

EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS - APRIL 2015

Dear All,

The Parish Council continues to go from strength to strength and we are confident that this year will be no different. We have a proper vision for our community. Our easy access website and monthly newsletter, enables us to keep in contact with our residents and let you know the latest news that concerns all the community. We have some regular features that appear in the news each month and we hope you continue to find this newsletter interesting.

Do please look out for our 2015 Annual Report which is currently being delivered to all residential properties within East Peckham. If you have not received your copy by 23 March 2015, let us know and we will arrange for one to be delivered to you. Our Annual Report is also available to download from our website.

This brings us on to our next issues which is the 2015 Annual Parish Meeting which this year is being held on **Tuesday, 28 April 2015 between 7.00 p.m. and 10.00 p.m.** at the Sports Hall, Jubilee Hall complex, Pippin Road, East Peckham, TN12 5BT. The Annual Parish Meeting is not a Parish Council meeting but a village meeting which we are delighted to be hosting. The meeting not only allows us the opportunity to engage with the local community but it is also an ideal opportunity for you to learn more about the role of the Parish Council and the work that has been undertaken over the past year. You will be able to ask questions and meet your current Parish Councillors. We hope that those seeking either election or re-election onto the council at the forthcoming elections will be present for you to meet. We will also have information stands available for you to peruse, so far, these include those from the Environment Agency, East Peckham Pre-School, Carers Support Group, East Peckham Guide Group, Paddock Wood Community Advice Centre, East Peckham Flood Group and possibly the Methodist Church. Refreshments consisting of a light buffet, wine and soft drinks will be available and we look forward to seeing many of you on the night.

The big news at the moment is the forthcoming elections which are only a few weeks away. Anyone wishing to stand as a candidate at the elections should apply to the Acting Returning Officer for nomination papers. Completed papers must be returned to the Acting Returning Officer at Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling ME19 4LZ by 4pm on 9 April 2015. Nomination papers and guidance are available from the Acting Returning Officer on request by emailing voting@tmbc.gov.uk or by calling 01732 876022.

If you want to vote, including postal and proxy voting, make sure that you are properly registered. This is a great opportunity for you to have your say on issues that affect you both at a national and local level but if you don't register to vote by 20 April then you will miss your chance. Register online now at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote and make sure you secure your vote and your voice, at election time.

Prior to the May elections, the Parish Council will be following the principles of purdah. When local elections are being held at the same time as a general election this higher standard is usually applied. The purdah period begins typically six weeks before a scheduled election. For the 2015 General and local elections purdah will begin on **Monday 23 March**. Purdah has been imposed in ministerial guidance since at least the early 20th century reflecting an earlier "self-denying ordinance", and has considerable moral authority, its breach carrying with it in worst cases the possibility of actions for abuse of power and misconduct in public office. Otherwise its lack of statute or common law means different local authorities adopt different standards as to the extent to which they observe the convention, and executives are always mindful of the possibility of decisions being open to judicial review on the grounds of legitimate expectations, breach of natural justice, or procedural impropriety if purdah is breached. Where observed, purdah bars entering into any transactions or carrying out any works which would clearly, directly conflict with already stated commitments.

We produce our newsletter to keep you up to date about council services and news. If you have any comments about the newsletter we'd love to hear from you. As we are following the principles of Purdah, prior to the elections there will be no newsletter in May and this newsletter is available on line only.

The Parish Office is open weekday mornings during term times (except Wednesdays), do feel free to drop in and talk to us about any village issue you think that the Council can help you with. As we also run the Jubilee Hall and Playing Fields, feel free to speak to us about anything to do with those facilities as well.

Kind regards
Chairman, Councillors and Clerk
East Peckham Parish Council

2015 ELECTIONS

The big issue for us all this year is of course, the elections on 7 May when Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council will be holding elections for all Borough and Parish/Town council seats alongside the UK Parliamentary General Election.

Are you concerned about your local area?

Do you want to represent the views of local people?

Do you want to contribute your business or personal skills and expertise?

Are you passionate about services provided to your local community?

