

## Pembury Planning Workshop – Sunday 17 October 2022

**Purpose:** To share the vision and objectives and to gather detail on the individual topic areas to be included in the plan.

**Format:**

Time	Activity
2pm	Welcome, brief introduction to neighbourhood planning and purpose of the day
2.10pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Activity – 25 minutes
2.35pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> activity – 25 minutes
3pm	3 <sup>rd</sup> activity - 15 minutes
3.20pm	Final questions
3.30pm	Close

**Content:**

The workshop explored four themes:

- Community facilities and the village centre
- Getting around
- The environment

A table was set up for each theme, comprising a series of maps of the parish, a summary of the proposed developments as set out in the emerging Local Plan, and a set of questions designed to encourage discussion.

Delegates worked in three groups to tackle one theme at a time before moving onto the next theme.

The questions sought to capture fuller information from that received via the community questionnaires and seek support for ideas raised by the Working Groups.

Attendees were encouraged to write down their thoughts on a whiteboard and also on the maps provided.

Details provided by each group were retained in readiness for the next group so that issues already identified did not need to be repeated, although there was the opportunity to disagree with comments already made.

Groups were encouraged to consider housing within their discussions in the context of the parish, but also the bearing this might have on the emerging sites.

**Attendees:** Twenty one residents attended the workshop.

## Key outputs:

Abbreviations:

PNP – Pembury Neighbourhood Plan

SLP – Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Submission Local Plan

KCC – Kent County Council

## Theme A: Environment

### A1. What green spaces – formal or informal - in Pembury are special and why?

Comment	Consideration
We need to value our uncultivated, natural spaces. These are used for e.g. picnics, kite flying, sledging etc.	Noted. A number of local green spaces are designated in the PNP, where this can be justified.
Village hall green space.	This is included as a Local Green Space.
Local green spaces marked on the map agreed with.	Noted.
Note that there is a tree on the space on the roundabout to the northern part of Maidstone Road.	Noted.
The pond at Downingbury.	Noted.

Agreement with local green spaces identified to date

Consideration of wide verges – potentially as part of the special features of the parish and which contribute to the local biodiversity, as corridors enabling movement of wildlife.

The recreation ground

### A2. Which natural features of the of the local environment is Pembury noted for? Can you identify examples of where these are on the map? Are there particular parts of the Parish that we should seek to improve, in terms of biodiversity?

Comment	Consideration
Wide verges, which can be found in Pembury.	These are noted as natural features common to the village. They form part of the Green Infrastructure network and assist in alleviating surface water, in turn reducing the impact on the overstretched drainage / sewage network.
The twittens often have hedges along them which house wildlife, such as Woodruff.	Noted. The twittens will be safeguarded as part of the PNP, not only for their character value and movement value, but also as corridors for the movement of wildlife.
Trees should be retained where possible and if removed, two should be planted for every one lost. There should be a tree management plan in place.	The environment section includes a sub-section on the importance of trees, which is reflected in the policy.
Need to retain wildlife corridors and create new ones.	This will be addressed in the green infrastructure policy.

**A3. Should housing be designed to encourage more wildlife? If so, what types of features should be included (e.g. hedgehog-friendly fencing, bird and bat boxes, ponds)?**

<b>Comment</b>	<b>Consideration</b>
Ponds – potentially – but who would maintain.	Noted.
Bat boxes, hedgehog holes in fencing and bird boxes supported.	This will be supported through the PNP.
Bat boxes, bird boxes, hedgehog holes, swales.	As above.

