

EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

FEBRUARY 2015

Dear All,

East Peckham Parish Council has an excellent track record of success, which has been sustained on a foundation of sound management and a genuine vision for the village in an area that certainly does not lack demanding challenges due to economic pressures.

Some of our highlights are excellent communication channels; a monthly newsletter, which is available to download from our website. We also have an impressive website which is easy to access. Your Parish Council not only has huge ambitions; but also delivers and then ensures that residents, electors and others know about our excellent achievements.

The Parish Council continues to develop a large number of projects and initiatives from land and asset management to tackling anti-social behaviour. We are a Council fully in touch with our residents and we want to be the centre of our community. As a council we invest, develop and celebrate the wealth of our community in an inclusive way that supports youth, workers and retired residents. The result is that as a Council we are fully involved and engaged and this confidence clearly supports us in our wider mission.

This newsletter is not just about singing the praises for East Peckham Parish Council. Our challenge for 2015 is to build upon our achievements, by consulting with and successfully delivering services to our residents. We want to be regarded as a council that is active, imaginative and communicates well with our residents. Our community as a result can be confident that it has genuine leadership and can look to us to protect and raise the quality of life in East Peckham.

At our January meeting we were delighted to co-opt **Murray Hodgson** and **Amanda Hodgson** onto the Parish Council. We know they will bring with them a wide breadth of knowledge and enthusiasm to their new role and we look forward to working with them. We still have one vacancy for a parish councillor which we are able to fill by co-option.

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 your community – to do this we will need your skills & enthusiasm. **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 have answered yes to all of these questions and you would like to make a difference and be involved in shaping the future of the local community, why not consider joining us by becoming a Parish Councillor. 2015 is an election year and all the present councillors stand down, they can seek re-election or in the case of co-opted councilors election to the council. We are hosting a number of events at the Jubilee Hall Meeting Room, Pippin Road, East Peckham, TN12 5BT where we invite you to join us for refreshments and meet the present councilors and our Parish Clerk, we looking forward to meeting you and telling you more about the individual roles of the parish council, the parish councilors and the Parish Clerk, dates and times are as follows:

Monday 02 February 2015	10.30 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.
Monday 23 February 2015	6.15 p.m. – 7.15 p.m.
Monday 02 March 2015	10.30 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.
Monday 16 March 2015	6.15 p.m. – 7.15 p.m.
Monday 06 April 2015	10.30 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.

Kind regards

Chairman, Councillors & Clerk

2015/2016 BUDGET

At a meeting of the Parish Council held on 12 January 2015 we agreed to 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 £0.31 per year. The need to increase the precept has come about as a result of changes in government funding, moreover, there are concerns that the ability of the parish council to raise monies through the precept will be capped in future years, which will place a strain on the ability of the Parish Council to operate effectively and provide the scope and level of services that it currently offers.

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.

Your Parish Councillors have unanimously agreed once again that they WILL NOT claim allowances; THIS DECISION REPRESENTS A COST SAVING OF AT LEAST £6,500.

The Parish Councillors are **volunteers** and do not receive any salary, they contribute a great deal of time and energy to ensure the smooth running of the community. They firmly believe that their role is to serve the community and they freely give up their time to do this. We are also grateful for the goodwill of our Clerk, Karen Bell, Headland Garden Services, Total Building Care, Mr S New, Mr M Edwards, The Merry Boys Public House, Burlite War Memorial and Brookside Garden Centre to name but a few who provide discounts, goods, services or do extra work for us at no charge, all of which enables us to keep costs as low as possible.

EMERGENCY PLANNING – REQUEST FOR HELP IN THE LITTLE MILL AREA

The council would like to consider installing a sandbag container in the Little Mill area of East Peckham. As we don't own any land in this area it will be subject to finding a suitable site. If you can help by offering some land that we could use or suggesting some possible sites then we would be delighted to hear from you.

ALLOTMENTS

Allotments are provided on land adjacent to the Playing Fields. We currently have a few vacant allotment plots, if you are interested, please contact the Parish Office. 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.

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.

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 plus the application form, alternatively you may contact the Parish Office for more information. Whilst it is too late to apply for funding for the current financial year, after 01 April 2015 we will be pleased to consider grants for 2015/2016 and we have made a provision of £1,000 available specifically for grants to community groups and organisations.

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.

JUBILEE HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS

We own and manage the Pippin Road Jubilee Hall complex which comprises of the Playing Fields, Sports Hall and Meeting Room with kitchen, changing rooms and toilet facilities. 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 Junior Football Team and a goal keeping school. We have a hot drinks machine and a snack machine 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 new booking packages, offering hassle free booking solutions for events to make your life easier and your event a great success. We are now able to 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, Class room 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 rounders, 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. Due for installation on 04 February is the new Youth Shelter.