If you can answer yes to all of the questions and you would like to make a difference and be involved in shaping the future of the local community, why not consider becoming a Parish Councillor. Reductions in Local Government funding may see services you take for granted reduced in the future. The Parish Council can step in and fill the void in the community – to do this we will need your skills & enthusiasm.

We are preparing as we speak and have lots of information available on our website. KALC our County Association has its own Election Blog site for the public to access as well as for Council use. There are downloadable resources for everyone's use. It could be an especially useful tool for prospective first time councillors. As well as their Awareness Events they will be running induction Dynamic Councillor Events too! These will be held between May and July and will be aimed specifically at newly elected councillors. If you are interested visit the website www.kentalc.blogspot.co.uk.

Some key facts regarding the 2015 election arrangements which you may find of interest are as follows:

Nominations

- Every seat on the Parish Council is up for election, including those filled at the 2011 elections and any filled by co-option since then.
- There is no automatic carry-forward of councillors; anyone wishing to stand for re-election must submit their nomination paperwork.
- The deadline for withdrawing nomination is the same dates and time as the deadline to submit a nomination this is 09 April 2015.
- From 12 March 2015, nomination packs will be available from the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council. The Borough Council will handle all nominations; they do not expect the Parish Office to get involved at all.

If the number of candidates is the same or less than the number of available seats, the election will be uncontested – all those who submitted valid nominations will be declared as having won the seat. Even if the parish election is uncontested, there will still be an election on polling day for the borough and Parliamentary elections. If the election is contested, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council will provide details of nominations to the Parish Office through formal notices.

The counts

UK Parliamentary General election. After the close of poll on 07 May 2015

Borough Council Election: This will start at 4pm on Friday 8 May 2015

Contested Parish Council Election: This will be on Monday 11 May 2015

2015/2016 BUDGET

At our meeting in January 2015 we set the precept (the proportion of Council Tax payable to the Parish Council) at a figure of £110,274. This means that the precept of a Band D property will be £88.74 per year, an increase of 31p per year. The revised precept will enable the Parish Council to continue to position itself on a financially viable and sustainable footing that will ensure that it is able to operate effectively in the future. A full breakdown of our budget is available on our website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

If your group or organisation would like to apply for a small grant please visit the website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk where you will find details of our grants policy and application form. For 2015/2016, we have made a provision of £1,000 available specifically for grants to community groups and organisations.

COMMUNITY DEFIBRILATOR

The community defibrillator is housed in a secure box attached to the wall of the Parish Office at the Jubilee Hall. This allows the defibrillator to be stored securely but enabling access by all residents. The defibrillator is vital to the village and an ongoing training programme is offered to anyone who wants to learn how to use it. There is no charge for this training so do please if you are interested let us know. The defibrillator is an intelligent and affordable item of medical equipment which 'talks' to the operator and gives easy to follow instructions on where to place the electrode packs on the chest, how to administer Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and when to press the 'shock' button. An operator cannot 'shock' a patient that does not require it and cannot make a bad situation worse. SECamb know of the location of the defibrillator so that when someone dials 999 about a possible heart attack, they can immediately see if there is a defibrillator nearby to the caller, give them the access code and direct them there.

JUBILEE HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS

We own and manage the Jubilee Hall complex which comprises of the Playing Fields, Sports Hall and Meeting Room. The complex has many regular activities and events for adults and children and is buzzing with excitement. From the under-fives toddlers' afternoon and gym sessions to activities for adults such as Keep fit, badminton, bowls and Zumba, we are also the venue for a monthly carers group. Outside clubs include the East Peckham Football Team and a goal keeping school. We have hot drinks, cold drinks and snack machines too for your comfort or for your event. The facilities are perfect for any occasion be it a children's party, sports activity or business function. If you are looking for a venue for an event or meeting, please contact us for details of availability and hire charges. Our latest programme of activities and the contact details of the activity organisers can be found on our website

Children's Party Packages: We have some fantastic packages, offering hassle free solutions to make your life easier and your event a great success. We now offer a variety of levels of service for children's parties.