**A4. Should the community look to produce more of its own renewable energy, e.g. through a solar installation or wind turbine(s)? What sort of schemes could be considered?**

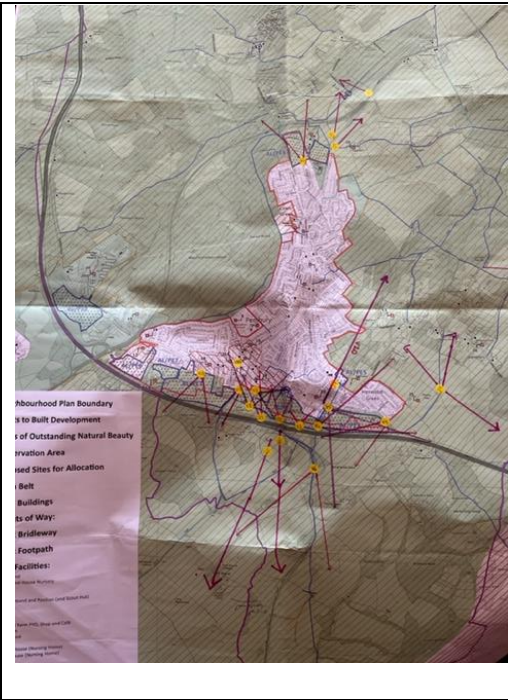
<b>Comment</b>	<b>Consideration</b>
Solar panels should be on every roof.	This is strongly supported in the PNP, but we are bound by the limitations of building regulations, which do not require it.
Ground source heating should be installed for every new development.	As above.
Wind turbines may be appropriate along the ridge of the A21.	This would need further community engagement.
New homes should be well insulated.	This can be incorporated into the Sustainable Design Policy.
Floating solar panels.	Noted.
Would support a community energy scheme, but not solar panels.	Noted.

**A5. How could the community be encouraged to grow more locally? Is this through more space for allotments (is there currently a shortage? how well located are they?) or through other approaches such as community growing spaces or community gardens? Where should any provision be located?**

<b>Comment</b>	<b>Consideration</b>
Generally supported.	Noted.

**A6. Are there any locations within the Parish that offer views that we should seek to safeguard?**

<b>Comment</b>	<b>Consideration</b>
Lots of suggestions for potential important viewpoints marked on the map	All views will be considered for inclusion, but will need to be justified.

	
Attractive views from the PE3 site.	Noted.

## Theme B: Community facilities, utilities and the village centre

- B1. What will bring people to the village centre in Pembury more often?  
Could any of these types of services/activities be run by the community?  
Would improvements to the village centre environment and accessibility of the centre bring more people in? How could these be achieved?**

Comment	Consideration
Retain all community facilities.	Noted – the SLP includes a policy for this.
More shops.	Noted.
Could we re-site the library?	Potentially, but this would need support from KCC and there is not an obvious village centre location for it.
More car parking at the village hall.	The PNP supports this by way of one of the sites.
Need to maintain the pubs.	Noted.

- B2. What community activities could happen in empty units in the village centre?**

Comment	Consideration
Retain all community facilities.	Noted – the SLP includes a policy for this.

- B3. Indoor community/sports activities (meetings, hall/function space, dance, indoor sports)  
What activities are there currently in Pembury which need more/better space?  
What activities are lacking in Pembury which people would like to see?**

Comment	Consideration
We need more lighting and security.	Noted as a potential action for the PC.
We need public toilets.	Agreed and this will be addressed in the PNP.

**B4. Outdoor community/sports activities (play areas, youth facilities, Multi-Use Games Areas/astro-turf pitches, grass sports pitches – and associated changing facilities, green spaces)**  
**What activities are there currently in Pembury which need more/better space? Where could this be located?**

**What activities are lacking in Pembury which people would like to see? Where could these be located?**

Comment	Consideration
We need more youth provision.	Agreed and this will be addressed in the PNP.

**B5. Are there any particular local facilities that, should they be lost (for instance through a redevelopment or selling off), would be particularly missed by the community?**

Comment	Consideration
The pubs.	Noted.
All community facilities.	Noted.

**B6. Some residents have mentioned that flooding is an issue within Pembury. Can you mark on the map where flooding is a problem? What is the source of the problem (e.g. rainfall and surface water; blocked drains; inadequate sewerage network etc.)?**

Comment	Consideration
There is often surface water on the slow at Westways.	Potentially due to shared drainage/sewer system, which lacks capacity in times of heavy rainfall.
The drains on the High Street do not work resulting in regular flooding – poor design.	As above. There may also be a maintenance issue. We intend to include a policy in the plan devoted to flooding and sewerage to emphasise the issues relating to this in Pembury.

