it would be acceptable to the village.
Whether people have the time to walk or bike. Might split the village.
6. Bike stores in roads. Self-financing as residents would pay an annual charge to use them.

9. Business and Facilities

Sarah gave the report from her group. Hazel had compiled a list of local businesses. They had then divided up the list between the 4 of them and had a delegated task to contact each business. At the moment with the Covid-19 difficulties it was thought best just to contact people and to ask if they were happy to be surveyed in the future. The businesses would be asked what would help them to flourish in the future and what they need. So far, the answer had been “Fibre optic broadband”.

The Group felt that there were not enough organized activities for youngsters. In the past there was a Youth Club. Nigel suggested that Sarah should contact Louise from the Parish Council as her group were trying to set up a Youth Council and also Dan from the Baptist Church, though he accepted that some young people would not wish to attend a group run by either the Parish Council or a church.

Date of Next Meeting.

This would be held on **Tuesday 16th February 2021 at 7.30 pm** via Zoom.