

Well, what a year 2020 turned out to be! Most of our events were cancelled and our normal activities were put on hold. The Parish Office was closed to members of the public and office staff continue to work from home. The Parish Council were pleased that so many members of the community pulled together to support those in need in the village. Nevertheless, Pembury Parish Council has had another busy year maintaining its facilities and delivering its services to the village!



Here is a snapshot of our work this year:

FULL COUNCIL

- We had to learn how to use Zoom for our meetings and are now very proficient!!
- We sadly said goodbye to Shelley Harris who had served as councillor for 7 years.
- We also welcomed Joe Pearce to the Council, and he sits on the Planning & Highways Committee.

COMMUNICATION & EVENTS COMMITTEE

- The quarterly village newsletter, the Pembury Village News continued and was delivered to every house in the village.
- Following the problems with the Christmas lights and residents helping to fund a Christmas tree in 2019 at the last minute, this year we were determined to pull out all of the stops! Everyone agreed that the display was a welcome sight. Many favourable comments were received either directly or via the Pembury Facebook pages.
- A new Community Grants Fund was distributed to some deserving community groups to help with developing their facilities.
- Work began to create a Youth Council so young people could have a voice. Hopefully, this will gain momentum when we can all meet again.

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

- Volunteers were recruited to join the working groups to help shape the future of Pembury. They are now working hard on various projects throughout the village.

OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

- We continue to manage the Lower Green Recreation Ground, Woodside Playing Fields, Henwood Green Road allotments, burial grounds, Village Green, Old Coach Road, War Memorial and other open spaces in the village.
- Significant work to improve the condition of vacant plots has resulted in a big increase in new tenants at the allotment site!

PLANNING & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

- The committee meets monthly and reviewed and responded to over 60 planning applications in 2020.
- The village continued to object against the Hendy Motor Village proposed off the Pembury Road. Working with our Borough Councillors we were rewarded with a refusal against the application when it was considered at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council.

FINANCE & HR COMMITTEE

- The Finance and HR Committee oversees the Council finances and Human Resources function.
- Our internal and external auditors have again given us a clean bill of health to our accounts and governance arrangements. We were also awarded Quality Council status in recognition of the work of the Council.

ANNUAL COUNCIL BUDGET 2021/22

Working for Pembury People



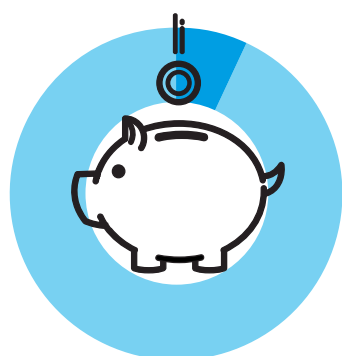
TOTAL REVENUE
BUDGET £273,131



£228,497
83% of the budget comes from the domestic ratepayers in Pembury. The Parish Council does not receive any portion of business rates nor government grants.



£32,092
12% of the budget comes from fees and services such as burials, advertising and sports pitch hire



£10,300
4% of the budget comes from donations and grants for projects

£2,167
1% of the budget comes from reserves.

What it will cost Pembury residents per average B and D household



£101.06

per year

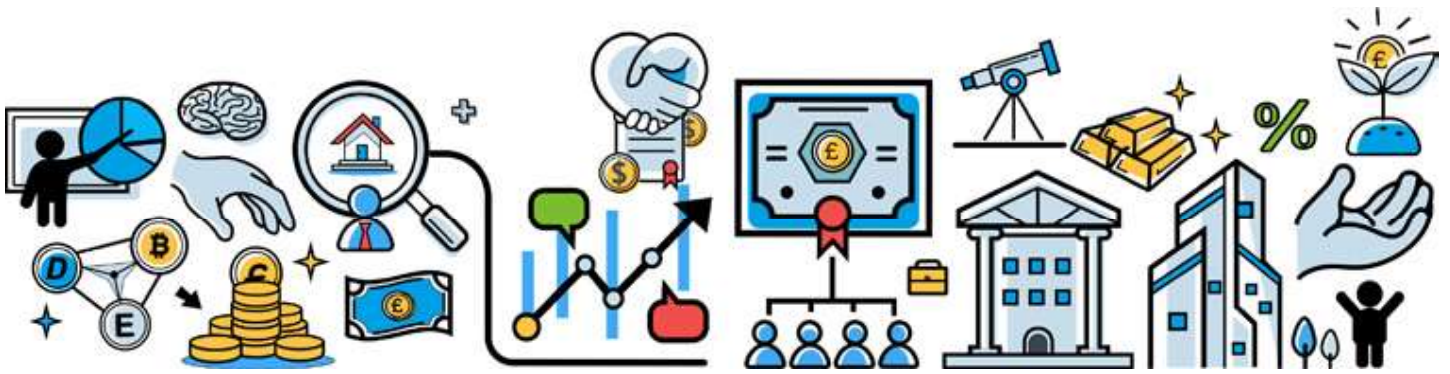
£1.94

per week

An increase of **£4.04** per year or **7p** per week compared with 2020/21.

We save up some of our money for future projects in the same way you would. These are called "earmarked reserves". We get these reserves either by including them in the precept or by using any surplus at the end of the year. We also have a "General Reserve" as a contingency against future unknown occurrences. As the owner of several large buildings and a huge number of trees throughout the parish we cannot leave anything to chance. Below is a summary of the current reserves held:

Total Earmarked Reserves	£45,020
Ring-fenced reserve: Donation to Pembury Scouts for disabled access to scout hut	£3,214
Covid-19 Hardship Fund	£3,078
General Reserves projection at year end	£57,241



Where the money goes

We maintain public open spaces and the play area in the village, which do not generate income as they are free for the public to use. In normal years we organise free community events throughout the year! We also provide the Christmas tree and lights display on the Village Green. We have started work on a Neighbourhood Development Plan and are making good progress with a team of volunteers from the village.

SERVICES £52K (NET COST £30K)	COUNCIL & ADMINISTRATION £105K (NET COST £100K)	OPEN SPACES £95K (NET COST £87K)	COMMUNICATIONS & EVENTS £21K (NET COST £12K)
Cemetery & burials £25k (net cost £8k)	Council administration £85k (net cost £82.5k)	Building costs £6k	Newsletter & communications £7k (net cost £-2k)
Allotments £4.5k (net cost £3k)	Council offices £9.5k	General Open Spaces costs £78k (net cost £73.5k)	Christmas display £6.5k
Streetlights & street furniture £3k	Professional fees £4k	Floral display £1k	Events & competitions £7K
Civic Amenity Lorry £1k	Loan & bank charges £4k	Playground £10k (net cost £6k)	Youth Council £0.5k
Dog bins £3.5k	Grants & donations £3K (net cost £0)		
Neighbourhood plan £10K (net cost £6K)			
Community project £5K			

If you have any queries or comments regarding the budget please contact **Helen Munro, Clerk, Pembury Parish Council, Lower Green Recreation Ground, Pembury, TN2 4DZ** or email clerk@pemburyparishcouncil.gov.uk.