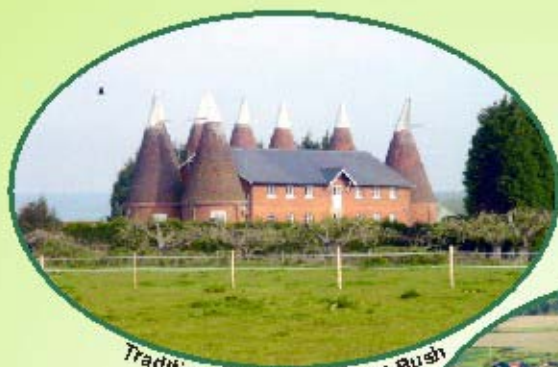


EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2009 - 2010



Traditional Oasts Peckham Bush



The Hop Farm Beltring



Primary School Fete



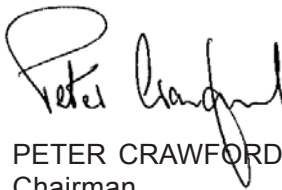
Holy Trinity Church Bush Road

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE EAST PECKHAM SPORTS HALL ON MONDAY 29 MARCH 2010 AT 7.30 P.M.

THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO MEET YOUR ELECTED PARISH COUNCILLORS, RAISE MATTERS AFFECTING YOUR LIFE IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND SAY WHAT YOU THINK.

AGENDA

1. To confirm the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 30 March 2009 (Printed at end of report)
2. Presentation of the 2009/2010 Annual Report of the Parish Council
3. Presentation of the 2009/10 Billy Can Awards
4. Guest Speakers: Burlite War Memorial Restoration
5. Presentations from Village Groups & Organisations
6. Question Time
7. Any Other Business
8. Close of Meeting



Peter Crawford

March 2010

PETER CRAWFORD
Chairman

Parish Council Office:
Curran Hall
Pound Road
East Peckham

Correspondence to:
Karen Bell, Clerk to East Peckham
Parish Council
4 Nettlestead Court, Maidstone Road,
Paddock Wood, Tonbridge, Kent, TN12 6DB

Telephone/Fax:
Email:

01622 871309
admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk

CHAIRMAN REPORT 2009/10

It has been another busy year with some potentially big issues, not causing the problems they might but many smaller items have come up for consideration. As a result the Parish Council's agendas often have been long and meetings have gone on late into the evening.

I would like to thank the members of the council for remaining focussed and cheerful during these lengthy meetings and our Clerk, Karen Bell for the amount of time and energy she puts into her work. I would also like to thank our neighbourhood police team Andy Sergeant and Police Community Support Officer Simon Liston together with our Community Warden Siobhan MacKay for helping to make East Peckham a safe and pleasant place to live. Many others have contributed too including Lorraine Baseden, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Councils Dog Warden and Peter Hartley and others for helping keeping the village tidy.

As regards the membership of the Parish Council, during the year we said goodbye to Ray Bearman, Pauline Relf, Gillian Singleton and David Ireland and I would like to record my appreciation for the contribution they made to the work of the Council. We welcomed the return of Barbara Curry and two new members Lorraine Baseden and Louise Picknett.

Parish Councillors give their time to many other activities and committees, attending training sessions and conferences and supporting many village events.

We again had success in the Village of the Year competition and we are committed to obtaining Quality Council Status.

During the year we have added new fitness equipment in the playing fields and additional facilities in the older children's play area. We installed two additional bus shelters and set money aside to renovate the war memorial and the village sign.

We continue to try very hard to get Kent Highways to maintain our roads to a good standard particularly after bad weather and Kent Public Rights of Way to maintain our public rights of way to an acceptable standard.

Recently John Crowley and Bill Gress announced that they would be relinquishing their current responsibilities with regard to the Sports Hall and Playing Fields. Both John and Bill have given a great deal of time and effort in getting the Sports Hall up to standard and we are very grateful for their hard work. This means that there will have to be significant changes to the way these facilities are managed in the future.

I am sure that the Parish Council will continue to serve the village to the best of its ability in 2010 and I hope that our efforts will be seen to contribute to village life.

PETER CRAWFORD

Chairman

March 2010

WELCOME

To this the thirtieth edition of East Peckham Parish Council Annual Report, which we hope, you find interesting. This report allows us the opportunity to take stock of the past year and describes our main achievements during 2009/10.

EAST PECKHAM

East Peckham is 6 miles east of Tonbridge, 10 miles north east of Tunbridge Wells, 7 miles south west of Maidstone and 3 miles north of Paddock Wood. All have rail and bus services. East Peckham has an area of 1,349 hectares and a population of approximately 3,500. The village has grown from an amalgamation of 9 separate hamlets mainly due to the amalgamation of the hop industry and the dredging of the River Medway from Maidstone to Tonbridge. During the 18th and 19th centuries East Peckham was one of the reception areas for London foundlings and children were sent here from Thomas Coram's Foundling Hospital where they were nursed until they were old enough to return to London. East Peckham has much to offer such as local businesses, shops, clubs, primary school, pre-schools, village halls, sports facilities, churches and the Hop Farm located on the edge of the village which is a popular tourist attraction. Housing in East Peckham varies from medieval to modern; the main settlement area of East Peckham is surrounded by countryside. East Peckham is a thriving village with a great sense of community and we are fortunate to have many residents who give willingly of their time and energy. Village life depends so much on those who give their time to organise activities and to those who attend them.

EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL – WHAT ARE WE AND WHAT DO WE DO?

The Parish of East Peckham is an independent local democratic unit and councillors are elected every four years. The Parish Councillors know the village and represent our views to authorities such as Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, Kent County Council, Environment Agency, Kent Police Authority and Health Authorities. We have a number of formal powers such as we provide allotments; churchyard maintenance, footway lighting and we look after the village open space amenities and other areas. We are consulted on planning applications and on such things as schools, roads and planning enquiries. If we cannot help on a particular issue we can usually provide the details of whom to contact. We either provide services directly or we provide financial assistance. We have the power to improve the community by spending sums of money on things, which in our opinion will be in the interests of the parish or our inhabitants. Activities funded in this way include the summer playscheme, additional litter clearing; the Best Village Front Garden Competition and our regular Bash the Trash events.

HAVE YOUR SAY ON COUNCIL SERVICES

What do you think about the area you live in and the services provided to you? Please let us know. We will take on board any reasonable suggestions for services, which we either do not provide or are not within our remit and work with Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, Kent county Council and other organisations to bring about improvements to the village.

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Clerk, Karen Bell can be contacted on 01622 871309 (24 hour answerphone) or

email admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk. Office hours are posted on our notice board and on the Parish Office door. The Parish Office is located inside the Pound Road Methodist Building. 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.

EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCILLORS

The Parish Councillors are elected every four years, they are Lorraine Baseden, Peter Crawford (Chairman), John Crowley, Barbara Curry, Alan Gardner, Bill Gress, Jenny Macdonald, Louise Picknett, David Poole (Vice-Chairman), Peter Street and Terry Shead.

MEMBERS ALLOWANCES

The Parish Councillors are entitled to claim allowances. However the Councillors firmly believe that their role is to serve the community and they freely give up their time to do this. In January 2010, members unanimously agreed once again that they would not claim allowances.

THE CIVIC FUNCTION

The Parish Council plays an important civic role. Members attend the Annual Remembrance Day Service and the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and members represent the village at various events held throughout the year and have undertaken a number of local engagements. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman have also attended the Annual Kent Civic Service.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

We communicate through our website, through articles in the Parish Magazine and through articles in the local press. We appoint representatives to serve on a range of organisations and welcome views from residents and people working here on any aspect of village life.

