

# CENTRAL MESSENGER No. 2.

From : Cllr Kate Becton Central Ward -Pembrokeshire CC

Hello again. Despite frustrations I am thoroughly enjoying representing you on the Council. I am a member of the Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee and also on the Steering Group for Pembroke Dock Townscape Heritage Initiative. I am feeling much more comfortable with speaking at Council and other Committees which at first can be daunting, but I bob up and down quite regularly these days. I am not happy with the speed at which things move and put emotion to full Council on 2nd March that the number of Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings be increased from 5 to 7 per year. It is recommended for refusal by Cabinet so I will only have 5 minutes to persuade Council that the people of Pembrokeshire can and should be served better by elected representatives by more opportunity to scrutinize decisions and to discuss more fully Council, major issues such as the Budget and priorities of spending.

## **TRAFFIC REVIEW**

The first part of this process is to carry out an assessment of the issues to identify key elements. These would be taken to public consultation (planned date Spring 2007) However this process does not preclude ward members putting forward ideas now to improve the situation-lets face it we don't need to be experts to identify the key elements -congestion and parking -so ideas can be put forward for discussion and action at any time. The one way system in Dimond Street, has I believe, improved the flow of traffic in the Town, and the time is fast approaching to make a decision on whether or not to make this permanent. No one has approached me to report any significant disadvantages and a permanent one-way system will allow a small number of short term parking spaces to be made available on the Southside of Dimond Street. I await suggestions with interest.

## **THE GABLES BREWERY STREET**

Pembrokeshire Housing Association has purchased The Gables and is to renovate the building to provide high quality Accommodation for the elderly/disabled. The plans are for 8 one/two bedroom flats and I know PHA is anxious to start the project as soon as the grant money can be drawn down from the Welsh Office. I will be lending whatever support I can to ensure an early start to this project -the building has been empty for far too long. Pembrokeshire County Council has retained 100% nomination rights for these flats which means names can be put forward. If you wish to be on the list -phone me -preferably in the evening.

## **THE MARINA PROJECT**

The legal agreements necessary to move to the first stage of the project have been signed. The first stage will be for Environmental Impact and Feasibility Studies to be carried out -these will take up to one year to complete.[if they are satisfactory plans would be submitted for the infrastructure -the company building this would not be the company who would be developing the residential/marina elements. This entire project is at a very early stage and there will be opportunities for us to put our views forward. The Milford Haven Port Authority is now the Lead agency on this project and I have written to Ted Songster, their Chief Executive to ensure we are kept up to date. Should there be anything concrete (sorry!) to report I will let you know immediately

## **CENTRAL ACTION TEAM**

Pembroke Dock Central is a small compact ward, a Conservation area and it includes the Town Centre. It therefore doesn't easily lend itself to a Residents Group as such, however I do think that there is real advantage for the Ward to have a Group of local people to ensure that we have a loud voice in matters that impact on us. The Group could input into on-going issues such as Pembroke Dock Townscape Heritage Initiative. A second grant of nearly one million pounds is 95% certain to come to Pembroke Dock the details of the new scheme are being worked on. The Garrison Chapel and the Market will soon be finished and I feel support should be given to viable schemes to keep these buildings accessible to the people of Pembroke Dock.

Another large issue -weeds (and last year they were large) -endless phone calls to the depot to deal with the problem. At a recent meeting at Stockwell Depot I was told that a new formula weed killer had been developed and will be used earlier in the year along with a "weed ripper" to take existing roots out of the ground. Alongside this is the arrival of a "precinct sweeper" an apparently miraculous street sweeping machine which was tested in Tenby last year and made significant improvements. New rotas are being drawn up so that street will be cleaned after rubbish collection. I was told the street cleaning service would be extended to 7 days a week. Let's keep on eye on this.

If you are interested in this Group, come along to the first meeting of the Central Action Team (CAT) at Pater Hall (Lewis St Entrance) at 7pm Thursday 23 March 2006

## **USEFUL CONTACTS**

PEMBROKESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL 01437 764551 [Social Services, Housing, Planning, Environmental Health, Education, Transportation -

Mon-Fri 9am 5pm]Out of Hours emergency: 0845 601 5522 MUNICIPAL SERVICES 0845 602 1386 [Fly posting, rubbish collection, collection of

large unwanted household items, abandoned cars, play areas, civic amenity site, highways and drainage - Mon-Pri 9am-5pm Sat 9am -12noon