Bronze	3 hour exclusive use of the Sports Hall, Tables and chairs, Kitchen and toilet facilities, free parking, Free Wi-Fi £45 (£50 non East Peckham residents)
Silver	All of the above, plus exclusive use of the meeting room, Paper plates, cutlery and napkins £70 (£80 non East Peckham residents)
Gold	All of the above plus cleaning after the event £100 (£115 non East Peckham residents)

Business Event Solutions: We can offer solutions for business events such as one-to-one consultations to a classroom or meeting venue. We can provide a great space for training, meetings and exhibitions at a low cost. We also offer the following:

Hot drink station, Classroom for 12 – 30 people, Consultation Room, Board Style meeting for 25 people
Free Wifi, Projector Screen, Free parking

The playing fields are a beautiful open space in the centre of the village and are open to all residents. We want them to be a safe haven for residents to enjoy the peace and quiet and for children to play safely, families to picnic, joggers to run securely, play rounder's, kick a football, fly a kite or just a place to sit and contemplate. We will continue to develop the facilities so that the village; is well equipped with leisure facilities for everyone to enjoy. We have just installed a fabulous new Youth Shelter.

EAST PECKHAM BUSINESS COMMUNITY

We would like to see East Peckham have a business forum and would be delighted to hear from you if you would like to be involved.

ALLOTMENTS

Allotments are provided on land adjacent to the Playing Fields. The annual rents are very reasonable at £15.00 for a small plot and £20.00 for a large plot. We currently have a few vacant plots which will be reallocated in the spring. If you are interested, please contact the Parish Office.

ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENTS

At the time of writing this newsletter, we are eagerly anticipating the installation of the new fingerposts which following an unexpected delay are due to be installed shortly. Our enhancement projects for 2015/2016 include the renovation of the milestone currently located along the bypass and the installation of hamlet signs.

TWINNING

East Peckham is twinned with Chéreng in the Nord de Pas de Calais. Twinning activities are funded by those taking part and by fund-raising with no use of parish funds. For information on Twinning please visit our website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk. The East Peckham Twinning Association is currently free to join and everyone who joins the association will be sent a monthly e-letter. To join the association please email your details to admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk.

ROSE & CROWN PUBLIC HOUSE

We have expressed to the Borough Council our continued concern with the dilapidated site which is not only a complete eyesore but in our opinion a health and safety issue. We have insisted that the Borough Council take action and force the landowner to tidy up the site and erect appropriate hoarding.

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Committee meetings are held at 9.30 a.m. on the first Monday in each month (except August); meetings are held at the Jubilee Hall Meeting Room, Pippin Road, East Peckham, TN12 5BT.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Committee has recently considered the following planning application		
TM/14/04307/FL	Clay bund to stop flood water entering property with pumps and strum boxes at Brookers Cottage, 338 Maidstone Road, Paddock Wood	NO OBJECTION
TM/15/00175/FL	Two storey side extension and single storey front and rear extensions at 16 Medway Meadows, East Peckham	NO OBJECTION
TM/15/00463/FL	Single storey rear extension at 513 Bullen Lane, East Peckham	NO OBJECTION

PLANNING DECISIONS

The Borough Council has **GRANTED PERMISSION** for the following:

TM/14/04054/RD	Remediation and verification report pursuant to condition 9 (c) and (d) of TM/12/02594/FL (proposed redevelopment of existing sheltered housing site for 4 flats and 12 houses and associated works) at Former Marvillion Court, The Freehold, East Peckham
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PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

It is Kent County Council who are responsible for maintain public rights of way. Regardless of the growing season the majority of the rights of ways will be cut twice each year. Please report any problems to Kent County Council by telephoning 0845 345 0210, or by reporting the fault online at <http://webapps.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccesscams/issues/default.aspx>

LITTERING

Litter does not clear itself away. The cost of clearing up litter runs into hundreds of pounds. 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. The 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

Sadly we still have the ongoing disgusting problem of dog fouling particularly on the Playing Fields. Dog deposits provided it is bagged up can be put into any bin in the village. If you spot anyone failing to clear up after their dog please contact the Community or Dog Wardens. We have a supply of dog bags which are available free of charge from the Parish Office. Please be aware that failing to clear up after your dog is an offence and 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 the public have access. If you have a dog fouling complaint try and obtain as much information as possible as it will assist the Dog Warden. There have also been reports from residents about dogs off leads and our Community and Dog Wardens are seeing what can be done.