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS & GROUPS

Councillor representation is as follows:

Kent Association of Local Councils	Peter Crawford & John Crowley
Action with Communities in Rural Kent	Peter Crawford
Village Hall Management Committee	Barbara Curry
East Peckham Playing Field Management	John Crowley & Bill Gress
Malling Age Concern	Peter Street
Allotment Panel	Alan Gardner & Jenny Macdonald
Village Tree Warden	Terry Shead
Community and Police Working Group	Alan Gardner & Peter Street
Emergency Planning	David Poole
Parish Partnership Panel	Peter Crawford
Village Transport Representative	Peter Crawford
Multi-Steering Flood Committee	David Poole
Tonbridge Crime Reduction Panel	Peter Street
Website	David Poole & Peter Street
Village Youth Panel	Jenny Macdonald & Lorraine Baseden
Parish Plan	Peter Street

COUNCILLOR'S DELIVERY AREAS

Each Councillor represents the village as a whole but for administrative purposes the village has been divided into areas and each member takes a specific interest in their allocated area. Members also deliver to each household a copy of the Annual Report and do a door-to-door poppy collection. The delivery areas allocated to members are as follows:

Borough Oak to Church Lane (Hale Street) incl. Hale Court & Bardsley Close	David Poole
Smithers Lane (incl. Pattenden Gardens, Hop Bine Close, Smithers Court, Hale Street (from Church Lane to Branbridges Road	Peter Street
Old Road to Rose & Crown including Strettitt Gardens & Pinkham	Alan Gardner
The Freehold (incl. Marvillion), Orchard Road & Crown Acres	John Crowley
Whitebine, Golding & Henham Gardens	Bill Gress
Fell Mead, Stockenbury, Bramley, Pippin and Russett Roads	Terry Shead
Pound Road (incl. The Old Dairy) & Snoll Hatch Road	Barbara Curry
Westwood & Drage Roads, William Luck Close, Cotman Way,	
Medway Meadows & Beltring Lane	Jenny Macdonald
Addlestead, Chidley Cross & Tonbridge Roads, Stilstead Farm	
& Caysers Croft	Peter Crawford
Bush Road, Bells Farm Road, Martins Lane, Stanford Lane	Louise Picknett
Church Lane, Hatches Lane & Bullen Lane	
Seven Mile Lane (incl. Court Lodge Farm & Court Lodge, Cottages, Forge Farm, Roydon Hall Road, Roydon Hall & Maidstone Road	Lorraine Baseden

THE COUNCIL AND ITS COMMITTEES

The full Council oversees all Council activities. We also have a Finance Committee and a Planning Committee. During 2009/10, there were 11 Parish Council meetings, 22 meetings of the Planning Committee and 2 meetings of the Finance Committee. No meetings are held in August. Meetings are held in the Methodist Old Church Hall and start at 7.30 p.m. Agendas for each meeting are posted on our notice board and on our website. Meeting dates are also included on our website and in the Parish Magazine. Members of the press and public are welcome to attend. Meetings of the full Council allow a short period of time for resident's questions.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

We adopted and maintain a publication scheme. A copy can be viewed and downloaded from our website.

RACE EQUALITY STATEMENT

The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 placed a general duty on us to promote race equality.

This means that in everything we do we have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful racial discrimination, the promotion of equal opportunity and good relations between people of different racial groups. Although we are not required to publish a Race Equality Scheme, we have approved a Race Equality Statement which can be viewed and downloaded from our website.

PLANNING

We are a statutory consultee and as such receive copies of each planning application for East Peckham and we comment appropriately on all applications. Our comments are passed to TMBC and KCC who take them into account when reaching planning decisions. We seek to ensure that new developments are in keeping with the architecture of the village and that highway and other issues are considered. We will continue to oppose the erection of communication masts where these are considered to be too close to residential areas and the Primary School, development within areas at high risk of flooding and voice our concerns with regard to pollytunnels.

PARISH COUNCIL FACILITIES

The Playing Fields, the Sports Hall, the toddlers play area, tennis court and the older children's play area and the outdoor fitness area are managed on our behalf by the East Peckham Playing Fields Committee. We also maintain small areas of amenity land at The Pound and the allotments. We pursue an active policy through direct action or grant aid measures to improve and enhance the general environment and condition of the village.

REGISTER OF ELECTORS

We would like to encourage all residents to ensure they are included on the electoral register for the parish. Not only will voting rights be protected but some of the funding we receive, is dependent upon the number of electors on the register.

PARISH COUNCIL CITIZENSHIP AWARD

The Citizenship Award is awarded to a pupil at the primary school who has demonstrated good citizenship. The 2009 award was presented to Joseph Hilder.

2009 CHRISTMAS LIGHTING

The Christmas lights continue to provide pleasure over the Christmas period. The Christmas tree whilst splendid when lit was a disappointment and the matter is being pursued with our contractors. The lights have been purchased and we hope they will provide many years continued use and enjoyment. Our thanks are extended to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, J Clubb Ltd, the Village Stores & Post Office, Milsted's Greengrocers, Gallery 136, and Brookside Garden Centre for assisting us in 2009.

2009 CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Many residents came out on a cold damp evening in early December 2009 to participate in the singing of Christmas carols around the Christmas tree. There was a surprise visit from Father Christmas who gave presents of chocolate and sweets to the children. Our thanks are extended to the Street Singers and the East Peckham Silver Band. During the evening there was a street collection and we are pleased to confirm that the amount raised for our two charities was £95.79,

£58.72 went to the Hospice in the Weald and £37.07 went to the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

COMMUNITY WARDEN

The Community Warden is identifiable in her distinctive uniform and plays a vital role in the village tackling problems such as fly-tipping, untaxed cars, antisocial behaviour, graffiti and building up links with residents and businesses. The Community Warden can be contacted on 07969 584183.

2009 POPPY APPEAL

The Councillors carry out door-to-door collections and local residents, the school, public houses and businesses also make collections. The amount raised was £2,821.70. Thanks to everyone who gave to the collection but especially to Anne & Brian Buckland for organising the local appeal.

PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk

Our website continues to grow and contains information such as Councillor details, meeting dates, agendas, minutes, diary, links to organisations, village news and details of local groups. We are grateful to David Poole and Peter Street who designed the website, mapping and artwork. David Poole ensures that the website is properly maintained and updated.

BEST VILLAGE FRONT GARDEN COMPETITION 2009

Each front garden is entered into the competition and prizes are awarded for the best gardens, hanging baskets and containers. Terry Shead, Peter Street and Bill Gress judged the competition and the overall winning garden was 136 Hale Street. A list of the prize-winners and photographs of the winning gardens can be found on our website. A small number of prizes have not yet been claimed, if you have won an award and not yet claimed your prize, please contact the Clerk.

2009 KENT VILLAGE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

Although we did not win a category the village was judged highly on many aspects of village life and achieved the following awards:

- Communications Runner Up
- Business Runner Up
- Sustainability Highly Commended
- Community Life Commended

The judges comments included, '***A very hardworking parish council and whoever responsible for their entry deserves a good pat on the back,looking at upgrading to broadband and offering free WIFI hotspots for locals and visitors, ...Website is extremely comprehensive with plenty of up to date and relative information, ...some good efforts going on – bash the trash, new fitness equipment and a good circular walk along the river.***'

PARISH NOTICE BOARD

The notice board situated in The Pound is for residents to advertise village notices and events. Residents are welcome to display advertisements but to avoid being cluttered it would be appreciated if posters could be removed as soon as an event has taken place. The notice board is not to be used for business advertising or for the sale of goods.

ALLOTMENTS AND ADOPT A GARDEN SCHEME

Allotments are provided on the triangle of land adjacent to the Playing Field. There are currently no vacant plots but we do have a waiting list. If you are interested, please contact the Clerk. Alternatively, rather than wait for an allotment to become available, our Adopt a Garden scheme may interest you. In return for the use of some land you could tend the garden of an elderly, disabled or infirm person. Please contact the Clerk if you would like to find out more and register your interest.

KENT FREE TREES SCHEME

During 2009, we supported the planting of a hedge at the Primary School in this respect; we joined forces with the East Peckham Playing Field Committee and the Primary School and submitted a combined application for the maximum number of hedging plants available. All applications were successful and the Primary School was able to acquire 75 hedging plants free of charge.

EAST PECKHAM PARISH PLAN

Thanks to funding from DEFRA and Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council the East Peckham Parish Plan will soon be published. The Parish Plan has been a village project and will include historical information and elements on the environment, health, flooding, community facilities, traffic, road safety, youth, highways, housing, leisure facilities and crime.

EAST PECKHAM RIVER WALK

This is an excellent walk starting and finishing in the village and takes you along a quiet stretch of the River Medway. The walk is about 3 miles long. The walk is fairly flat, some parts become muddy in the winter and there are a few steps up and down to the bridges that cross the river. Look out for the Man of Kent Pub, the River Bourne and the Hop Farm County Park. The walk takes you through a variety of fields, scrub and woodland. Maps and guides are available free of charge from the library and the Parish Office.

