

# EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Newsletter

July 2014

Dear Residents

We hope you are all enjoying the lovely weather we have been having.

It was lovely to see so many of you turn out for the Annual Parish meeting. I know there is a wealth of knowledge and experience in East Peckham and I hope that many of you are able to give a little of your time towards the community efforts in the village. For those of you who were unable to attend, the Draft minutes are on the website

Please continue to support the Speedwatch initiative, a sufficient number of volunteers are required in order to get the greatest benefit if we have enough volunteers then the Parish Council will consider funding the equipment and training costs. Please contact [admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk) if you wish to become involved. The Parish Council is looking into highways speeds within the village. Although KCC have advised us that they do not have funding available for traffic schemes in sites where there have been no personal injuries resulting from road traffic accidents.

We would like to remind those landowners in the village and surrounding area who own hedgerows abutting the highway, to ensure they are regularly trimmed over the next few months to ensure safe travel of our residents and all those who pass through the parish.

There has been some low level crime in the village. We are aware that many people think there is no point in calling the police when the crime appears to be minor i.e. youths causing disturbance or petty theft, but we would urge you to report all crime, no matter how small by either by telephoning 101 or by contacting our Community Warden Paul Harfleet on 07969 584183. This way, the police can note any particular patterns of crime in the local and surrounding area and take suitable action.

We are working on a Welcome Pack which will shortly be available. Within the Welcome Pack there will also be a copy of our Annual Report and courtesy of the East Peckham Magazine a back issue and a contact card. We hope that the Welcome Pack will be useful whether someone has just come to live in the village, or if they have lived here most of their lives. It is inevitable that some information will change, so we'll try to keep the important items up-to-date via our newsletter and our website. We have tried to gather as much useful local information as possible, but would be pleased to hear any suggestions you might have about what should be included in the pack.

We would like to express our gratitude to those of you who very kindly took time to complete the Parish Plan questionnaire which was included in this year's annual report. Over the next few weeks we will be analysing your comments and will be including a summary in our September newsletter. A Parish Plan is a document which sets out a vision of how a Community wants to develop and identifies the actions needed to achieve this vision. It is up to us, the Community, to decide what is important. The Parish Plan should state how the Community sees itself developing over the next 5 to 10 years and should be reflective of the views of all sectors of the Community and whilst it should be Parish Council led it should be generated by the residents of the village themselves. If you are interested in being involved, please contact the Parish Office.

The next phase of the village environmental enhancements has begun with work commencing on the refurbishment of the fingerpost at the junction of Bush Road and Church Lane.

On 06 August 2014 at 1.30 p.m. we have an exciting sporting event taking place on the Playing Fields. In association with Play Innovation the company behind Street Snooker we have a workshop taking place which will be led by Olympic Handball Player Bobby White. This unique event will be **FREE OF CHARGE** and open to all ages. More information is at the end of this newsletter. In anticipation of a hot day, we will be providing drinks.

We love seeing you all in our office and look forward to visits from our residents. If you have an important matter which you would like to discuss with us, it is probably wise to make an appointment with us in the first place, so that we can make sure that we are available for you. We would hate any of our residents to make the effort to come to the office to find that it is closed. An email or a phone call will normally suffice, so that we can make the appropriate arrangements for you. Karen is sometimes at external meetings and therefore not always available, so do ring us or email first.

Kind regards

Chairman, Councillors & Clerk

**JUBILEE HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS:** These are your facilities and we want you to enjoy using them. A wide range of activities take place each week including keep fit, Zumba, gym, Children's Centre, badminton, bowls, Mini Music, Parent & Toddler group, goalkeeping school and a Carers Group. Our football pitches are used by the East Peckham Football Team and we have super fitness equipment and play equipment for all ages. If you are looking for a venue for an event or a meeting then please contact us for details of availability and hire charges we can also arrange for you to have a tour of the facilities. Our latest programme of activities and the contact details of the activity organisers can be found on our website.

There has been some vandalism, littering and anti-social behaviour on the playing fields and the allotments. Over the past few weeks the picnic benches have been vandalised on at least two occasions, holes have been dug using tools stolen from the allotments and we are collecting sacks full of litter on a daily basis from the car park. The incidents have been referred to Kent Police and CCTV footage is being examined. It is a great shame that time and money, your money, has to be spent on dealing with the aftermath of anti-social behaviour and carrying out repairs. If you know or witness anything please let us know or report it to the police on 101 or to our Community Warden on 07969 584183.