For a found, lost 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.
- If a person had been bitten then the incident is to be reported to the Police on 101

Thoughtless Dog Owners – We're watching you!

New posters have gone up around East Peckham in a joint effort by Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council and East Peckham Parish Council to reduce dog fouling in the village. The 'Keep Britain Tidy' campaign sets its sights on irresponsible dog owners, with innovative glow-in-the-dark 'eye' posters designed to keep a constant watch on dog owners – day and night! The 'We're watching you' posters glow in the dark at night thanks to the use of fluorescent paint.

Recent research carried out by Keep Britain Tidy showed that dog walkers are more responsible, and pick up after their dogs, when they think they are being watched. Research also suggested that dog fouling tends to occur at night time and during the winter months, as some dog owners feel they can't be seen 'under the cover of darkness'.

On Monday 23 February, timed with the launch of the posters, the Borough Council staff as well as Kent Community Warden Mandy Harris, PCSO Toni Matthew, Borough Councillor Janet Sergison and Chairman of the Parish Council Stephanie Watson carried out a 'Bag & Flag' event at East Peckham on the Recreation Ground, along the footpath to The Freehold and the footpath that leads to the Co-Op to record the number of dog fouling deposits. 84 deposits were bagged, flagged and were collected the following morning by Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council. There were a number of dog walkers present who said they were really happy to see the campaign underway, adding that the dog fouling has already reduced in the village after the posters had gone up.

Further 'Bag & Flag' events will take place over the coming weeks to monitor the effectiveness of the campaign. Results from other local authority areas using the posters have shown a 46% reduction in dog fouling incidents.

We believe that the scheme, promises to be an effective way of changing people's behaviour and reducing incidents of dog fouling. Thankfully, most people do clear up after their dogs but we want to send out a very clear message to the irresponsible few that fail to do so that we take a 'zero-tolerance' approach towards dog fouling and anyone caught failing to clear up after their dog will be fined and, if necessary, prosecuted."

For further information on how your community can take part in the 'We're Watching You' campaign visit www.tmbc.gov.uk/lwyl, email waste.services@tmbc.gov.uk or call 01732 876147. Follow the campaign on Twitter by using #werewatchingyou. Or email Keep Britain Tidy:

network.enquiries@keepbritaintidy.org

PARKING ON PAVEMENTS

With the problem in the village of inappropriately parked vehicles on pavements, we have registered our interest with 'Guide Dogs for the Blind' who are campaigning against pavement parking. It is being proposed that motorists should be banned from parking on pavements because the practice forces vulnerable pedestrians to walk in the road and blocking the pavement, is inconsiderate and dangerous. There is already a ban on parking on footways on most London streets and a recent poll suggests that most people want restrictions for the rest of the country. If you spot a vehicle wrongly parked, please call 101 and our PCSO's will try and attend, contact the owner and get the vehicle moved on. Whilst the PCSO's cannot issue tickets they can issue advice notices.

HIGHWAYS

Did you know that the preferred way to let highways know about faults such as potholes or overgrown vegetation is through the website 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 you should call 03000 41 81 81. 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. You might be interested in the roadworks.org website which gives details of all planned works for the village, on this website, 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.

POLICING

The Contact Point visits fortnightly and can be found at the Co-op, Branbridges Road, East Peckham, TN12 5WH, the dates and times for April 2015 are 09 and 23 between 4.30 p.m. – 5.30 p.m. This is your opportunity to discuss policing issues with a neighbourhood officer, get crime prevention advice, have your say on Kent Policing and pick up a free crime prevention item. For Further information visit the Kent Police Website 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.

ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

If you witness any incidents of anti-social behaviour, anywhere in the village, or know who is involved, please tell us, our community warden or the police. Anti-Social Behaviour can affect everyone's quality of life and should not be tolerated.

APRIL 2015 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

07 April 2015	Carers Support Group. 12.00 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall Meeting Room
09 April 2015	Deadline for the receipt of nominations to TMBC for the Parish Council election
13 April 2015	Planning & Transportation Committee. Proceedings commence at 9.30 a.m.
20 April 2015	Meeting of the full Parish Council. Proceedings commence at 7.15 p.m.
28 April 2015	Annual Parish Meeting. Proceedings commence at 7.00 p.m.

EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Contact Details: 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.

The Parish Office is open weekday mornings during term time except Wednesdays. We love seeing you all in our office and look forward to your visits. If you have an important matter which you wish to discuss, please make an appointment so that we can make sure we are available. Karen works part time and is sometimes at external meetings and therefore not always available, so do please ring or email first. 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. Don't forget that our website is a useful tool to find out more about East Peckham and your Parish Council, on the website you will find regular updates, details of all Parish Council meetings and links to agendas, consultations and other information relevant to the whole village. Our new Welcome Pack is also available on our website; we do have some hard copies available if you would like one. If you are organising an event that benefits the community and would like it included on the Parish Council's online calendar, email details to the Parish Office.

Bits and Pieces

Residents urged not to miss chance to vote in General and local elections

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council is urging local people to make sure they don't miss out on their chance to vote in the General and local elections taking place on Thursday 7 May by registering to vote now before it's too late.

In order to be able to vote in person or by post at these elections, residents must be entered on the Register of Electors and the deadline for receipt of applications to be on the Register is Monday 20 April. Anyone wishing to vote by post must also complete and return an application by 5pm on Tuesday 21 April.

In Tonbridge and Malling, elections will be held on 7 May for all 54 Borough Council seats and all 269 Parish/Town Council seats. On the same day, residents will also be able to vote in the UK Parliamentary General Election. Any resident who hasn't yet registered to vote can apply online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote, or contact voting@tmbc.gov.uk or call 01732 876022 to request a paper form. Any elector who wishes to vote by post can download an application form from www.tmbc.gov.uk/voting, or request a paper copy by emailing voting@tmbc.gov.uk or calling 01732 876022. For more information visit the Council's website www.tmbc.gov.uk/voting.

Leybourne Lakes Country Park and Haysden Country Park (Tonbridge)

Please use the attached link for a copy of the published information leaflet about events at the parks. http://www.tmbc.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0004/176449/Events-booklet-A5-2015-v2.pdf

How to access the Police Property Fund

The Parish Council believes that the next round is in May but it is wise to get any bids in by early April. The nominee should put as much info as possible as to how they are helping the community, i.e. assisting the young, the disabled, whomever, what the funding would go towards, it could be an outing for the elderly, football kit etc. It is also essential that nominations **include the following information:-**

- the name and address of the organisation
- a contact person's name
- a brief but informative description of their work and what they will use any donation for
- to whom any cheque should be made out

Please note that 'suggested amounts' are not required as the Committee can only share out the amounts fairly, depending on the revenue available. For more information, please send an email to daryl.rendle@kent.pnn.police.uk

Summer Playscheme 2015

Summer Playschemes are a great way for children aged 4–11 to have fun and make friends over the long summer holidays.

Monday 3 August – Friday 21 August 9am–1pm

For further details please visit www.tmbc.gov.uk or contact the Playscheme hotline on **01732 876166** or email leisure.services@tmbc.gov.uk

Opportunities to get involved and give your feedback...

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells hospitals jointly provide acute stroke care and rehabilitation for patients from West Kent and north East Sussex. Reviews have shown that similar to many other hospitals, locally and nationally, we can greatly improve stroke outcomes for our patients and reduce long-term disability.

Our hospital clinicians and GP leads are currently developing higher standards of care for every patient we see. It is our aim to ensure all patients have access to dedicated stroke teams and treatment 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

We are involving our patients, the public and healthcare professionals in this important work over the coming months, using their knowledge and experience to help us build better stroke services. You can find out more about this online at www.mtw.nhs.uk

If you would like us to send you more information, or want to share your views and experiences with us on stroke care, to help shape these important improvements, you can:

Email us at: mtw-tr.myhealthcare@nhs.net

Write to us for free at:

Freepost RTKS – AKZZ - UCZZ
Stroke Services, Room 118
Service Centre,
Maidstone Hospital
Hermitage Lane
Maidstone, Kent ME16 9QQ

If you would like to speak to someone anonymously, you can contact Healthwatch Kent by telephone: 0808 801 0102 or email: info@healthwatchkent.co.uk