COMMUNITY PAYBACK

A new initiative started in the village in during 2009 whereby a Community Payback Team was assigned to the village by Kent Probation Services. The Community Payback Team work to deliver projects such as graffiti removal, vegetation clearance, painting, decorating, litter clearing, hedge clearing and minor grounds clearance and village maintenance work. The work has been valued at £8,945. The team was also featured on a Radio 4 programme on restorative justice. We hope to have a crew assigned to us again during 2010.

FINANCE

Our funds form a small part of the council tax and as we get no government grant we have every incentive to keep expenditure low and be economical. Our aim is to provide residents with value for money and we operate best value principles on a voluntary basis. We ensure that free and open competition is used where practicable and compare performance against others. We will ensure that services meet the needs of the local population and that they represent value for money. District Audit audits our accounts annually. Copies of our audited accounts for the year ended 31 March 2009 are available from the Parish Office or can be viewed and downloaded from our website. Our audited receipts and payments summary account for the financial year ended 31 March 2009 is as follows.

Receipts and Payments Summary Account for the year ended 31 March 2009

2007/2008 £		2008/2009 £
63,889	Balance brought forward	54,871
159,534	Total Receipts	97,019
30	Plus out of date cheques	206
168,582	Less Total payments	78,616
54,871	Balance Carried forward	73,480
Represented by		
250	Current account balance	731
42,709	Reserve account balance	63,820
13,692	Capital account balance	13,815
1,780	Less unrepresented cheques	4,886
54,871		73,480

RESERVES

At 31 March 2008, our reserves were £54,871. The total of our cash and investment holdings at 31 March 2009 was £73,480, taking into account our earmarked reserves of £15,601 our net reserves at 31 March 2009 were £57,879. We are required by District Audit to maintain our reserves at between 75%-100% of our precept level.

GRANTS TO HALLS AND OPEN SPACES

During 2009/10 we received £6,526 from Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, which we were obliged to allocate to halls and open spaces. The fund went towards the following projects:

East Peckham Village Hall	Renewal of village hall roof	£3,526
East Peckham Scout Group	Wheelchair access and external lighting	£500
Salvation Army	Funding towards storage facilities	£500
Playing Fields	Older Children's Play Equipment	£2,000

GRANTS RECEIVED DURING 2009/10

During the year we secured grants totalling £10,802 for the following:

£1,633	KCC	Village Bus Shelters
£1,633	TMBC	Village Bus Shelters
£560	TMBC	Christmas Lights (Pending)
£6,626	TMBC	Older children's play area
£350	Waitrose	Fitness equipment

DONATIONS TO VOLUNATARY GROUPS

Try Angle Awards	£50
British Tree Conservation Volunteer donation	£50
Royal British Legion donation	£100
Kent Men of Trees	£25
Tonbridge & Malling Citizens Advice Bureau	£50
Samaritans	£50
Kenward Trust	£50

FUNDING

The Parish Council receives funds from three sources:

1. Grants

During 2010/11 we anticipate receiving a £560 grant from TMBC towards the Christmas Lights. Other grants will be applied for including a grant towards additional salt bins.

2. Financial Arrangements between the Borough and Parish Council

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council contributes towards our expenditure on concurrent functions i.e. playing fields, open spaces, churchyard, village halls and footway lighting. In 2010/2011 we will receive the sum of £12,551 to be allocated as follows:

	£
Village Halls/Playing Fields	6,434
Churchyards	4,577
Footway Lighting	1,540
TMBC, S136 TOTALS	12,551

3. The Parish Council Tax Charge (Precept)

In January 2010, the budget for 2010/11 was set at £85,846. Our precept is £73,295 (the 2009/10 precept was £71,542). The precept is the money, which is collected on our behalf from residential properties in the village by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council as part of the Council Tax. It covers items such as administration costs, equipment, litter clearing, grass cutting, sports hall maintenance, loan repayments, churchyard maintenance, CCTV, maintenance of the war memorial, Christmas lighting and street lighting. (Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council also meets some of our street lighting and churchyard expenses). Our budget for 2010/11 is as follows:

	£
Sports Hall Grant	12,000
Sports Hall Repair Fund	5,000
PWLB Loan Repayments	5,861
National Non Domestic Rates	5,000
Footway Lighting (additional to TMBC funding)	5,152
Election Expenses	0
Village Grass Cutting	890
Churchyard (additional to TMBC funding)	0
Administration	10,815
Staff Costs	16,320
Litter Clearing	1,071
S137 Free Resource	1,800
Contingency Fund	5,000
War Memorial	1,300
CCTV	1,071
Allotments	0
Garden of Rem'rance (additional to TMBC fund)	358
Community & Police Working Group	150
Chairman's Allowance	165
Members Expenses	200
Training	500
Christmas Lighting	2,142
2010/2011 Village Projects	3,500
Parish Council Charge	78,295
Less Contribution from Reserves	(5,000)
Parish Council Charge	73,295

How does the Parish Precept affect you?

The precept amount (£73,295) is divided by the 2010/11 council tax base 1,345.95 (the number of Band D equivalent properties in East Peckham) and added to your annual council tax bills as indicated by the amounts and ratios shown below:

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Band A (6/9)	£32.95	£35.46	£36.30
Band B (7/9)	£38.44	£41.37	£42.35

Band C (8/9)	£43.93	£47.28	£48.40
Band D (9/9)	£49.46	£53.19	£54.46
Band E (11/9)	£60.45	£65.01	£66.56
Band F (13/9)	£71.44	£76.83	£78.66
Band G (15/9)	£82.43	£88.65	£90.76
Band H (18/9)	£98.92	£106.38	£108.91

MAJOR PROJECTS COMPLETED DURING 2009/10

Completed projects during 2009/10 included the Installation of two bus shelters in Old Road, fitness equipment and older children's play equipment, we also provided funding towards, the Village Hall Roof Repairs, wheelchair access and external lighting at the Scout Hut, storage facilities at the Salvation Army Hall, funding towards the East Peckham War Memorial renovations, planting of the land at The Pound with spring and summer flowering bulbs and the installation of a uniquely designed village way marker.

PROJECTS FOR 2010/11

Our projects for 2010/11 include:

- ❖ The renovation of the East Peckham War Memorial
- ❖ Tree Surgery to some of the village trees
- ❖ Setting aside a fund towards village 2012 Olympic Events and the Queens Golden Jubilee

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

DOG WARDEN

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council's Dog Warden is contracted from Animal Wardens and is responsible for promoting responsible dog ownership, micro-chipping, fouling, lost and stray dogs, dangerous dogs and noisy dogs. The Dog Warden can be contacted on 01732 876181 or by email dog.warden@tmbsc.gov.uk.

DOG FOULING

Dog mess continues to be one of our biggest litter problems. We continue to receive complaints about dog fouling within the village. We all know that dog fouling is unpleasant, irresponsible and antisocial. We urge all dog owners to be responsible and clear up accordingly. Nobody wants to see, smell or step in dog mess and the solution is so simple – if all dog owners would just clear up after their dogs the problem would disappear. East Peckham is such a lovely village and it is a shame to see it blighted by a few irresponsible dog owners who cannot be bothered to help keep the area clean. Thankfully most people do clean up after their dogs but we want to send out a very clear message to the irresponsible few that fail to do so and that is that the Parish Council takes a 'zero tolerance' approach towards dog fouling and the details of anyone witnessed failing to clear up after their dog will be passed onto Tonbridge and Malling



Borough Council. It is an offence to allow dogs to foul the footways and there is no excuse as ample dog bins are provided throughout the village and we have a supply of bags, which are available to dog owners free of charge, from the Village Stores. If you observe anyone allowing their dog to foul the footways and who does not clear up please report the incident to the Clerk, a Parish Councillor, the Community Warden or Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council's dog warden.

STREETLINE – SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT FOR STREET SCENE PROBLEMS

Streetline is Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council's single point of contact for reporting street scene related problems. Streetline can be contacted on 01732 876060.

