

## Central Messenger No.6

March 2008

from Cllr. Kate Becton

Central Ward - Pembrokeshire CC

Hello Everyone,

I can't believe that it *is* six months since the last newsletter - how time flies! Like everyone else, I suspect I am always glad when March and Spring arrive. Even if the weather takes time to improve, at least we get more daylight hours.

2008 could prove very interesting for Pembroke Dock Central with the start of the Marina development, though as you will see below, there are still some hurdles to get over before any work could start. There is a fly in the ointment - the opening of the extra stores near Tesco has the potential to cause chaos, or even more chaos, during the summer. I have spent twenty minutes making an exit from the site. Altering the timing of the lights, which is the suggestion suggested by PCC seems to me to be the equivalent of rearranging the deckchairs on the Titanic. Have a good summer

### Martello Quays

I have contacted both the developer's representative and Mr Sangster of the Port Authority to move forward with the Liaison Group for the Marina Project.

I feel the priority for this group should be to ensure that the links between the Town and Marina are such that the Marina becomes part of Pembroke Dock, to the benefit of the current residents of the town. In contrast to Milford Haven, where there is a vertical link between the Marina and Town Centre, Pembroke Dock has a horizontal link, with the centre, the Post Office, Banks and Shops on the same level as the new development. It seems inconceivable that residents of the Marina would not use these facilities, which would give other Town Centre shops opportunity to increase their trade. Any retail development attached to the Marina would be restricted to certain categories - gift shops, boating needs etc. and so avoid direct competition. Concern has been expressed about the current infrastructure, roads and water particularly. However, looking ahead, I feel that serious consideration has to be focused on pressure on services - schools, doctors etc.

But...there *is* always a but... Personally, I look at the current financial climate. I hear on the news of large developments being mothballed, the slow-down in the housing market, and I do wonder??!

As always, watch this space.

### Cobbles

Unfortunately, I have heard of a couple of residents experiencing very nasty falls in Town over the last couple of months. It is self-evident that the cobbles areas of Pembroke Dock have not provided a sustainable solution and are proving to be both unsightly and hazardous. The simple solution - take them up and replace them with tarmac - is not viable at present because work was carried out with EU funding. If the cobbles are taken up within 25 years of the original work being done, the grant has to be returned. There is some good news though - all the cobbles areas are due to be renewed and refurbished during the next financial year (April 2008 - April 2009). The much improved fixative used in Meyrick Street will make the Town Centre look better, and more importantly, drastically reduce the risk of trips and falls.

Contact Kate: Phone: 01646 685585

Email:

Write: Cllr. Kate Becton, 3, Park Street, Pembroke Dock. SA72 6JG.

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### Local development Plan

Initial meetings have taken place concerning the Local development Plan. This plan will focus on planning guidelines for very small areas within Pembrokeshire, as well as identifying land

for development. Pembroke bock Central needs more development like a hole in the head and I have put forward a number of concerns and suggestions, as follows: a) The constant granting of approval for flats/apartments is increasing congestion, of people as well as vehicles, to breaking point. We have reached critical mass - particularly with the Marina development. The constant quoting by PCC's planning department of 'Ministerial Advice' about the density of accommodation tends to miss the fact that amenity of residents' should be considered. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.. Pembroke bock Central is a small ward and there will now be planning issues on which we need to work together and on which I will need your active support. Please tell me how you feel about this issue so that I have evidence of residents disquiet about trying to get a quart into a pint pot. b) I believe that Pembroke bock needs a focal point. I almost said a vision, and maybe I should have. Pembroke bock has a unique history and in the 1920s was the richest town in Wales. Two of the most significant buildings in the Town - the Garrison Chapel and the Market Hall have been refurbished, thanks to Lottery Funding, and I feel that active steps should be taken to ensure that they do not go into private ownership and become offices or factories. We need to attract tourists to the Town and to retain these important buildings as part of Our Heritage - once again, contact me to put forward your opinions and ideas.

#### Central Snippets

##### The Gables

I am sure that Pembrokeshire Housing Association is as pleased as the neighbours to see that work has started to turn the Gables into modern flats for older people. The building will remain and all the work

##### Old Kwik Save Site

Wilkinson's has taken over this site and will not be long in opening. While increasing choice, variety and employment to the town, don't forget the town centre shops, or we could lose them

##### Chamber of Trade

I have been attending meetings of this group, and am delighted at its revival. The members meet monthly, and are working hard to improve the shopping experience in the Town, and are becoming a positive influence in the development of Pembroke bock as a whole.

##### Town Council

Just a reminder that residents have an opportunity to ask questions and speak at Town Council Meetings - it is a good opportunity to have your concerns dealt with. Telephone, email or write to the Town Clerk.

##### Dog Fouling

Complaints have been made to the Town Council about dog fouling in certain areas of the Town. If you feel there is a problem in your street it is important that you report it. It is in everyone's interest to eradicate this problem.

#### USEFUL CONTACTS

##### Pembrokeshire County Council

01437 764551

(Social Services, Housing, Planning, Environmental Health, Education, Transportation. Mon-Fri 9am-5pm)

Out of Hours emergency: 0845 6015522

##### Municipal Services

0845 6021386

(Fly posting, rubbish collection, collection of large unwanted household items, abandoned cars, play areas, civic amenity sites, highways and drainage. Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 9am-12noon)

##### Pembroke bock Town Council

01646 684410

Mon-Fri 9am-1pm

Member of Parliament

Nick *Ainger*, MP, House of Commons, London. SW1A 0AA.  
Phone Constituency Office, 01646 684404 or London Office, 020  
7219 2241  
Assembly Member  
Angela Burns, *AM*. Phone 029 2089 8381

Best Wishes  
Kate