

EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO 4

01 January 2013

This is the fourth of our monthly newsletters, a new initiative to inform the community of East Peckham of our current activities. We are delighted with the positive feedback we have received and pleased that the newsletter is being so well received. Feedback good or bad is always appreciated so please do keep sending us your comments.

CASUAL VACANCY

There were 3 applications for the vacancy; all 3 candidates presented very good submissions. Whilst the Parish Council understands that we have a remit to act as soon as possible to fill the vacancy members want to make sure that the right person is co-opted and therefore all 3 candidates have been invited to meet with members on 07 January 2013. A decision is expected to be made that day and the name of the person co-opted will be announced in the next newsletter.

POST OFFICE, PROPOSED MOVE TO PREMISES AT 1/3 ORCHARD ROAD, EAST PECKHAM

During the month we learnt of the proposed move to new premises and branch modernisation of the post office. If the move goes ahead subject to consultation and the appointment of a new operator it will change to one of the new local style branches. This means that the majority of Post Office products and services will still be available, that Post Office services will be offered from tills on the retail counter in a modern open plan branch and there will be longer opening hours. On 05 December 2012, the Post Office opened a consultation period which will end on 28 January 2013. Further details are available from the Parish Office, the Post Office, the Library, by Email to comments@postoffice.co.uk, by telephone to the Customer Helpline 08457 223344, by Text phone to 08457 223355 or by visiting the website www.postoffice.co.uk.

PLANNING: This month we have submitted the following comments to Tonbridge and Malling BC.

TM/12/03407/FL Change of use of (A3) restaurant to two dwellings including alterations to building and external areas at 53 Old Road, East Peckham **NO OBJECTION**

TM/12/03514/FL Retention of single storey extension with amended roof design for use as a home office/study at 62 Pound Road, East Peckham **NO OBJECTION**

TM/12/03524/RD Reserved details application for condition 2, details of landscaping scheme submitted pursuant to planning permission TM/11/03217/FL (Change of use of land to the rear of public house from garden to short term touring caravan site for 5 caravans and alterations to outbuildings to provide toilet/shower room with waste disposal facilities) at the Bush, Blackbird and Thrush, 194 Bush Road, East Peckham **NOTED**

TM/12/03561/FL S73 application to remove condition 4 of planning permission TM/11/02522/FL (Proposed phased site redevelopment involving the demolition and replacement of 2 no. Warehouse/workshop/office buildings) at Land North of River Medway, Branbridges Road, East Peckham **NO OBJECTION**

PLANNING APPEALS: An appeal has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate against TMBC's refusal to grant permission in respect of the following:

TM/12/01944/FL Erection of two storey side extension to provide garage, WC and dining room to ground floor and two bedrooms, a bathroom and an ensuite to the first floor (Resubmission of TM/12/00482/FL) at 12 Whitebine Gardens, East Peckham

PLANNING DECISIONS

TMBC has **APPROVED** the following:

TM/12/02802/FL Pitched roof over existing flat roof to canopy/roof of entrance at 24 Crown Acres, East Peckham

MOBILE HOME ON LAND ADJACENT TO THE ROSE & CROWN PUBLIC HOUSE AND THE ROSE AND CROWN PUBLIC HOUSE, BRANBRIDGES ROAD

We are aware that these issues are the cause of much concern. We share that concern. The Rose and Crown issue is compounded by the fact that it is in private ownership and the retention of the mobile home is a planning enforcement matter. We have it on good authority that the bricks have been arranged in such a manner so as to act as a deterrent to potential trespassers onto the land. Nevertheless, we have insisted in the strongest possible terms to both KCC and TMBC that these matters are resolved at the earliest possible opportunity.

PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE MEADOWS CAMPAIGN

Medway Valley Countryside Partnership (MVCP) are taking part in a national funding bid to the Heritage Lottery fund with the aim of conserving and restoring wild flower meadows. If the bid is successful, MVCP will be able to provide support to landowners and communities to improve wild flower meadows for conservation, including access to seeds, machinery hire, access to grants and community events. The area around East Peckham has been chosen as an area to target, and if MVCP secures funding, they will be able to concentrate efforts for 3 years on improving wildflower meadows. So that the bid has the greatest chance of succeeding more information and support is needed from landowners, communities and interested groups. With this in mind two questionnaires have been created. MVCP need as many responses as possible in order to provide evidence for the bid and they would like to involve the community more in visiting and helping with their wildflower meadows, especially families and children and need to find out what would encourage them to get involved. If you would like to find out more please write to Medway Valley Countryside Partnership, 3 Lock Cottages, Lock Lane, Maidstone, ME14 3AU, or telephone 01622 683695 or Email medwayvalley@kent.gov.uk.

REDEVELOPMENT OF MARVILLION COURT

On 12 December 2012, Cllrs. Mrs Graham & Miss Watson attended a meeting of TMBC's Area 2 Planning Committee, where Cllr. Mrs Graham spoke. The decision of the Committee was to grant planning approval subject to conditions.

LOCALISM

We are studying the Localism Act and the Government's Open Public Services agenda, both of which aim to devolve more power and decision making to Parish Councils. We are keen to promote good practice and will be identifying areas where we can put "Localism in action" and where the new legislation will allow us to act for the benefit of the village. We will also be considering the strategic direction for East Peckham over the next 5 – 10 years. If you would like to share your thoughts on this subject we would be very pleased to hear from you.

JUBILEE HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS

East Peckham is fortunate to have some splendid halls including our own Jubilee Hall which comprises of a Sports Hall and Meeting Room. Activities taking place each week include keep fit, Zumba, French, gym, Tai Chi, badminton, bowls, Mini Music, Parent & Toddlers, Carers Group and the Children's Centre. East Peckham Juniors use the football pitches and there is play equipment for all ages. If you are looking for a venue for a sports event, book club, birthday party or a meeting then please contact our Clerk who will provide details of availability and can arrange for you to have a tour of the facilities.