STREET MONITOR

This scheme was set up as an opportunity for residents to help improve their local area. Street Monitors are volunteers who report issues such as littering, dog fouling, fly tipping and graffiti to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council for action. Monitors benefit from regular meetings allowing them to network and discover what can be expected of the borough council and its partners. For more information, please contact Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council's Waste Services on 01732 876147 or email waste.services@tmbc.gov.uk.

RECYCLING

Recycling sites are located at Brookers Oast, Somerfield and The Harp Public House.

LITTER

We are grateful to our volunteer litter wardens for making the effort to keep the village litter free. We would like to specifically thank Brian Lloyd who looks after Hale Street. In an attempt to keep the village tidy, we would like to encourage all residents to look after and keep the areas in front of their homes litter free. This need not be onerous and a little bit of effort will help create a tidy village. Litter builds up in the residential areas between visits of the Borough Council's cleansing service and in order to supplement this service we have a paid litter warden and would like to acknowledge the efforts of Mr Peter Hartley here and thank him for his work.

FLY-TIPPING

Householders are asked to work with Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council to combat fly tipping by ensuring that rubbish is dealt with properly and responsibly. The disposal of household waste into public litterbins is considered to be fly tipping. Fly-tipping will be treated as a crime, which can lead to enforcement actions being taken leading to a maximum fine of £50,000 or up to a five year prison sentence.

BULKY REFUSE

For the free disposal of bulky household refuse, a refuse freighter visits the Sports Hall car park twice monthly. Bulky waste can also be disposed of free of charge at one of Kent County Council's Household Waste Recycling Centres. Alternatively, for a small charge Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council will collect bulky items.

TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

It is up to all of us to play our part and the following are just some things which we can all do:

- ❖ Switching lights off when not in a room
- ❖ Putting on an extra layer of clothing rather than turning up the heating
- ❖ Walk or cycle wherever possible
- ❖ Not buying products with excess packaging
- ❖ Not accepting shop issued plastic carrier bags
- ❖ Converting standard light bulbs to low energy ones
- ❖ Using drought resistant plants
- ❖ Using energy saving appliances
- ❖ Double glazing (not listed buildings) or fixing draught excluders
- ❖ Shop locally and support local farmers markets and producers

KENT HERITAGE TREES PROJECT

The conservation charity British Tree Conservation Volunteers is applying to the Heritage Lottery Fund to run a 5 year Kent Heritage Trees Project. The proposed initiative will help promote, protect and conserve heritage trees within Kent. Volunteers are needed and free equipment; training and advice will be given to anyone who would like to get involved. BTCV will also be running many community events for people to interpret and celebrate trees in their local landscape – these will range from wildlife courses, guided walks, talks, conservation tasks, open days, tree planting, visits to historic parks, heritage tree trails, photographic events and more. If you would like to express an interest, please contact Virginia Hodge, BTCV, Singleton Environment Centre, Wesley School Road, Ashford, Kent, TN23 5LW, Tel 01233 666519 or email v.hodge@btcv.org.uk, website: www.btcv.org.uk.

CREATING AREAS FOR NATURE – NEW GUIDE TO CREATING WILDLIFE HABITATS

Why not try creating a pond or tree planting, composting, building raised beds, making boggy areas or building bird or bat boxes. Any piece of ground can be transformed into a haven for wildlife whether it is at a school in a community space in your back garden or even on a rooftop. No matter how much space you have available you will find ideas that can be adapted to suit your needs. Across the county, Kent's Countryside Partnerships supported by Kent County Council the Kent Eco-Schools Project and the London Borough of Bexley has collaborated to produce a guide on behalf of the Kent Biodiversity Action Plan. The guide takes the form of an online series of PDF information sheets that provide a step by step guide to creating wildlife habitats in your garden or grounds. As well as helping with the practical side of creating nature areas it also includes information on the kinds of wildlife you can expect to attract, planning tips and lots of useful links for further reading and information, Health and Safety information is also included. The pack is available at www.kentbap.org/creatingareasfornature. Email cmp@kent.gov.uk with your ideas on how you could improve your garden or grounds for wildlife and you will receive a packet of free poppy seeds. For further details, please email cmp@kent.gov.uk or telephone 01322 294727.

HIGHWAYS AND FOOTWAYS

HIGHWAYS

Although we are not a Highways Authority, we recognise that highways issues are of considerable concern to local residents. Kent Highway Services is responsible for highways matters but we take an active interest in highway issues advising them of matters of local interest and concern. During 2008/09 we have raised a number of issues with Kent Highway Services including road safety, speeding, speed limits, the resurfacing of roads, potholes, ponding, vandalism to traffic signs, fly posting, Hale Street traffic calming, overgrown vegetation, the exit at Somerfield Stores, the railings along Branbridges Road and the junction of Hale Street with the Bypass at Brookside Roundabout. It is the responsibility of Kent Highway Services to look after and ensure the effective use of roads, pavements and cycle ways. If you have any concern regarding highway services, you can contact Kent Highways Services on 08458 247 800 or email kent.highwayservices@kent.gov.uk.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

Kent County Council is responsible for ensuring the effective use of public rights of way. If you have any concerns with the public rights of way in and around the village you are advised to contact the county council with full details such as location, footpath number if known and the nature of the problem. Kent County Council advises that the overgrown vegetation bordering the public rights of way will be cut back twice each year regardless of any fluctuations to the growing season. To report a problem with a public right of way, please telephone 0845 3450210.

EAST PECKHAM PATH RANGERS

East Peckham's paths need your help. Although overgrown hedgerows are a blessing for insects, birds and wild animals for walkers it can mean stung legs, pricked arms, wet clothing and generally difficult progress along overgrown routes. Of course we do not expect trimmed perfection however some judicious pruning here and there will be welcomed. When out and about, why not pop some secateurs in your pocket and make use of them whenever you feel the need. If you come across anything more seriously wrong with any path please let us know. We have built a good relationship with Kent County Council Public Rights Of Way and we can get problems notified to them for action – matters of public safety get highest priority. An innovation for 2010 is our 'slash' initiative. A number of you had reported overgrown paths in 2009 which we tried to deal with on a reactive basis; this year we intend to be proactive and get out there and nip the brambles and nettles in the bud on the better used paths. If you have any suggestions for 'slashing' venues then so much the better.

USEFUL INFORMATION

EAST PECKHAM DAM

The dam has been designed to protect homes from flooding from the Coult Stream. The dam can store over 80,000 cubic metres of floodwater from the Coult Stream catchment area even during the most extreme storms.

WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO HELP YOUR COMMUNITY IN AN EMERGENCY?

Do you have a 4 Wheel Drive? Would you be willing to deliver sandbags to those in need? Do you have a generator? Do you have skills, which could be called on in an emergency? If so and you would be willing to assist and help your community in an emergency please contact the Clerk. We have a Parish Emergency Plan, copies of which are available from the Clerk.

FLOOD WARNING PLAN

We operate a flood warning system. The warning system is used to warn residents if river flooding is expected and to obtain sandbags or assistance from the Borough Council. The scheme applies only to main river flooding and is not designed to cope with flash flooding of ditches etc, which are caused from an intense and sudden downpour. Residents in areas at risk from flooding can also sign up to the Environment Agency's free floodline service by calling 0845 988 1188 to receive advance flood warnings direct by telephone, mobile, email, SMS text message, fax or pager.

SANDBAGS

The sandbag containers are located at the Sports Hall Car Park and the Pound Road Car Park. Sandbags will be issued in an emergency situation which is usually when a flood warning reaches level 2 of if a property is facing an immediate threat of flooding. Sandbags will not be issued for householders to stockpile unless there is a threat of flooding. Residents are advised that in the first instance they should be taking precautions to protect their own property. Keys to the sandbag containers are held by the Parish Council, TMBC and Kent Highways. If sandbags are required urgently, in the first instance contact the Clerk on 01622 871309/01892 835552, the Parish Councils Chairman on 01622 872238 or another Parish Councillor. In an emergency please telephone 075354 81759.