**DEFIBRILLATOR:** We have worked with the South East Coast Ambulance Service and have obtained a defibrillator for the village. The defibrillator is housed in a secure box attached to the wall of the Parish Office. This has allowed the defibrillator to be stored securely but enabling access by all residents. This facility is considered vital to the village and an ongoing training programme is offered to anyone who wants to learn how to use the device. There is no charge for this training so do please if you are interested let us know.

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS:** We have recently considered the following planning applications:

<b>14/00870/FULL</b>	Solar park for generation of low carbon renewable electricity to the local distribution network at land off Sherenden Road, Tudeley, Tonbridge	<b>NO OBJECTION</b>
<b>TM/14/01733/FL &amp; TM/14/01734/LB</b>	Replacement porch and timber windows, internal alterations to living room and installation of extractor fan in bathroom at Goose Green Cottage, Maidstone Road, Hadlow	<b>NO OBJECTION</b>
<b>TM/14/01849/FL</b>	Two storey side extension at 5 Medway Meadows, East Peckham	<b>NO OBJECTION</b>
<b>TM/14/01449/FL</b>	Proposed residential redevelopment at the former East Peckham Club, The Freehold, East Peckham <b>Note: Additional Information received</b>	<b>NOTED</b>
<b>TM/14/01650/RD</b>	Details of materials, landscaping, storage and screening of refuse and retention tank pursuant to TM/13/03818/FL (Erection of 2 detached four bedroom houses) at Land adjacent to 19 Golding Gardens, East Peckham	<b>NOTED</b>
<b>TM/14/02051/FL</b>	Amendment to application TM/14/00063/FL approved for the erection of wood pellet storage hopper to include flue to be located on existing garage at Grove House, Maidstone Road, Hadlow	<b>NOTED</b>

**PLANNING DECISIONS:** TMBC HAS **GRANTED PERMISSION** for the following:

<b>TM/14/00976/RD</b>	Details submitted of a hard and soft landscaping and boundary treatment pursuant to condition 5 of planning permission TM/12/03407/FL (change of use of (A3) restaurant to two dwellings including alterations to building and external areas) at 53 Old Road, East Peckham
-----------------------	---

**HALE STREET ROAD NARROWING IMPROVEMENTS:** After many discussions with Kent Highways, we have been successful in obtaining improvements to the lower road narrowing by the Harp Public House. In the near future a 'table hump' is to be installed in the existing narrowing. We would like to thank past and present Councillors and our Clerk for persevering over the years which has finally brought about improvements to the existing scheme.

**TWINNING:** East Peckham is twinned with Chereng in the Nord de Pas de Calais. The Twinning Association is independent of the Parish Council and activities are funded by those taking part and by fund-raising with no use of parish funds. For more information on Twinning please contact Colin Silver by sending an email to [colin\\_plus@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:colin_plus@hotmail.co.uk).

**EAST PECKHAM TIME BANK:** We really hope that you will support this new initiative. A time bank is a way to exchange skills and experience by giving time. For every hour that a member shares they get an hours credit which can be 'spent' however they choose and a variety of skills can be on offer. It's a flexible scheme that allows members to get involved as and when they can. The East Peckham time bank will aim to reduce social isolation by encouraging community awareness, support intergenerational activity, making links between existing groups within the village, building strong social networks, provide low level intervention to assist people to live independently in their own homes and to support each other socially to improve their environment. Please contact the Parish Office to register your interest.

**COMMEMORATION OF WW1:** This year will be poignant as on 04 August we will be commemorating 100 years of the Great War. The war memorial is due to be renovated and we have been promised that the newly renovated war memorial will be ready for unveiling by 04 August. Other events taking place on 04 August 2014 are as follows:

**St Michaels:** The Friends of St Michaels are organising a short commemorative service which will be held at 11.00 a.m. The chaplain from Exeter College Oxford will be attending together with their choir at the start of a tour of war memorials where former students are commemorated. (Captain Norwood VC who is remembered on the St Michaels memorial went to Exeter College).

**Holy Trinity:** There will be a candle lit vigil and service around the Village War Memorial at 11.00 p.m.

**BULKY REFUSE:** The fortnightly bulky service now has separate collections of Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment and scrap metal. Items collected will be stripped down into their component materials and recycled.

**PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY:** If you notice a problem or have a query with any of the public rights of ways, please report it on 0845 345 0210, for emergencies on 0300 333 5538 or report the fault online on Kent County Councils website <http://webapps.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccesscams/issues/default.aspx>

**LITTERING:** Litter does not clear itself away. It can take years to degrade causing harm to the environment. The cost of clearing up litter runs into hundreds and thousands of pounds - Council Tax payer's money; your money. It is an offence to leave litter and a person is guilty of an offence if they throw down, drop or otherwise deposit and then leave it in a public place. Officers from Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council will respond to complaints and have the power to demand a person's name and address in order to issue fixed penalty notices.

**DOG FOULING:** We continue to receive a number of complaints about dog fouling. We would be grateful if those dog owners, who exercise their dogs around the village, could collect and correctly dispose of their dog's mess. We have just taken delivery of a supply of dog bags which we are happy to provide free of charge. Failing to clear up after your dog is an offence. The Borough Council enforces dog fouling through the Dogs Fouling of Land Act 1996 which applies to all land within the borough which is in the open and to which members of the public have access. If you have a dog fouling complaint try and obtain as much information as possible. All this information will assist the Dog Warden. The message is clear - Clean up after your dog, bag it and dispose of it responsibly. Contact information is as follows:

- For a found, lost dog or straying dog telephone 01732 876181 (also out of hours service), or
- For fouling, dangerous dog, a dog on dog attack or anything else telephone 01732 876147 or
- Email: [dog.warden@tmbc.gov.uk](mailto:dog.warden@tmbc.gov.uk).
- If a person had been bitten then the incident was to be reported to the Police on 101

**EAST PECKHAM POLICE CONTACT POINT:** This is your opportunity to discuss any policing issues with a neighbourhood officer, get expert crime prevention advice, have your say on policing in Kent and pick up a free crime prevention item (subject to availability). The Police Contact Point will be available outside the Co-op, Branbridges petrol station, Branbridges Road, East Peckham, TN12 5WH between 4.30pm – 5.30pm. At the time of preparing this newsletter the dates of the July Police Contact Points were not available, when we do have the dates we will put them on our website. For Further information; visit the Kent Police website [www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk), follow Kent Police on twitter @kentpoliceton, find Kent Police on Facebook, call 999 in an emergency, if you are deaf or speech-impaired, text 'Police' and your message to 60066 or you can call 101 to report a non-urgent crime or contact your local officer

**FASTER BROADBAND:** Kent County Council has issued an update on the Making Kent Quicker project which is aimed at bringing better broadband to parts of Kent and Medway that would not otherwise benefit from the commercial rollout of superfast broadband services. The update, together with the rollout plan (including maps) and post code checker, can be accessed via the following link: <http://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/broadband> . We understand that over 50% of the County now has access to superfast Broadband through commercial roll-out and through the Making Kent Quicker project. We will highlight any further updates as and when they are published on the KCC website.

**THE BIG LOTTERY FUND:** has launched an online conversation about how it should direct its funding and its framework going forward. Fundamentally it concerns how £4bn of lottery funding should be spent between 2015 and 2021. The exercise, called Your Voice, Our Vision, is open to everyone from charity professionals to the general public on a dedicated [website](#). People will be asked to share their opinions by registering on the website and submitting suggestions by mid-July.

**KENT FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE URGES RESIDENTS TO HEED SAFETY WARNINGS TO HELP PREVENT OUTDOOR AND RUBBISH FIRES:** During the warmer month's outdoor fires are a major issue as they can spread easily and destroy thousands of acres of countryside, crops and wildlife habitats. This puts enormous demands on KFRS resources as well as posing a serious threat to lives and homes. KFRS are appealing to people to ensure that they take extra care not to start fires, whether it is simply disposing of cigarettes in a responsible manner, to being fire safe with outdoor activities such as camping and barbecuing. Parents can help by reminding their children of how starting a fire could mean a huge fine or even a prison sentence. By following simple safety tips you will help protect the countryside, and help to prevent fires starting in the first place.

- Keep matches and lighters out of the way of children and remind them that they are not toys
- If you are a parent you are strongly advised not to leave young people to wander in the countryside supervised. Ensure that they are aware of the dangers of fire
- Don't light fires in the countryside or drop litter which could be set alight
- Don't accumulate rubbish which can act as potential fuel for deliberate fire setters
- Contact your local district or borough council to arrange collection of unwanted furniture, or to report abandoned vehicles or fly tipped waste (Clean Kent 24 hour reporting line – 0845 345 0210)

Report any information about illegal fire setting activities and those responsible (anonymously) to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. For further fire safety advice go to [www.kent.fire-uk.org](http://www.kent.fire-uk.org) or call 0800 923 7000.

**HIGHWAYS:** Did you know that highway problems can be reported directly to Kent Highways. The preferred way to let highways know about faults such as potholes or overgrown vegetation is through the website [www.kent.gov.uk/highwayfaults](http://www.kent.gov.uk/highwayfaults) where details can be easily uploaded and locations pinpointed on an interactive map. Providing this information will help speed up the rate of repairs. In the event of an emergency or if you don't have access to the internet, residents should call 03000 41 81 81.

Whilst we are happy to do so, often there is no need for the Parish Council to refer highways issues direct to Kent Highways as this often gives the impression to customers that they need to come back to the Parish Council in the future, instead the easiest way of reporting highways problems is via the Kent highways website.

You might be interested in the [roadworks.org](http://roadworks.org) website which gives details of all planned works for the village, on this website if you type in the web address it will come up with a map, in the search field type in the location and it will zoom in on all the works for the area

Every year throughout the spring and summer KCC Highways & Transportation receive numerous complaints regarding trees, hedges and other vegetation, which overhang the highway from private property. This matter can pose a number of problems for people trying to use the footways, especially if they are trying to pass with buggies, wheelchairs and scooters. It would be greatly appreciated if you could ensure that any trees and hedges that are bordering the Highway are maintained and cut back to your boundary. This action would benefit all Highway users, will help keep the highway safe and prevent the need for KCC Highways & Transportation writing to you requesting that you cut back your vegetation.

**TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE & SUSPENSION OF 7.5T WEIGHT RESTRICTION – BELTRING ROAD, EAST PECKHAM – FROM 26 JULY 2014 FOR UP TO 2 DAYS:** The road will be closed outside the former Blue Bell Pub and the 7.5T environmental weight restriction will be suspended during the works to allow for a diversion. The alternative route is via Lees Road, B2162 Hampstead Lane, B2015 Maidstone Road and A228 Boyle Way/Branbridges Road. The closure is to enable a new gas mains and service to be installed.

#### **JULY 2014 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

01 July 2014	Carers Group, 12.00 p.m. in the Meeting Room at the Jubilee Hall
07 July 2014	Planning & Transportation Committee. Proceedings commence at 7.30 p.m.
16 July 2014	Surgery, 10.30 a.m. – 12.00 p.m. in the library. Jenny Macdonald will be the duty councillor.
21 July 2014	Planning & Transportation Committee followed by a meeting of the full Parish Council. Proceedings commence at 7.15 p.m.

**EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL:** Clerk to the Council, Karen Bell, The Parish Office, East Peckham Jubilee Hall, Pippin Road, East Peckham, TN12 5BT, Telephone/answerphone: 01622 871309, Email: [admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk). The Parish Office is located in the Jubilee Hall, Pippin Road, East Peckham and is open weekday mornings during term time except Wednesdays. If you would like to speak to a Councillor please write, phone or email and a Councillor will contact you; alternatively you may contact a Councillor via our website [www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk](http://www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk).

## SUMMER 2014 EVENTS AT THE HOP FARM

### **Hop Farm Music Festival**

04-06 July

Visit the website for ticket and line up information

[www.hopfarm.co.uk](http://www.hopfarm.co.uk)

### **Extreme Torque Show**

16-17 August

Monster Trucks, freestyling, super bikes and much more!

Tickets from £7

[www.extremeeventseurope.com](http://www.extremeeventseurope.com)

### **Summer Fun at the Farm!**

July 19 – September 2

Free entry! Bring the kids for a fabulous day out – indoor and outdoor attractions, NEW Megablaster arena, children's rides, Hopper's Animal World, live entertainment, face-painting, 4D cinema and much more

[www.hopfarm.co.uk](http://www.hopfarm.co.uk)

### **Big 7 Scooter Rally**

1-3 August

From £15

Fabulous weekender (day entry available too) of classic scooters, live music, DJ's, shows, food and markets.

[www.hopfarm.co.uk](http://www.hopfarm.co.uk)

### **Grill 'n' Chill**

19-21 September

From £10

For fans of all things VW a weekend of classic car shows, music, food, stalls and more.

[www.hopfarm.co.uk](http://www.hopfarm.co.uk)

***Disclaimer: This notice is for information purposes only and should not be regarded as an advertisement or promotion by the Parish Council in respect of the Hop Farm.***