ALLOTMENTS

There are currently a few vacant plots on the East Peckham Allotments (adjacent to the Playing Fields), if you are interested in having an allotment please contact our Clerk.

DOG FOULING

We continue to receive complaints about dog fouling and dogs off leads especially on the playing fields and within the vicinity of the Primary School. Dog fouling is nasty, unpleasant, irresponsible and antisocial. We would urge you to notify us, the borough council's dog warden or the community warden if you witness any incidents of dog fouling. We do have dog bags in the parish office which we are happy to provide free of charge.

PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

Each month we hold a surgery, the next one will be on 16 January 2013 between 10.30 a.m. – 12.00 p.m. in the Library.

VILLAGE TREES

- We are disappointed to report that the French Oak gifted to the village by the village of Chereng to mark the twinning of our two villages has been destroyed by vandalised. If you know anything about this vandalism please do let either us or our Community Warden know.
- We have taken delivery of the Free Trees Pack and now have over 100 saplings to plant at the earliest opportunity. We would be pleased to hear from you if you have any suggestions.

SNOW AND ICE CLEARING ON PARISH COUNCIL OWNED LAND

We have a snow and ice clearing policy which will be implemented provided there are a sufficient number of volunteers to carry out the work and that Kent highway Services have been able to salt and grit the surrounding roads and pavements. In the meantime our insurer's advice is that unless we can guarantee maintaining the Jubilee Hall car park and footpath ice free it would be prudent not to do any snow and ice clearance.

2013/2014 BUDGET: We will be considering our budget on 14 January 2013. Some of the projects that we will be considering for 2013/2014 include environmental enhancements, Community Fund, Jubilee Hall kitchen equipment, dog bags and a contribution towards work to Lime Trees at the Churchyard. We will do our best to maintain the precept at the 2012/2013 level.

EAST PECKHAM LIBRARY – JOIN THE CONVERSATION AND GET THE MOST FROM YOUR LIBRARY: MESSAGE FROM KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

Kent County Council would still like to hear from you if you have any ideas on how the library service can be modernised to deliver the services that are right for you and the community. Do you have any ideas or comments about library services if so you might want to visit the website www.kent.gov.uk/libraries or write to The FLS Team, Kent Libraries, Registration and Archives, James Whatman Way, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1LQ, or telephone 01622 696504 or email fls@kent.gov.uk

WINTER MAINTENANCE – MESSAGE FROM KENT HIGHWAYS SERVICES

Please visit Kent County Councils website www.kent.gov.uk for comprehensive information on our winter service provision. Once on our home page, click on 'Roads and Transport' located in the left hand blue side bar, and once this page is loaded click on 'Winter Service'. This section will provide useful information on salt Bins (including locations), gritting routes, how and when roads are salted, clearing snow in the community and the latest weather updates. The website also provides a wealth of information on all aspects of highway management and allows you to report highway faults online.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

07 January 2013	Parish Councils Planning Committee meets at 7.45 p.m. in the Meeting Room at the Jubilee Hall.
14 January 2013	Parish Councils Finance Committee meets at 7.45 p.m. in the Meeting Room at the Jubilee Hall.
16 January 2013	Parish Council Surgery at the Library 10.30 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.
21 January 2013	Parish Councils Planning Committee meets followed by a meeting of the full Parish Council. 7.45 p.m. in the Meeting Room at the Jubilee Hall

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

East Peckham Parish Council	01622 871309
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council	01732 844522
Kent County Council	01622 696965
Allotments	01622 871309
Evergreens	01622 871593
Lunch Club	01622 873434
Women's Institute	01622 871303

Wednesday Allsorts	01622 872418
Ladies Pleasant Hour	01622 873030
United Choir	01622 871454
East Peckham Silver Band	01622 871820
Line Dancing	01622 813687
Ikkle Pikkles Toddler Group	01622 870154
Mini Music Makers	01622 871801
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 873470
East Peckham Scout Group (Beavers, Cubs and Scouts)	01622 871890
Brownies	01622 872418
Boys Brigade	01622 872372
Girls Brigade	01732 366671
Library	01622 871050
Tai Chi	07958 980280
Carers Group	01622 871381
Ladies Pleasant Hour	01622 873030
Wednesday Allsorts	01622 872418
Fit 4 U Exercise Class	01732 529654
Shape Up Fitness Class	01622 720879
Weald of Kent Gym Club	01892 835918
Paddock Wood Badminton Club	01892 836731
Zumba	07595 458272
French Lessons	01622 871226
East Peckham Junior Football	01622 873391
East Peckham Badminton Club	01622 871786

Hall Hire

Jubilee Hall & Playing Fields	01622 871309
East Peckham Club	01622 871339
The Village Hall	01622 871321
The Curran Hall & Methodist Hall	01622 872079

HOW TO CONTACT THE PARISH COUNCIL: The Parish Clerk can be contacted in writing to the Jubilee Hall, Pippin Road, East Peckham, TN12 5BT, by telephone to 01622 871309 or by email to admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk. The Office is in the Jubilee Hall and is open weekday mornings during term time except Wednesdays. If you would like to speak to a Councillor please write, phone or email and a Councillor will contact you; alternatively you may contact a Councillor via our website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk.

This newsletter is also available on our website. If you would like a copy of the newsletter in a different format please let us know and we will do our best to accommodate any requests.

Finally thank you for taking time to read this newsletter. The Parish Councils wishes you an enjoyable festive period and a very happy New Year.