PREPARING FOR MAJOR EMERGENCIES – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council has a responsibility to maintain plans to cope with the effects of a major emergency such as flooding, pandemic flu or a major accident. TMBC also has a responsibility to carry out exercises based on the plans and to train staff in their response. There are things that as individuals we can do to be prepared for a major emergency situation and the Government has produced a booklet 'Preparing for Emergencies' and set up a website to provide information and guidance to all households (www.preparingforemergencies.gov.uk). The guide suggests that you find out:

- ❖ Where and how to turn off water, gas and electricity supplies to your home
- ❖ The emergency procedures for your children at school
- ❖ The emergency procedures at your workplace
- ❖ How your family will stay in contact in the event of an emergency
- ❖ If any elderly or vulnerable neighbours might need your help
- ❖ How to tune into your local radio station

THE PARISH MAGAZINE

The Parish Magazine is published monthly and contains news and information about a wide range of village activities. Copies cost 45p each and are available from a team of volunteer distributors, the Post Office, Library or Newsagent. For further information, the editor Clare Duffield can be contacted on 01622 873492.

EAST PECKHAM LIBRARY

The village is fortunate to have the library. As well as books the library has computers, free Internet access, word processing and other facilities. Please make use of this facility.

A BRIDGE OVER THE STREAM - By Margaret Lawrence

Copies of this popular book written to celebrate the Parish Council's centenary are still available at £5.00 each from the Clerk. All proceeds go to the Primary School.

BONFIRES

A bonfire can be a convenient way of dealing with a large amount of waste and it is often the most practical and environmentally friendly way to dispose of dried garden waste. When having a bonfire, remember that bonfires and barbeque parties can cause noise as well as smoke. Follow these guidelines and the chances are you won't annoy your neighbours or cause a nuisance:

- ❖ Warn your neighbours – they are less likely to complain
- ❖ Burn dry material; don't burn household rubbish, tyres, plastic, foam or paint
- ❖ Never use engine oil, meths or petrol to light the fire
- ❖ Avoid lighting a fire in unsuitable weather conditions
- ❖ Avoid burning at weekends and on bank holidays
- ❖ Avoid burning when air pollution in the area is high or very high

FIREWORKS

Safety and Control

Watching fireworks is popular and fun but they are explosives and burn at high temperatures so need careful handling and storage. Laws are in place to govern their use, possession and how they are stored and sold. The law helps to ensure that fireworks are safer to use and tackles their misuse. The Department for Trade and Industry website www.dti.gov.uk/fireworks/index.htm has a series of web pages relating to firework safety and control.

Noise nuisance from fireworks

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council have a duty to take such steps that are reasonably practicable to investigate a complaint of noise nuisance made by a person living in its area. If on the basis of those investigations TMBC is satisfied that a statutory nuisance exists, or is likely to occur or recur, or the noise is prejudicial to health, they are obliged to serve an abatement notice to secure the abatement of the nuisance. In practice Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council will usually seek to resolve complaints by negotiation and agreement, resorting to formal action only if it becomes clear that an informal approach is unlikely to be fruitful.

DOMESTIC USE OF WATER

Each household uses about 165 litres of water a day. Here are some ways you can save water:

- ❖ Don't leave taps running and fix dripping taps
- ❖ Shower instead of bathing
- ❖ Don't wash and peel vegetables under a running tap
- ❖ Always have a full load in your washing machine and dishwasher
- ❖ Have a water butt in your garden to collect rainwater
- ❖ Water directly around roots of plants and in the late afternoon or evening
- ❖ Low & dual flush toilets use water more efficiently, by installing a 'hippo bag' you can save 1 – 2 litres of water each time you flush.

KENTCARSHARE

This scheme is available to anyone living and working in Kent and is where two or more people share a car and travel together. It allows people to benefit from saving money whilst helping reduce problems such as congestion and pollution. Kentcarshare is a free, simple, secure scheme that enables you to register your car journey and find others to share the costs. Further information is available via the website www.kent.gov.uk/carshare; this is a free secure Internet based service. The Kentcarshare service allows you to register your journeys and find passengers or drivers to share regular or one off journeys.

KENT HANDYVAN SERVICE

Handyvan provides and fits a range of safety and security products in older people's homes, including; smoke alarms, door chains, mortice locks, mortice bolts, window locks, door viewers, locks available for uPVC doors and windows. This is a FREE service (subject to charitable criteria). For further information visit www.helptheaged.org.uk, call 0845 026 1055 or email handyvan@helptheaged.org.uk or contact the KCC Community Safety Unit via email communitysafetyunit@kent.gov.uk or telephone 01622 221106.

DO YOU NEED HELP GETTING AROUND?

Are you without a car, disabled, elderly or find public transport difficult? There are nearly 100 volunteer transport schemes in the county who may be able to help you get out and about ... to the shops, to health centres and to meet others. There could be a scheme to suit you. For more information log onto www.ruralkent.org.uk and click on 'our work' then 'rural transport' or telephone Action with Communities in Rural Kent on 01303 813 790.

COACH HIRE

Kent Top Travel is a trading division of Kent Top Temps Ltd a wholly owned subsidiary of Kent County Council. They run bus services and offer a range of vehicles for private hire a number of which are wheelchair accessible. Kent Top Travel offers private hire services to businesses, groups, individuals and schools taking passengers on local trips and further afield. The vehicles used are all regularly maintained to meet strict legal requirements and drivers are trained in passenger safety and they all work within European driving hour's regulations. Further information can be obtained by emailing enquires@kenttoptravel.co.uk or telephone 01622 605935.

Anti Social Behaviour

Communities which are confident that anti-social behaviour will be tackled effectively are stronger and more secure. Anti-social behaviour means a wide range of unacceptable activity and includes things like vandalism, graffiti and fly-posting, nuisance neighbours and intimidating groups taking over public spaces. Anti-social behaviour can ruin lives and create an environment where more serious crime can take hold. Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, the police and social landlords all have strong and effective powers to deal with anti-social behaviour problems. If you want to report anti-social behaviour you should contact the police (Please remember to only use 999 in an emergency which is defined as when a crime is happening, when someone suspected of a crime is nearby or when someone is injured, being threatened or in danger) and/or Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council. Alternatively if you want to remain anonymous you can pass on information about crimes to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or via www.crimestoppers-uk.org.

You have a right to expect the police, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council and other agencies to make tackling anti-social behaviour a priority and to respond professionally. But community support can also play an important role and working with local agencies you can help them take successful action against anti-social behaviour. You can help the police and other agencies to tackle problems by reporting anti-social behaviour when you see it. By playing an active role in your community you can really make a difference and create a place where anti-social behaviour is tackled and not tolerated.

FREE home energy report to help save money on energy bills

Kent County Council has joined forces with the Energy Saving Trust to offer you a free and impartial personalised home energy report. The report will show how you can keep your house warm and how you can save around £340 on your fuel bills by providing energy saving advice. To get your free personalised home energy report simply complete your home energy check online at energysavingtrust.org.uk/check. Your report will indicate how energy efficient your home is on a scale of A-G. The most energy efficient homes will be in the lowest bands A-C. The report will also give practical advice on how you can save energy to improve your homes rating and lower fuel bills. If you would like to find out more about how to increase energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions log you interest by emailing climate.change@kent.gov.uk and Kent County Council will get in touch to discuss the support available. Alternatively log onto Kent.gov.uk/climatechange where you can download a toolkit containing lots of tips and advice.

Who is looking after your home? Do you commute? Are you out at work all day/night? Going away on holiday? or Do you have anyone elderly or disabled living at your address?

If so you might be interested in the service offered by Kent Keylink Ltd. Kent Keylink Ltd provides you with a secure customised police callout procedure should anything untoward happen to your business premises or home in your absence. The emergency services will have immediate and secure access to the information you have provided. Kent Police will carry out your incident management instructions either by calling your nominated key holders and/or contacting your trade service nominees should emergency repairs be needed. To find out more visit the website www.kentkeylink.co.uk or telephone 01622 636326.

CALLING ALL VILLAGE GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS

This year at the Annual Parish Meeting we would like to give you the opportunity to give a short presentation about your group or organisation. If you would be interested in making a presentation of about five minutes in duration, please contact the Clerk on 01622 871309 or email admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk.

OVER TO YOU

We hope you and your visitors will find this publication interesting, informative and entertaining and our grateful thanks go to all those who have contributed. Did you find the format of this annual report useful? Is there anything else you would have liked us to have included? Do you have any ideas or suggestions for which services should receive further funding and those, which you feel, should be reduced if so then please let us know. To comment, become involved or for further information please contact admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk.

Report of the Emergency Planning Group

With the recent wet weather we once again have discovered that the routine maintenance of our highway drainage system just doesn't keep our drains working properly. We have notified Kent Highways of the deficiencies that we have noticed and will press them to implement a more rigorous maintenance schedule in future. In February 2002 this Group called together all the Agencies with any connection to flooding in the village. This was the birth of the Multi-Agency Steering Group which gave us our dam on the Coult's Stream. Therefore it was gratifying to read in the Borough Council's "Here and Now" that the lessons learned by the Multi-Agency approach to flooding used here have been applied to solve similar problems in Aylesford.

The Parish Council has arranged for stocks of sandbags to be kept in the village and these will be distributed appropriately if flooding is deemed to be imminent. Residents are reminded that they should take adequate steps to protect their property from flooding and should not rely entirely upon the Parish Council.

The Environment Agency operates a telephone Flood Warning Service for those properties considered to be in the flood-plain. This system has four stages,

- Flood Watch : Flooding is possible
- Flood Warning : Flooding is likely
- Severe Flood Warning : Flooding is expected
- All Clear : Ends the state of alert for flooding

To enrol onto this Flood Warning System, telephone 0845 988 1188 and give them your details. If you try to enrol through their website you may find that your property is not considered to be in the flood-plain, and therefore not at risk! To clarify the Environment Agency system for telephone enquiry of their flood warning system, the following is the procedure:

Firstly dial 0845 988 1188 ; when presented with options take option1 and then key in straight away the "quick-dial code" for the stretch of the Medway of interest. The "quick-dial codes" are:

012641 - for the Middle Medway, 0126413 – for Leigh to Tonbridge and 0126414 – for Tonbridge to Hampstead Lock.

The Environment Agency's website (www.environment-agency.gov.uk) is a mine of information on flooding (and other things!) and well worth a visit.

Although the Parish Council is very pleased that the Environment Agency continue to take an interest in ameliorating flood risk in our area, the recent article in the Parish Magazine with respect to the River Bourne has misled some residents to believe that works are under way. The truth is that the Agency will start to consider what options are available at Little Mill and whether any of them can be justified on a cost/benefit basis. At that point (sometime in mid-2011, assuming no slippage) a decision will be made as to whether to proceed further or not.

Councillor David Poole
Chairman

REPORT FROM VILLAGE TREE WARDEN

What a bad spell of snow we had this winter, damaging many trees, plants and shrubs due to the heavy snow. It is always advisable where possible to brush or knock off snow as soon as possible; there will be a lot of pruning needed to tidy up the damage done.

Seen as previously little or no maintenance to trees in the village and playing field. This is due to the lack of funding at Kent County Council and Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council who would only do work on trees if there was a Health and Safety issue. The Parish Council has decided to have a budget to do a certain amount of work where urgently needed. Trees can get out of hand and ugly if not looked after.

In the village there have been many young saplings planted this Autumn/winter due to the availability of free trees from the Kent Free Trees Scheme which was open to all. The primary School took advantage of this and has planted a new hedge row.

This past summer we again had the village front garden completion which proved a little challenging for the judges due to adverse weather conditions. We wanted to be fair to everyone and so to judge fairly after the heavy rain and wind where so many plants and flowers were damaged judging was then done although a little later than originally planned.

The gardens are so varied with their schemes and contents that it was a real pleasure to judge. The standard was as usual very high which resulted in very strong prize winners. Anyone wishing to see the results and photographs can do so on the Parish Councils website.

We now look forward to the summer of 2010.

Regards

Terry Shead
Village Tree Warden

Report from the Playing Field Committee

Since the last Annual Meeting and my report in April 2009, the past year has been a reasonably positive one for the Sports Hall and playing field. The interior decoration of the sports hall, hallway and toilets was completed in July, and this has resulted in a much improved look to the amenities. This work was carried out in conjunction with the Community Payback Scheme and has proved to be very worthwhile and cost effective. With the labour being provided free of charge, the committee had only to supply the materials for the completion of the works. This was financed from EPPFC reserves.

The project to improve the Junior Play Park was finally completed in the summer. TMBC provided partial funding in the form of a grant, with the remainder of the funds coming from East Peckham Playing Field Committee reserves. Three new items of play equipment were installed with safety matting. These were chosen following a ballot of the older East Peckham Primary school children to determine the most popular.

The outdoor Adult Exercise Fitness equipment which has been installed in the area in front of the Hall entrance has proved to be a very popular project. The initial package consisted of five pieces of equipment, covering a range of aerobic and strength activities. The cost of the installation was met from East Peckham Playing Field Committee reserves. It was so enthusiastically received, that a further three pieces were put in to give a good all round circuit, covering all body areas. The equipment has been designed in a way that users can always work within their own limits. It also requires very little maintenance. As far as I am aware we are the only area in Kent with this provision, and in view of the current financial situation, being free to use, can save on costly gym fees. It is very well used and enjoyed by all age groups, in particular the older sector of our community.



With a good percentage of available time currently booked, Sports Hall use is in a fairly healthy state. There are however a few day time slots available for community use and our booking Secretary, Sara Pooley (873146), would be pleased to hear from residents or groups interested in using the facilities.

There has been a reduction in anti social behaviour at the playing fields and I hope that this will continue. However the incidence of dog fouling on the field and surrounding footpaths continues to be a problem. I can only appeal to owners to clean up after their dogs. It is but a small minority who continue to make it very unpleasant for others who use the facilities.

The committee will continue to seek opportunities to improve the facilities for the village and would be happy to receive suggestions from any residents with ideas.

John Crowley
Chairman East Peckham Playing Field Committee

EAST PECKHAM COMMUNITY & POLICE WORKING GROUP
2009 - 2010

The aims of the group are to provide a forum between the Parish Council, the Police, Community Warden, Housing Association, Retailers, Licensees, Playing Field Committee and representatives from our local organizations to improve communications between the relevant parties and to provide a strong, safe environment in our village.

Our current Community Policing team are P.C. Andy Sargeant, P.C.S.O Simon Liston and K.C.C, Community Warden Siobhan Mackay. Their telephone numbers are printed on the Kent Community Safety Partnership page.

I am pleased to report that thanks to the efforts and commitment of our Community Police Team the overall crime figures for the past year show a further reduction from the previous year with significant success in reducing all areas of crime including vandalism and anti social behaviour. However, underage drinking still remains an area of concern within the village.

This year we are keen to extend our Neighbourhood Watch Areas within the village and would therefore welcome volunteers to become Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators. Should you wish to hear more about the scheme please do not hesitate in contacting our Community Warden, Siobhan Mackay 07969 584183.

May I also urge all our community to be vigilant and responsive in matters of crime prevention and to aid our Police and Community Warden wherever possible to sustain and create an even safer and stronger village of East Peckham.

I would like to thank all members of the Group for their contributions and support during the year and in particular to Peter Street for his work as Secretary and also as our representative on the Tonbridge and Malling Crime Prevention Panel.

Alan Gardner
Chairman.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL COMMUNITY WARDEN - REPORT 2009 – 2010

First and foremost, many thanks for the genuinely warm welcome I have enjoyed, both from individuals and on behalf of community organisations, since my arrival in East Peckham. I consider myself extremely fortunate in my chosen community, both in terms of its multi-faceted nature, but mainly owing to the people I have met thus far. This report gives me a golden opportunity to address a fairly common enquiry, namely, '*what do Community Wardens do?*' It is a fair question, especially as peoples' perception and experience of our role is somewhat varied. Our overarching aim is to help 'create safer and stronger communities'; and our role in this is best defined by our core common objectives:

- Provide a **reassuring conspicuous presence** – I am often reminded that it is reassuring to see a uniformed presence in the neighbourhood; especially when there is an opportunity to speak to someone face-to-face.
- Promote **community solidarity** and encourage communities / neighbourhoods to identify and solve problems.
- Tackle **anti-social behaviour** - our objective, often working with other agencies, is to reduce if not eliminate it.
- Act as '**eyes and ears**' for other agencies – our frontline role puts us in an invaluable position to help inform other agencies of issues that require their specialist input e.g., Kent Highway Services, Trading Standards, Social Services.
- Be a **trusted friend** for the community - Over time a relationship develops between a Warden and their community. This happens on an individual basis and through participation in village activities e.g., reading support at the Primary School, Salvation Army Coffee Morning; involvement with Youth Groups (Cubs, Beavers, Scouts); & special events (Village Fete, School Play, Remembrance Sunday Parade & Service).
- Improve **access to local authority services** - Wardens are a useful first point of contact for information about local services. If we don't know enough to help on the spot, then we will endeavour to find out.
- Promote **social inclusion** - Stronger communities are those which are inclusive ones; where people do not become socially isolated, which may in turn make them more vulnerable or subject to loneliness and boredom.

Our website is a useful resource I would direct you to if you are interested in further information: www.kent.gov.uk/communitywardens.

I hold regular **surgeries** at the Library: every Wednesday (10.30 am – Noon); an Evening Surgery (first Monday of each month, between 7.30 pm – 9.00 pm) and a dedicated Youth Surgery (third Monday of the month, between 5.30 pm – 7.00 pm). Details of guests and their area of expertise are advertised in advance).

Alternatively, I am easily reached by **telephone** and **email** (siobhan.mackay@kent.gov.uk) if there is a matter that you wish to bring to my attention. In the near future, I plan to launch 'Grass

Roots' a Community Warden-managed **website**. It will deliver timely information on a range of issues; the under-pinning theme supporting KCC Community Wardens' philosophy of 'Creating Safer and Stronger Communities'.

Finally, may I reiterate my thanks to all of you who have made me feel as welcome and valued in my role as Community Warden for East Peckham.

Siobhan MacKay
KCC Community Warden
07969 584183

YOUTH PANEL REPORT 2009/10

This year the Youth Panel together with the help and support of the Parish Council has focussed attention on our teenagers.

For too long we feel they have been a rather neglected group. As we know, teens have quite specific needs, as well as significant limitations and restrictions in their everyday lives and these are so often overlooked or not fully appreciated by those who could make a difference.

Whilst government has invested serious money in the under 5's, we feel that little attention has been given to our teenagers who often find themselves at a loose end and sometimes because of this will get up to mischief or make a nuisance of themselves in their local community. We want to avoid this happening.

The reality for most teens is a fairly small home with only one family room, what this means is that in order to meet their friends the young need to go out. But where is there to go and what is there to do apart from simply hanging around?

Most of the organised leisure activities involve a cost, mobility and parent's time to transport but so often all that is wanted by our teenagers is somewhere they can meet up casually with their friends. In that endeavour we are currently working towards a state of the art teen shelter and ultimately a teen club.

Both Ryarsh and Snodland already have very successful and well established youth clubs so we are taking a good look at them with a view to creating our own within the not too distant future. We are expecting a certain amount of support and maybe funding from or via Kent County Council. So keep a look out in the Parish Magazine for further news and in the meantime any volunteers to help us in the process of setting up and running our own teen club will be very welcome. No special skills are required at this stage – only an interest.

JENNY MACDONALD
Email: rosevilla1@btinternet.com

LORRAINE BASEDEN
Email: Lorraine.baseden@tmbc.gov.uk

FUTURE USE OF THE EAST PECKHAM SPORTS HALL

The village is fortunate to have the use of the Sports Hall not only for sporting activities but also to serve the community with a variety of other uses.

At the moment the Sports Hall is used for 48% of the maximum hall hire available. We would like to extend its use further. Therefore we are currently reviewing the activities and facilities which are currently provided and looking at ways in which we can extend the use further. With this in mind we would value your help in responding to the following questions:

- 1) In what ways do you think the Sports Hall could be used to serve the community better? For example, community cafe, drop in centre, medical support services, after school clubs, party venue, farmers markets. Please specify**

- 2) If you use facilities in Paddock Wood, Larkfield, Tonbridge etc, and similar facilities were to be provided at the Sports Hall would you be more inclined to use the Sports Hall?**

- 3) What would you be willing to pay to use the facilities? Please specify per session, hourly, monthly or annually.**

- 4) Do you think the Sports Hall would benefit from a change of name, for example: East Peckham Community Centre? If so what would you suggest?**

- 5) If additional facilities were provided, would you be interested in helping to run them either in a part time or voluntary capacity? If so please include your name and address so that we may contact you.**

- 6) We would be interested in any other comments which you would like to make.**

Thank you for your help. Please post your response to Karen Bell, Clerk of East Peckham Parish Council, 4 Nettlestead Court, Maidstone Road, Paddock Wood, Tonbridge, Kent, TN12 6DB, or email your response to admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

East Peckham Parish Council	01622 871309
Cllr. Lorraine Baseden	01622 813743
Cllr. Peter Crawford (Chairman)	01622 872238
Cllr. John Crowley	01622 871821
Cllr. Barbara Curry	01622 872762
Cllr. Alan Gardner	01622 871888
Cllr. Bill Gress	01622 871228
Cllr. Jenny Macdonald	01622 871801
Cllr. Louise Picknett	01622 873481
Cllr. David Poole (Vice-Chairman)	01622 872163/872023
Cllr. Peter Street	01622 873470
Cllr. Terry Shead	01622 871250
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council	01732 844522
Borough Councillors Elizabeth Holland	01622871329
Howard Rogers	01732 850329
Kent County Council	01622 696965
County Councillor Richard Long	01732 360895
Hospitals	
Kent & Sussex (Tunbridge Wells)	01892 526111
Pembury	01892 823535
Maidstone	01622 290000
Hospice in the Weald	
NHS Direct	0845 4647
Dental Line	01892 517771
Emergencies	
Gas	0800 777 999
Electricity	0800 783 8866
Water (South East Water)	0845 850 6060
Waste Water (Southern Water)	0845 278 0845
Floodline (Environment Agency)	0845 988 1188
Services	
Woodlands Health Centre	01892 833331
East Peckham Surgery	01622 871540
Yalding Surgery	01622 814380
East Peckham Library	01622 871050
Putlands Veterinary Surgery	01892 835456
RSPCA (Cruelty Line)	0300 1234 999
Tonbridge Job Centre	01732 583700
Citizens Advice Bureaux	08701 264856
Police (Non Emergency)	01732 379232
Crime Stoppers	0800 555 111
Victim Support	01622 690103
Social Services	01892 515045
Trading Standards	08454 040506
Community Warden	07969 584183
Streetline	01732 876060
Kent Highway Services	08458 247800
Education	
East Peckham County Primary School	01622 871268
East Peckham Pre-School	01622 872931
Rainbow Pre-School	07905 915635/636
Mascalls	01892 835366
Paddock Wood Adult Education Centre	0845 606 5606

Religion	
C of E, Holy Trinity Rev Anthony Carr	01622 871278
The Methodist Church Rev Lynda Russell	01622 871332
The Salvation Army Mrs Joan Boyle	01622 871055
Roman Catholic Fr. Gallacher	01892 833699
Recreation & Social	
Allotments	01622 871309
Evergreens	01622 871593
Lunch Club	01622 873434
Women's Institute	01622 871303
Wednesday Allsorts	01622 872418
Ladies Pleasant Hour	01622 873030
East Peckham Club	01622 871339
United Choir	01622 871454
East Peckham Silver Band	01622 871820
Line Dancing	01622 813687
Ikkle Pikkles Toddler Group	01622 871478
Mini Music Makers	01892 835836
Historical Society	01622 872976
Gardeners Association	01622 871115
East Peckham Flood Group	01622 872344
Trainers Badminton Club	01622 871189
Short Mat Bowls Club	01622 871781
Apples Bowling Club	01622 871069
Rugby Club	01634 261601
Netball Club	01622 873485
Community & Police Working Group	01622 871888
East Peckham Scout Group (Beavers, Cubs and Scouts)	01622 871890
Brownies	01622 872418
Boys Brigade	01622 872372
Girls Brigade	01732 366671
Gym club	01892 835918
Hall Hire	
East Peckham Sports Hall & Playing Fields	01622 871309
The Village Hall	01622 871321
The Curran Hall & Methodist Hall	01622 872079
Media	
East Peckham Parish Magazine	01622 871817
Kent & Sussex Courier	01892 681000
Kent Messenger	01622 717880
BBC Radio Kent	01892 670000
KMFM	01732 369200
Hospital Radio (Tunbridge Wells)	01892 528528
Invicta FM	01227 772004
BBC South East	01892 675580
ITV Meridian	0844 881 4300
Travel	
National Rail Enquires	0845 748 4950
Eurostar	08705 186 186
Eurotunnel	08705 353 535
P & O	08716 645 645
Norfolkline	0870 870 1020
Transmanche Ferries	0800 917 1201
Airports	
Gatwick Airport	0870 000 2468
Heathrow Airport	0870 000 0123
Kent International Airport	01843 823 600

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR EAST PECKHAM HELD IN THE CURRAN HALL ON MONDAY 30 MARCH 2009 AT 19.30 HOURS

PRESENT: Councillors R. Bearman, P. Crawford (Chairman), J. Crowley, A. Gardner, B. Gress, D. Ireland, D. Poole (Vice-Chairman), T. Shead & P. Street, Mrs. K Bell (Parish Clerk) County Cllr. R. Long, Borough Cllrs. Mrs. E. Holland & H. Rogers, Mr. P. Beddoes (TMBC, Chief Environmental Health Officer), Ms. L. Baseden (TMBC's Dog Warden), Mr. M. Sherwood (Community Warden), Ms. S. West & Ms. S. Wheeler (KCC Libraries), PC. A. Sergeant, PCSO. S. Liston & 47 residents

APOLOGIES: Received and accepted from Cllr. Mrs. J. Macdonald

The Chairman of the PC, Councillor Peter Crawford opened the meeting. He welcomed all present and introduced the Parish Councillors and guest speakers.

1. MINUTES OF THE 2008 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Copies of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 02 April 2008 were circulated within the 2008/09 Annual Report. They were agreed and signed by PC's Chairman.

2. MATTERS ARISING: There were none

3. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr. Crawford presented the Annual Report, which had been distributed to all households. Attention was drawn to following:

- Specific items within the report
- Those present were advised that the Hop Farm had revised its plans for the music event, which would be held during July 2009.
- The Parish Council had done its utmost to keep the level of the 2009/10 parish precept low especially in the current economic situation
- Questions on the Annual Report were invited. There were no questions at this stage of the meeting.

Cllr. Crawford introduced Ms. S. West from KCC Libraries and invited her to address the audience. Ms. West presented the Annual Report for East Peckham Library. It was noted that the newly refurbished facilities had been well received, the launch event had been successful, the number of issues had increased substantially and many children had participated in the 2008 summer book reading challenge.

Cllr. Crawford thanked Ms. West and her colleague Ms. Wheeler for attending and stated how fortunate East Peckham was to have its own library. Cllr. Crawford then introduced PC. A. Sergeant and PCSO. S. Liston and invited them to address the audience.

PC. Sergeant provided an overview of police activity within the village over the past year

with the welcome news that statistically there were very few criminal incidents in East Peckham. A question was put regarding the Harp PH; PC Sergeant responded by confirming that no offences were being committed and that the police were being proactive in ticketing illegally parked cars near the premises.

Cllr. Crawford thanked PC. Sergeant and PCSO. Liston for everything they were doing to keep East Peckham a safe place to live. Cllr. Crawford then introduced Ms. L. Baseden (TMBCs Dog Warden) and invited her to address the audience.

Ms. Baseden provided an overview on what was being done to combat dog fouling and confirmed that TMBC had adopted a zero tolerance approach to those caught allowing dogs to foul. Attention was drawn to the recently held Dog Awareness Day, which received much publicity. Ms. Baseden confirmed that it was hoped that another event would be held during the summer months.

Cllr. Crawford thanked Ms. Baseden for attending the meeting and for everything she was doing to combat dog fouling within the village. Cllr. Crawford then introduced County. Cllr. R. Long and invited him to address the audience.

Cllr. Long drew attention to the following:

- Kent Highways Services. He was working with the PC and KHS to bring about service improvements.
- Funding. His County. Cllr funding had contributed towards two local projects namely a disabled access at the Scout Hut and the new bus shelters in the village centre. County Cllr Long also emphasized that KCC had funded the refurbishment of the East Peckham library.
- The freedom bus passes for 11 — 16 year olds.
- Icelandic Deposits. Cllr Long explained that whilst the money had not been lost it could not be accessed and that KCC was a preferred creditor.

Cllr. Crawford thanked County Councillor Long not only for attending the meeting but also for being very supportive of the Parish Council. Cllr. Crawford then introduced Borough Councillors Mrs. E Holland and Mr. H Rogers and invited them to address the audience.

Mr. Rogers advised that the Hop Farm had occupied his time recently and that he was heavily involved in making sure that TMBC were taking the correct action with regard to unauthorized development at the Hop Farm. Mr. Rogers also mentioned that he had coordinated the village representation against The Hop Farms recent License Application. Cllr Crawford thanked Mr. Rogers for being supportive of the Parish Council.

4. PRESENTATION OF THE BILLY CAN AWARDS

Mrs. Joan Boyle & David Boyle were invited to present the 2009 Billy Can Shields, which were awarded, to Mrs. Vivian Corke and Mr. Simon Grainger. Both recipients were delighted to receive their awards and made short acceptance speeches.

5. GUEST SPEAKERS

Cllr. Crawford welcomed the guest speakers who were Mr. P Beddoes (TMBCs Chief Environmental Health Officer) and Mr. M Sherwood (Community Warden) Mr. Beddoes took the floor first and thanked the Parish Council for inviting him to be guest speaker. Mr. Beddoes presented a fascinating talk on recycling, waste and street litter and drew specific attention to the following issues:

- Excellent borough wide recycling statistics.
- Excellent recycling facilities with the T & M area
- Bulky refuse freighter service. Following TMBC consideration the fortnightly service would continue.
- Plastic Recycling. Only plastic bottles (of any shape) could be disposed of through TMBC plastic bottle recycling banks.
- It was noted that the income generated from plastic recycling did not cover the costs of providing plastic recycling facilities whereas the costs of recycling paper and cardboard were fully met from recycling.
- Countywide, TMBC had the second lowest refuse costs (£1.1 M) but were the second highest recycler.
- The majority of residents were happy with the waste services provided by TMBC.
- East Peckham residents were thanked for the conscientious recycling efforts.
- TMBC had adopted a zero tolerance approach to anyone caught either littering or allowing their dog to foul public areas.
- Flytippers would be prosecuted if caught.
- Glass recycling facilities were at present aspirational.

Mr. Beddoes concluded his talk by taking questions. He then thanked the Parish Council for its positive working relationship with his department and stated that he and his colleagues had been pleased to assist in the Bash the Trash Event, the Dog Awareness Day and with Community Payback. Mr. Beddoes did however hope that some residents from East Peckham would consider becoming street monitors.

Cllr Crawford thanked Mr. Beddoes for attending the meeting and took the opportunity to congratulate TMBC for the service delivered to East Peckham. Cllr. Crawford then introduced Mr. M Sherwood (Community Warden).

Mr. Sherwood thanked the Parish Council for inviting him to be one of the guest speakers and proceeded to provide an overview of the role of the community warden within a village, the role of the response team and how to contact him. Mr. Sherwood advised that the new permanent warden would be taking over from him in May.

Cllr Crawford thanked Mr. Sherwood for helping to make East Peckham a safe and pleasant place to live and work.

6. RESIDENTS QUESTIONS

There were no questions, however:

- a. The Parish Council received praise for the following:
 - Sports Hall Car Park repairs
 - For keeping the Parish Precept low
 - For producing an excellent Annual Report
 - For including the minutes of the 2008 minutes in the 2008/09 Annual Report
- b. A resident stated that East Peckham was fortunate to have people in the village such as the Parish Councillors and the Parish Clerk who worked hard to improve the quality of life for all residents.

7. Close of meeting

Before closing the meeting Cllr. Crawford hoped that everyone would stay for tea and coffee and proceeded to thank the following:

- Mr and Mrs. Buckland for coordinating the village poppy appeal
- The volunteer litter clearers, especially Mr B Lloyd
- The children who had participated in the annual Bash the Trash event
- The Clerk, Karen Bell
- The Parish Councillors
- The Guest Speakers
- County Councillor Richard Long
- Borough Councillors Elizabeth Holland and Howard Rogers
- Lorraine Baseden, TMBCs Dog Warden
- The 47 residents who had attended the meeting
- The Boys Brigade for assisting the Parish Council in providing teas and coffees

There being no additional business, the meeting concluded at 21.00 hours.