TWINNING

East Peckham is twinned with Chéreng in the Nord de Pas de Calais. Twinning activities are funded by those taking part and by fundraising 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.

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/14/03836/FL Single storey extension at The Wagon Lodge, Stilstead Farm, Tonbridge Road, East Peckham
NO OBJECTION provided materials match the existing building

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

TM/14/03458/FL Provision of shipping container for storage associated with adjacent allotments at East Peckham Playing Fields, Pippin Road, East Peckham

EMERGENCY PLANNING

The Upper Medway Internal Drainage Board has advised that their powers of enforcement apply only within their drainage districts (usually the flood plain). If ditches are outside the flood plain then KCC is the contact point.

AIRPORTS COMMISSIONS CONSULTATION – AN UPDATE

In November 2014, the Airports Commission launched a public consultation into airport expansion and will be recommending to Government whether a new runway should be at Heathrow or Gatwick. As one of the shortlisted options, Gatwick Airport feel it is important for people in the local area to have access to all of the facts and to understand the case they are making for a second runway at Gatwick. Gatwick Airport has advised us of the following:

- They understand that having an airport close-by affects local people through, for example, aircraft noise, road traffic or jobs.
- They are committed to being a good neighbour and would like to engage more deeply on issues that affect residents. Whilst Gatwick has brought huge benefits to the area, there is the opportunity to minimise negative impacts, while maintaining positive aspects.
- They are working closely with a number of consultative & advisory groups. Key amongst those being the Gatwick Airport Consultative Committee and the Noise and Track Monitoring Advisory Group where representatives of the Department for Transport, National Air Traffic Services, airlines, Gatwick Airport GATCOM and local authorities discuss and agree topics ranging from noise monitoring to surface access.

Gatwick Airport will be holding meetings with Town and Parish Councils and neighbourhood groups across the area to which we will be invited. These meetings will be used to discuss any Gatwick related topics of interest to the village. If there are any specific issues which you would like us to raise then we would be delighted to hear from you.

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. We have just signed up to the national 'We're Watching You Campaign' which is being promoted by Keep Britain Tidy.

- 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

PUBIC 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 report 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.

HALE STREET CHICANE – ADVANCED NOTICE OF TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE

There will be a temporary road closure in Hale Street, East Peckham – from 2 February 2015 for up to 6 days between 09.30hrs and 15.00hrs. During this time there will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Seven Mile Lane and Church Lane. [The alternative route is via A228 Boyle Way and Branbridges Road.](#) The closure is necessary to facilitate carriageway safety and improvement works to be carried out by KCC Highways.

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.

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.

POLICING

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. The Contact Point will be at the Co-op, Branbridges Road, East Peckham, TN12 5WH on 05 and 19 February between 4.30 p.m.–5.30 p.m. 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.

FEBRUARY 2015 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

02 February 2015	Planning & Transportation Committee. Proceedings commence at 9.30 a.m. (Note new time)
03 February 2015	Carers Support Group. 12.00 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall Meeting Room
05 February 2015	Mobile Police Station, 4.30 p.m. – 5.30 p.m. Co-op, Branbridges Road
14 February 2015	Bulky Freighter, Jubilee Hall Car Park, 8.00 a.m. – 9.00 a.m.
19 February 2015	Mobile Police Station, 4.30 p.m. – 5.30 p.m. Co-op, Branbridges Road
23 February 2015	Meeting of the full Parish Council. Proceedings commence at 7.15 p.m.
28 February 2015	Bulky Freighter, Jubilee Hall Car Park, 8.00 a.m. – 9.00 a.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.

Reluctantly we have cancelled our attendance at the monthly village surgery, we found that most months we only had one to two visitors at most, we will be happy to reconsider our participation in the future subject to sufficient demand and councilor availability. 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 Don't forget to visit www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk for regular updates and for 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.

MESSAGE FROM TMBC: Don't miss out on the chance of cheaper energy bills – Registration for the Energy Deal closes on 2 February

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council is reminding residents that they still have time to sign up for Energy Deal but registration closes on 2 February. The collective switching campaign aims to help residents looking to reduce their gas and electricity bills.

The Energy Deal scheme was launched in 2013 by Dover, Dartford, Tunbridge Wells, and Gravesham councils with Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council joining the collaboration this year. Grouping together offers a straightforward solution for residents to find out whether they can get a better deal and benefit by saving money on their home energy bills. The more people who register, the more interested the suppliers are in gaining them as customers and so the better the deal they offer.

It's free to register and residents are not obliged to switch energy supplier. On 3 February, energy suppliers are invited to an energy auction, (administered by iChoosr). Residents registered with Energy Deal will be sent a personalised offer showing the winning tariff, which they can then decide whether they want to accept.

The October auction saw a unique market leading tariff offered specifically for collective switching, with an average saving of £221.

Cllr Jill Anderson, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council's Cabinet Member for Housing, says: "Energy Deal is an easy way for residents to see if they can reduce energy costs, especially those who have never switched before, as it offers a helping hand to guide them through the process. We are pleased to support the collective switching campaign and hope residents will take advantage of the new scheme."

Throughout the registration period registrants from the Energy Deal participating authorities are being entered into a prize draw. For more information, or to register online, please visit www.energydealswitch.com. Residents without internet access can call Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council on 01732 876395.

THE MAYOR OF TONBRIDGE & MALLINGS CHARITY KARTING EVENING AT BUCKMORE PARK - MONDAY 27 APRIL 2015

This evening promises to be lots of fun. After a practice session teams of three will compete on the famous competition circuit in a 90 Minute Endurance Race (each driver races for 30 minutes) and the cost is £62 per person. Spectators are welcome and refreshments are available. To add to the competitive fun grid places and extra laps can be bought.

After the prize giving there will be a raffle in aid of the Mayor's charities – The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution and Emilia's Little Heart – supporting children in hospital. Numbers are limited so please book early by phone on 01732 876005 or email mayors.office@tmbc.gov.uk to reserve places for your team/s.

MESSAGE FROM KENT COUNTY COUNCIL REGARDING THE CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE DELIVERY OF LIBRARY, REGISTRATION AND ARCHIVE SERVICES IN KENT

As you may have seen in the local media, Kent County Council is transforming the way it delivers its services as well as reducing costs.

Because Library Registration & Archive services are valued by our communities, we have given a lot of consideration as to how to deliver them in the future. From many options we have looked to find the most sustainable that will deliver customer-focused services and contribute to the savings KCC has to make. Setting up a Charitable Trust to deliver the LRA service is our preferred option on which we are now in a position to consult.

The public consultation will run from 12th January 2015 to 8th April 2015 and I wanted you to be aware of this and encourage you to consider the proposal and feedback your thoughts. No formal decision has been taken and we want to hear everyone's views.

More detail about the proposals and the consultation questionnaire can be found online at www.kent.gov.uk/lraconsultation from Monday 12th January. It will also be available in all Kent Libraries and Registry Offices.

We will also be running 24 drop-in roadshows across the county where people can come and speak to staff about the proposals. You will find all the dates and times of these online at www.kent.gov.uk/lraconsultation and I would encourage you to come along to one of these.

Should you have any specific questions about the proposal and how this might affect you or your partnership with us, please do not hesitate to contact me by emailing LRAconsultation@kent.gov.uk or call 03000 413131.

Electoral Review of Kent

The independent Local Government Boundary Commission for England is carrying out an electoral review of Kent County Council.

The review will draw new electoral division boundaries across Kent.

The Commission has also announced that it is minded to recommend that 81 county councillors should be elected to the council in future: three fewer than the current arrangement.

Now we are asking for evidence about your local area to help us decide a new pattern of electoral divisions for Kent County Council.

Your views will make a difference

Local people know their area best. That's why we are asking you for evidence on a range of issues

- Do you have suggestions about where your division boundaries should be?
- Which areas do you identify as your local community?
- Where do people in your area go to access local facilities such as shops and leisure activities?

For more details and interactive maps, visit:

www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk or www.lgbce.org.uk

Have your say

Send your views to:

The Review Officer (Kent)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
Layden House
Turnmill Street
London EC1M 5LG

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

Follow us on Twitter: [@LGBCE](https://twitter.com/LGBCE)

The consultation closes on **2 March 2015**

The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England





Kent Police has received reports of theft in this area. People are being targeted near **cash points** and in **shops where they have paid by card.**



The offender may produce a map and ask for directions. This is to distract the person once they have withdrawn money, or their pin number has been observed. A second offender will then steal cash or a wallet/purse containing bank cards, while the member of the public remains unaware.

Protect your property

- Always keep your belongings where you can see them
- Don't feel compelled to stop and speak to someone you don't know
- When using a cash point or paying by card, **always** keep your pin hidden.

For more crime prevention advice or to speak to your local officers, call **101**. Dial **999** in an emergency.



Kent