## Theme C: Movement

**C1. Where are the most dangerous points for pedestrians? What is the nature of the danger, e.g. crossing the road, narrow pavement?**

Comment	Consideration
Skinner's pupils are having to cycle on pavements as the cycle lanes are blocked (e.g. High Street).	Noted. This is a major problem and one that is flagged not only in the PNP, but also the SLP.
Traffic should give way to bikes.	Noted and the Highways Code has been updated to enable this. This would sit outside the scope of the PNP though.
A264 roundabouts get very congested.	Noted, but falls outside the scope of the PNP.
Cars are always parked in the cycle lane on the High Street – makes it impossible to use.	Noted – as per first comment.
Kipping Cross – uncertainty about whether this should be a dual carriageway.	Noted, but falls outside the scope of the PNP.
Hastings Road – cars on pavement.	Noted.

A2 Cut through Hastings, Woodside, Romford, Kingston. It's very dangerous at the weekend and on warm days during summer (and other times) – could it be 'yellow boxed' on google maps?	Noted and potential to follow up as a non-policy action.
Need to stop HGVs coming through the village as a cut through, particularly at the Bo Peep entrance.	This would need to be discussed with KCC/ National Highways.
Difficult pedestrian crossing point near the village green.	Noted and emphasised in the policy.
Various dangerous points mapped.	These have been collated for the PNP policy.

**C2. What are the destinations and routes where improvements to pedestrian walkways and crossings would encourage people to walk?**

Comment	Consideration
All of the PW sites should work together to implement the walking and cycling routes through the sites.	Agreed. This is emphasised in the SLP and the PNP.
Need to consider how they will relate to the cycle route on the High Street, which is not fit for purpose.	Agreed – this is emphasised in the PNP and has been included in the PC response to the SLP.
There needs to be better, safer access into Forest and Marshleyharbour Wood.	Noted.
More cycle routes to enable children to cycle to school.	Noted, although this would require additional investment and could be achieved through the development of a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.
Mixed support for 20mph through the village centre.	

**C3. What are the Public Rights of Way, footpath and bridleway routes into the countryside that should be improved? Are there other walks that should be opened up?**

Comment	Consideration
Some of the footpaths by the A21 are blocked.	The clearing / improvement of paths will be included as a non-policy action in the plan.
Could a new path be created to link the A21 crossing.	This will be included within the PNP policy on promoting walking and cycling.
Site PE1 – the cycle route should go through all the way to Tesco (via Cornford House site).	This is supported, but may be difficult in light of the use of Cornford House.
Can we create an official path Chalket Lane and the bridge to the west.	This will be included in the relevant policy as a path to support.
Poor access to the woods (to the west of the village) for those on horseback.	Noted and this is considered in the PNP.
More footpaths could be upgraded to bridlepaths.	This is supported in the PNP, but would need to be co-ordinated with KCC as the Highways Authority.

**C4. What could be done to improve public transport provision locally?**

Comment	Consideration
We need better bus services – it's impossible to get home after a commute to the station.	This is considered in the PNP, but bus services and times would generally fall outside the scope of the PNP.

**C5. How do you currently access local facilities such as schools, shops, community facilities etc.? What journeys do you currently take by car both locally and to neighbouring towns/ facilities – what would encourage you to shift to walking or cycling?**

Comment	Consideration
Parking at the school could be improved.	Noted, although the village is very walkable and the PNP is seeking to encourage active travel, in particular for shorter journeys.
Safer storage for bikes to protect against theft.	This will be included as a non-policy action.
Cycle routes generally need improving.	Noted and there is a policy in the PNP to support this. An additional action may be for the village to consider preparing a dedicated walking and cycling infrastructure plan.

**C6. If we were to provide electric vehicle charging in the parish, which locations where should this be provided?**

Comment	Consideration
Village Hall Pavilion / Rec St Peter's Church Baptist Church Church at Woodside Playing Field Hospice School GPs	

#### Images from the event





