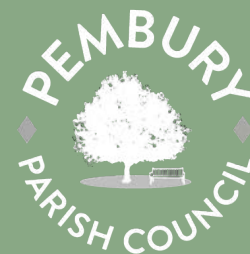


Working for Pembury People



Annual Report 2022-23

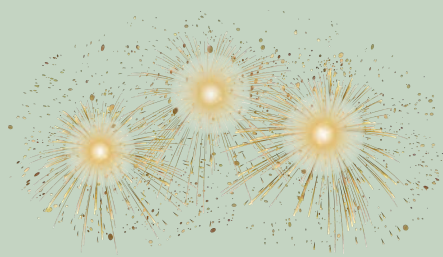
Pembury Parish Council operates and looks after a wide range of facilities including Lower Green Recreation Ground, Henwood Green allotment site, the Village Green, bus shelters, benches and burial grounds. We also run our regular programme of successful events including the annual Fireworks Display, Picnic in the Park and Carols on the Green!

The Parish Council is mainly funded by the Precept collected by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council as part of your Council Tax.

Other income is received from burials, allotments and advertising in the PVN.

The Parish Council has set its precept of £247,504 for 2023-24. Despite rising costs affecting all services, some difficult decisions were made to minimise increases to residents. An 0.08% increase to the Parish Council element of your council tax bills was agreed. The increase equates to an extra 8 pence per year per Band D property

Some of the functions and facilities the Parish Council provides



Fireworks



Children's Playground & recreation ground



3 Burial Grounds

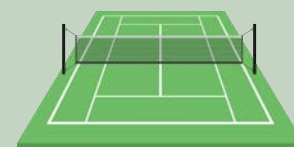


Henwood Green Road Allotment

Christmas Tree
Christmas Lights
Carols on the Green



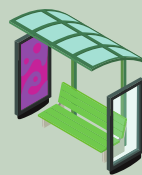
Sports Pitches & tennis courts



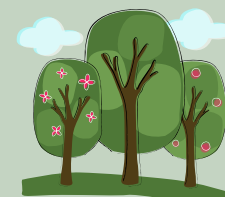
Picnic in the Park



Benches



Bus shelters



Open Spaces

Average Band D home contributes

£106.19

per annum

£2.04 per week



Where does the £311,490 Parish Council budget come from?

ANNUAL PRECEPT

£247,504

79% of the budget

INCOME FROM SERVICES

£45,450

15% of the budget

GRANTS & RESERVES

£18,536

6% of the budget

2023/24 Expenditure

SERVICES £46.5K	COUNCIL & ADMINISTRATION £119K	OPEN SPACES £119.6K	COMMUNICATIONS & EVENTS £26K
Cemetery & Burials £30.5k	Council Admin & buildings £103k	Open Spaces & playgrounds £116k	Newsletter £7.1k
Allotments £5k	Loan & bank charges £4.2k	Dog bin emptying £3.6k	Events £9k
Streetlights & street furniture £10k	Grants & Donations £4.1k		Christmas Display £7k
Neighbourhood Plan £1k	Reserves £8k		New notice boards £3k

Committee and Working Group Chairs' Reports



Katy



Nigel



Jon



Patrick



Graham



Astra

Parish Council

We've sadly said goodbye to 2 councillors, Louise Mills who has moved out of the area, and Joe Pearce due to work pressures but we are delighted to welcome Astra and Vivek to our Council, and I look forward to working with them. There are still vacancies if you feel you can make a difference to our village!

Over the last year, I am pleased we have entertained you at the Picnic in the Park, the Fireworks display, and the Christmas Tree light switch on, but I am particularly delighted that we listened to the village, and now have an oak tree on the Green in remembrance of Queen Elizabeth II.

Planning & Highways Committee

The committee meets monthly to review and respond to all the planning applications submitted to TWBC. We have introduced a scheme of allocating individual councillors to focus on specific applications in order to raise issues with the committee. This is working very efficiently.

Recently, we have invited the new Head of Planning TWBC, Carlos Hone, to discuss a variety of concerns we have with the planning process. He attended our February meeting to give us feedback and discuss our concerns further.

We continue to welcome residents to our committee meetings in order to discuss their concerns about planning and highways issues.

Speeding, parking, the A21, trees, conservation area, inappropriate development and potholes continue to be some of the issues of concern.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

We finalised the draft plan and put it out for Regulation 14 consultation to local residents last summer. We considered the responses received and drew up a schedule of those comments and discussed them with the Planning Department at TWBC.

The NDP Steering Committee met and agreed the terms of the Amended Plan which was approved by the Parish Council at the beginning of October. We prepared the Consultation Statement and Basic Conditions Statement and in early November, submitted the Draft Plan to TWBC for the Regulation 16 Consultation. This ended on 30th January 2023.

We have now agreed the appointment of an “Examiner” to move the plan to the next stage.

Open Spaces Committee

The committee is responsible for the management of Parish Council services and facilities. We are responsible for allotments and we recently met with allotment holders to discuss their concerns. This was a fruitful meeting over tea/coffee and biscuits at the Pavilion. Recent actions include upgrades to taps and pipework.

Council staff, volunteers and contractors have been undertaking tree work following a recent tree survey. Work had been split between the financial years and was scheduled in two phases as there was significant work to be done.

We planted a native oak tree on the village green in memory of Queen Elizabeth II after consultation with the local community. The children from Pembury primary school entered our poetry competition and a section of the winner’s entry will be engraved on the plaque. The winner was Isabella D. from Cherry Class but it was a hard choice as all the children’s poems were wonderful!

The Parish Council has worked hard to find a suitable location for a new dog bin in Henwood Green Road. This is ongoing however due to opposition from residents about where it is placed We are researching other options.

We plan to refurbish the tennis courts in the summer and quotes are being obtained.

Finance & HR Committee

We reviewed and agreed a new Pavilion Joint Management Agreement. We considered how the Council's reserves should be invested for the future, including looking at online platforms, to obtain better financial returns. We carried out a full review of the Council's Financial Regulations; updated and tightened up provisions and prepared a checklist to ensure compliance for the future. We also investigated and purchased card reading machines for use at Council events.

Communications Working Group

This group looks at ways and means to improve our engagement within the local community. For a number of months some of our councillors have been available for residents to raise their queries at the Kingdom Café at the Baptist Church. Sometimes we can answer their queries straight away, sometimes we get back to them once we've double checked and at other times we can add an item onto an agenda to move the matter forward. Look out for dates when we're available via social media.

Climate & Environmental Action Working Group

A Working Group was set up to look at various aspects of Environmental problems and climate change in September 2022. A strategy was drawn up for the Council.

Proposed actions include:

- Carbon Audit of Parish Council properties and operations.
- Change from Sodium Street Lights to LED for the lights PPC is responsible for.
- Production of a Local Business Directory to encourage the use of local services to help minimise energy usage.
- The setting up of a community working group to co-ordinate and enhance Environmental groups already active and consider new initiatives.
- The publication of regular local nature notes on our website and in the Pembury Village News.

Community Events Working Group

The committee oversaw the organisation of the community events in the village, including the annual fireworks, the Picnic in the Park and Carols on The Green. We are starting to work on this year's programme of events and we will share details of progress via social media and our website.

Pembury Village Hall

High Street, Pembury

Thursday 11 May 2023

Doors open at 7:30pm

Please check our social media channels,
website and notice boards for more
details



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING