

EPPC NEWS – APRIL 2016

Your newsletter from East Peckham Parish Council - Working on behalf of the people in East Peckham

Dear All,

The Parish Council continues to go from strength to strength. 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 us all. We will be launching our new App shortly, in doing so we shall be amongst the first Parish Council in the Country and the first in Kent to do so.

Having co-opted Heidi Harratt this month we now have a full complement of 11 Parish Councillors. We look forward to working with Heidi in the future and know she will be a welcome asset to the council and village.

By now you should have received your copy of our 2016 Annual Report. If not please let us know and we'll arrange for one to be delivered to you. Our Annual Report is also available to download from our website and we have some large printed versions. As we move towards becoming 'paperless' this will be the last report which will be printed and hand delivered. We'll continue to compile an Annual Report but it will be published online with a limited print run for those who would prefer a hard copy and these will be issued upon request.

The 2016 Annual Parish Meeting is being held on **Monday, 04 April 2016 between 7.00 p.m. - 10.00 p.m.** in the Sports Hall, Pippin Road, East Peckham, TN12 5BT. This is not a Parish Council meeting but a village meeting. We are delighted to host the meeting as it gives us the opportunity to engage with the local community and allows you the opportunity to learn more about our role and the work that we have undertaken over the past year, meet your Parish Councillors and ask questions. Our guest speaker will be a representative from Kent Police to talk about Speedwatch and we hope to have representatives from the NHS and Woodlands Health Centre to answer questions about the surgery, there will also be some information stands. 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 surgery continues to dominate much of our time. You will find a brief resume of where we are and what we are doing on the next page. This is a fast moving issue and you will find regular updates on our website.

Crime figures remain stable, but we ask you to report any unusual behaviour or nuisance problems, by dialling 101 and not the next time you see our PCSO's or Community Warden,

With regard to the Playing Fields which we own, our main priority here is to maintain this important area of village open space to a high standard. The Playing Fields are a beautiful open space and they are open for the use of anyone in the village 24 hours a day. The playing fields are also available for hire by any organisation in the village and it would be wonderful if various village celebrations took place there such as fetes or musical picnics. The fields are kept as a haven for families and for children to run around safely, and there are benches to sit and have picnics. I am sure you will agree that they are a wonderful village asset. We are currently looking at installing a Play/Trim Trail on the playing fields and some additional tree planting will which will blend in with the environment, for both children and adults.

We look after the Parish's planning interests - dealing with fairly basic planning applications through to the far more complicated ones involving new housing and other development in the Parish. We are a statutory consultee, and unlike a lot of Parishes, we are extremely fortunate in having great technical expertise – so you can rest assured that we usually know what we are talking about, as well as being confident in our recommendations to the borough council.

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.

Kind regards
Chairman, Councillors and Clerk

EAST PECKHAM SURGERY – WHAT IS THE LATEST?

The proposed closure of the surgery has dominated much of our time recently and we are continuing to do all we can to resist the closure. As we battle to retain this essential front line service, we are enormously grateful to Tom Tugendhat MP and Baroness Emerton for their support and for raising the issue in the Houses of Commons and Lords, we are also grateful for the support of our Borough Councillors and County Councillor. The loss of the surgery to the village is unthinkable as is the negative and detrimental effect it would have on our community. We have been extremely frustrated at the sequence of events which led woodlands Health Centre to submit the surgery branch closure application to the NHS. We have started an online petition, if you have not yet seen it do please go onto our website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk and follow the link to add your signature. We have welcomed the media exposure which has included being featured in local and national media. We took the lead in drawing up the Action Plan which was approved by NHS and will keep the surgery open for six months whilst long term solutions are explored.

Currently the NHS is not considering any long term solution other than the refurbishment of the existing surgery. Following the survey and the receipt of quotations for refurbishment works we have a pause factored into the Action Plan which will allow us to consider the feasibility of refurbishment. If it felt too costly or not possible then at that stage the Action Plan will allow us to consider other long term solutions such as the placement of a porta cabin on the playing fields or the conversion of part of the Jubilee Hall. If the Parish Council is unable to fund the full costs of works we will be looking for external funding sources such as crowdfunding and would be accepting donations towards the cost of the works.

Whilst Woodlands Health Centre have confirmed that the closure had been bought about by regulatory challenge and that they have no desire to withdraw the service provided to EP patients, they have stated that they are not in a position to contribute funds now or in the future to the cost of the survey or renovations. Given that the Parish Council has offered to fund the survey they feel that they will be unable to project manage the survey or the works required and this would be our responsibility. This has undoubtedly placed an unfair burden upon the Parish Council but for the benefit of the village we will rise to the challenge facing us over the coming months in this respect.

On 21 March 2016, we appointed former resident Peter Clymer to undertake the survey for us. We have also created a Parish Council Working Group who has been tasked to work with Woodlands Health Centre, the NHS, the landlord and the surveyor. The Working Group first met on 22 March 2016 where we agreed to have an on-site visit to the East Peckham Surgery with all parties, including the surveyor, Peter Clymer, on 07 April 2016. Together with our Surveyor, we are now in the process of drafting a Scope of Work for the Refurbishment of the Surgery and are asking all the parties involved to provide input so that we can put together a Refurbishment Scope that is fit-for-purpose and that will be acceptable to the NHS and all parties. We expect Woodlands Health Centre to give us input as the user of the premises.

It is worthy of note that we are currently the only Public Body in the country which has been able to persuade NHS to reverse a surgery branch closure decision.

COMING SOON - NEW PARISH COUNCIL APP

The app will be interactive with key functions to allow access to information 'on demand', so residents can engage with parish representatives and the local community, whilst 'on the go' or in the comfort of their own home. In essence the Parish App is a great opportunity for residents to connect, be informed, book facilities, share news and promote local events. Look out for more announcements. We hope you will download the app, spread the word and get connected. Better communication leads to better communities and engaging in local events, sharing news and ideas helps make a better neighbourhood.

BLOOMING IN EAST PECKHAM

We'd like to form an East Peckham in Bloom group whose aim would be to enhance the appearance of the village. If you're a local business and would like to sponsor this project, let us know. We've many ideas for brightening up our village. If you're interested in becoming part of an East Peckham in Bloom group, let us know. Let's get our village of East Peckham looking beautiful in 2016 and be proud of where we live! 2016 will also see the return of the Garden Competition. The competition is by entry form only, this was included in our Annual Report or you can download and print off an entry form from our website, we look forward to receiving your entries.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLANNING

Would you be prepared to help your community? We have 3 ways you can help, first the East Peckham Flood Group which is independent of the Parish Council is looking for a new Chairman, we're also looking for someone to coordinate the village Flood Warden Scheme and finally we'd like to have more Flood Wardens. If you're interested and would like to find out more please let us know. Free training is available via TMBC and all Flood Wardens are given a flood preparedness kit. To receive Flood Warnings, visit the website www.environment-agency.gov.uk or telephone 0845 988 1188.

JUBILEE HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS

We own and manage the facilities where many activities take place from the toddlers' groups including gym, parent and toddlers and Mini Music Makers to activities like Keep fit, badminton, bowls and Zumba, we are also the venue for a monthly carers group and an outdoor goal keeping school. We have hot drinks, cold drinks and snack machines too. Please consider our facilities for your events. Whilst most users of the Sports Hall are regular there is some weekday morning availability and we can currently offer evening and daytime availability in the Meeting Room. A programme of activities and the organisers contact details can be found on our website. In addition to regular activities which take place we'd like to widen the availability of sporting and other activities. We would be pleased to hear from you if there are any indoor or outdoor activities you would like provided such as archery, cycling and running clubs. We would also be pleased to hear from you if you would be interested in starting up a new activity.

The playing fields are a lovely open space and are open to everyone all year round. We want them to be a haven for you to enjoy peace and quiet and for children to play safely, families to picnic and joggers to run securely. So that the playing fields are well equipped with leisure facilities for everyone, we'll continue to develop them

Children's Party Packages: We have some fantastic packages, offering hassle free solutions to make your event a great success. For more information such as costs and availability please contact the Parish Office,

Business Event Solutions: We offer solutions for business events such as one-to-one consultations, a classroom or meetings. We provide a great space for training, meetings and exhibitions. We have a hearing loop and projector which can be hired. Please contact us for more information such as costs and availability.

TENNIS COURT

The Tennis Court is open all year round and is free to use on a first come basis by residents and those who work in the village. If you'd like to use the tennis court for a specific purpose we can take bookings.

ALLOTMENTS

Allotments are provided on land adjacent to the Playing Fields. We currently have two vacant plots.

EAST PECKHAM BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Are you a member of the Business Community? Would you like to see the village have a business forum? If so, we'd like to hear from you. Some of the things the forum could do are create a loyalty scheme, publish a business directory and produce a visitor's information leaflet. It would be fantastic if the East Peckham Business Community could come together for a 'Showcase Evening' where local businesses could display their 'commodities'. We think it would be a wonderful opportunity for everyone to see what is produced, meet the business owners and find out about local services and trades available in the village. We would like to invite representatives from local businesses and community groups to a networking breakfast, please let us know if this is something that would be of interest to you.

ABANDONED VEHICLES

These can be reported at <http://www.tmbc.gov.uk/services/environment-and-planning/abandoned-vehicles>.

PARKING STILL AN ISSUE!

We take the issue of inconsiderate and dangerous parking seriously and are continuing to work with KCC, The Police, the Community Warden and TMBC to investigate ideas and schemes to alleviate the problem. Please be a considerate vehicle user. Pedestrians, wheelchairs, pushchairs, cyclists all need to use the full width of the footways. Private driveways, entrances and junctions need to be kept clear of obstruction for safety reasons. Please help us to help you.

OVERGROWN PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

KCC is responsible for maintaining public rights of way. Report problems by telephoning 03000 414145 or online at <http://webapps.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccesscams/issues/default.aspx>.

LITTERING

Litter doesn't clear itself away. The cost of clearing litter runs into hundreds of pounds. A person is guilty of a littering offence if they throw down, drop or deposit and then leave it in a public place. TMBC will respond to complaints and has the power to issue fixed penalty notices. If you'd like to do your bit to help keep East Peckham tidy, please clear up your frontages and collect rubbish along your roads. Our thanks go to the unsung heroes who regularly collect litter.

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The Committee aims to represent the views of the community when consulted on planning applications and to improve transportation issues in East Peckham. The committee has recently considered the following:

TM/16/00169/FL	New single garage at The Barn, 26 Church Lane, East Peckham	NO OBJECTION
TM/16/00212/FL	Demolition of detached garage & erection of two storey side with integral garage & single storey rear extension at 5 Golding Gardens, East Peckham	NO OBJECTION
TM/16/00260/LB	Single storey extension to kitchen to form utility room at 297 Hale Street	NO OBJECTION

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT – BALCONY TO REAR OF 5 OLD ROAD, EAST PECKHAM

Following the refusal by TMBC to grant planning permission to retain the structure an Enforcement Notice had been served on the owner requiring the removal of the unauthorised development.

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. In an emergency call 03000 41 81 81. There's no need for EPPC to refer issues direct as this can give the impression to customers that they need to come back to the Parish Council. You might be interested in the roadworks.org website which gives details of planned works.

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

Speedwatch is where community members supported by the police monitor speeds using detection devices. Vehicles exceeding speed limits are referred to the Police with the aim of educating drivers to reduce speeds. If you're worried about speeding and want to do something about it, now's your chance. We have agreed in principal to fund the cost of equipment if we have at least 12 volunteers. We need about six more volunteers in order to progress this project.

DOG FOULING

We take dog fouling seriously and over-stress the dangers dog faeces poses. It's illegal not to clear up the mess left by your dog and dog mess in public places is offensive to see, smell or tread in. It's a shame that just a few uncaring dog owners spoil things for others. Dog deposits provided it's bagged up can be put into any bin. If you see anyone failing to clear up after their dog please contact the Community or Dog Wardens. Please be aware that failing to clear up after your dog is an offence and TMBC enforces dog fouling through the Dogs Fouling of Land Act 1996 which applies to all land within the borough which is open and to which the public have access.

- 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 etc. telephone 01732 876147 or Email: dog.warden@tmbc.gov.uk.
- If a person has been bitten then the incident is to be reported to the Police on 101

APRIL 2016 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

04 April 2016	Planning & Transportation Committee, 6.00 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall Meeting Room
04 April 2016	Annual Parish Meeting, 7.00 p.m. in the Sports Hall
18 April 2016	Full Parish Council, 7.15 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall Meeting Room

EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Contact Details: Clerk to the Council, Karen Bell, East Peckham Jubilee Hall, Pippin Road, East Peckham, TN12 5BT, Tel: 01622 871309, Email: admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk
Twitter @EastPeckhamPC

EAST PECKHAM CELEBRATES HM QUEEN ELIZABETH 11 90TH BIRTHDAY ON 21 APRIL 2016

Many activities will be taking place on 21 April 2016 as we join communities across the commonwealth to celebrate the 90th birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth 11. This is what the Parish Council has planned.

Future Heritage Tree



On 21 April 2016 at 10.30 a.m. we shall be planting a new Maple Tree on the Playing Fields. We hope this fine tree will become over time a heritage tree. We have been working with the Tree Conservation Volunteers and the tree will be planted to celebrate and honour the service of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to her people on her 90th birthday. We hope you will join us and East Peckham Primary School as we plant this very special tree. We have registered the event with Fields in Trust and will have a whole host of goodies to distribute on the day.

Clean for the Queen



Shortly after the Tree Planting we hope you will join our Clean for the Queen event on the Playing Fields. Parish Councillor Jenny Macdonald and our very own litter Warden Michael Hayes are organising this event and would be grateful for any volunteers who would like to join them. All tools and equipment supplied

BEACON (Time to be confirmed)



On the evening of 21 April 2016, we shall be lighting a beacon at St Michaels. We shall be coordinating the time of the lighting of the Beacon so that all Beacons across the commonwealth are lit at exactly the same time. St Michaels has been chosen as the location as Capel and Yalding have also registered to light Beacons and all three beacons will be within the sight line of each other. Our thanks go to Parish Councillor Mick Barton and Rev Carr for agreeing to organise this event.

HM Queen Elizabeth II 90th birthday Commemorative Medal



We will be giving each child at East Peckham Primary School a very special medal which has been designed to commemorate this occasion.

POP UP SKATEPARK



On 14 May 2016 we are arranging for a pop up Skate Park to come to the village for kids (young and old) to try their skills. It will be installed on or around the Jubilee hall / playing field area subject to weather, there will be a couple of ramps and jumps, it is expected to last for around 4 hours and hopefully subject to cost (will be self-funded) there will be a burger / ice cream van in attendance. If there is enough interest we will start the fund raising as soon as possible after the event for a permanent skate park. Please look out for the leaflet which will be distributed shortly.