

EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO 6

01 March 2013

This newsletter focuses on our activities over the past month as well as providing useful information which we hope you find interesting and relevant. We appreciate all feedback; good or bad so please do not hesitate to tell us your views.

COMMUNICATIONS: We are constantly looking at ways in which we can improve communication with residents. As well as regularly looking at our website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk did you know that you can receive the newsletter by email? We are also setting up a system whereby you can register to receive email alerts of parish council activities, if you would like to subscribe to receive either the newsletter by email or email alerts then do please let us know.

SURGERIES: Did you know that we hold a monthly surgery in the Library. The date of the next surgery is 13 March 2013 between 10.30 a.m. and 12.00 p.m. The surgeries are another way in which you can raise anything of concern with us and also to meet your Councillors. Also in attendance at our monthly surgery is Paul Harfleet our Community Warden, our Police Community Support Officers and a representative from the Paddock Wood Community Advice Service.

CASUAL VACANCY: There is currently a casual vacancy which we are able to fill by co-option. If you are interested in joining the Parish Council and making a difference to your community please contact our Clerk for further information. Full details on eligibility requirements and a person specification for this role are available on request. We have a remit to act to fill the vacancy as soon as possible and we will be looking to complete the co-option process at our next meeting which will be on 18 March.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: The 2013 Annual Parish Meeting is being held in the Sports Hall within the Jubilee Hall complex **at 8.00 p.m. on Wednesday 27 March 2013.** Do please come along and meet your Parish Councillors and learn more about Parish Council activities. At the meeting you will also have the opportunity to meet your County and Borough Councillors, Police Representatives and your Community Warden. The 2013 Billy Can Awards will also be presented. The guest speaker this year will be Mr David Brazier, KCC's cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste. Mr Brazier has recently given an interesting presentation at a meeting of Tonbridge and Malling Borough Councils Parish Partnership Panel. Mr Brazier is pleased to be able to attend the meeting and will be speaking about environmental, highways and waste issues specifically of relevance to East Peckham. Refreshments will be available from 7.30 p.m. and there will be a meet and greet session with the Parish Clerk and your Parish Councillors from 7.30 p.m. – 8.00 p.m. and again after the meeting.

2013 ANNUAL REPORT: Our 2013 Annual Report has been prepared and is being hand delivered by Parish Councillors to all properties in the village within the next few weeks. We hope you enjoy reading the Annual Report; if you have not received a copy by 24 March 2013, do please let us know and we will arrange for one to be delivered to you. Spare copies of the report will be available after 24 March 2013 from the Library and Village Stores.

POST OFFICE RELOCATON: Unfortunately at the time of preparing this newsletter we had not received any new information.

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. Allotments are allocated on a first come first served basis. When all allotments have been allocated we will keep a waiting list.

PLANNING: During February we have submitted the following comments to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council:

TM/12/03364/RD Details pursuant to conditions 2 (materials), 4 (landscaping) and 5 (surfacing and drainage) of planning permission TM/04/00569/FL (Replacement warehouse) at 396 Bullen Lane, East Peckham
NO OBJECTION

TM/13/00006/FL Conversion and extension of existing annex to provide a 4 bedroom dwelling with a detached garage at 27 The Freehold, East Peckham
NO OBJECTION

TM/13/00093/FL Proposed single storey and double store extension to the rear of the property at 255 Hale Street, East Peckham
NO OBJECTION

TM/13/00173/FL Single storey link between main dwelling and games room built onto existing garden wall at Hextall Cottage, 67 Martins Lane, East Peckham
NO OBJECTION

TM/13/00234/LB Demolition of chimney and insert new beam to allow alterations to bar area at Bush, Blackbird and Thrush, 194 Bush Road, East Peckham
NO OBJECTION

TM/13/00280/FL Erection of 2 bedroom end of terrace residential dwelling at 12 Whitebine Garden, East Peckham
NO OBJECTION provided no separate hereditament is created and that the new dwelling is only be occupied in conjunction with the main dwelling.

TM/13/00366/TNCA Fell 3 Silver Birch trees growing very close to each other (1 – 3) retaining the largest Birch (4) at 9 Addlestead Road, East Peckham
NO OBJECTION

BRANBRIDGES ROAD LATEST UPDATE: We are well aware that the continued dilapidated street scene is the cause of much frustration; we share in this frustration and are doing our utmost within our legislative powers to resolve the situation.

The Caravan – TM/12/01892

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council has recently been consulted on the revised Flood Risk Assessment for this site. This is a key factor given that the previous enforcement appeal turned on that very issue. They have recently received views of the Environment Agency objecting to the proposal but now need to review that objection in light of various appeal decisions, centering on flooding, advanced by the applicant before reaching a view on this aspect of the proposal

You may also be aware that since the last appeal the Government has published a revised “Planning policy for traveller sites” (PPTS) which needs to be the basis of TMBC’s decision making on this case. Since that time there has also been a decision to increase the provision of public sites at Coldharbour and this is another factor that will need to be considered by TMBC.

TMBC needs to take all of these factors into account as well as the results of some outstanding appeal cases that are awaited from the Planning Inspectorate. TMBC has taken enforcement action against four sites and clearly the Inspectors will have to make their decisions in light of PPTS. TMBC considers it imprudent to reach a conclusion on any outstanding cases of this nature until these appeal cases, or some of them, are decided and the weight given to PPTS in appeal decision is somewhat clearer

The Rose and Crown

The rubble. Before Christmas TMBC were considering serving a S215 Notice to seek its removal but didn't because of a fear that it would make the site more vulnerable to unlawful occupation over the holiday period. TMBC has since reviewed the position and will be serving a Notice with the aim of achieving the clearance of the material and the securing of the car park.

The Listed Building. TMBC have been trying for many months to persuade English Heritage (EH) to do a joint visit so that they can assess the value of those parts of the remaining building to establish if a redevelopment scheme should focus on the historic building elements or whether an alternative approach should be considered. After some false starts TMBC has now agreed some dates with EH staff and are trying to settle a date with the landowner.

The current planning/Listed Building applications, for the flat roof, are not in TMBC's view acceptable and until they are able to have a detailed discussion with the owners it is not clear what options will be available for the long term. We do need to bear in mind that the site has a history of flooding that may affect the range of opportunities for any long term solution.

DOG FOULING: We continue to receive complaints about dog fouling and dogs off leads especially on our 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. Subject to availability, we do have dog bags in the parish office which we provide free of charge.

JUBILEE HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS: We are fortunate in East Peckham to have some splendid halls including our own Jubilee Hall which comprises a Sports Hall and separate Meeting Room. These are your facilities and we want you to enjoy using them. Activities which take place each week include keep fit, Zumba, French classes (Beginners), gym, East Peckham and Hadlow Children's Centre, Tai Chi, badminton, bowls, Mini Music Makers, Parent & Toddler group and a monthly Carers Group. Our football pitches are used by The East Peckham Junior Football team and we also have super fitness equipment and play equipment for children of all ages. If you are looking for a venue for an activity such as 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.

We have recently installed two vending machines which you are welcome to use when the hall and/or office are open. The machine in the lobby dispenses cold drinks and snacks while the machine in the meeting room dispenses hot drinks and options available are hot chocolate, tea, coffee and Cappuccino at 50p each. The prices of the vended items have been set not to make a profit but to cover the hire costs of the machines and the vended products; they are a welcome addition to the services available to residents and users of the Jubilee Hall. Another welcome service will be the availability of Wi-Fi facilities which will soon be installed.

TWINNING WITH CHERENG: This month the East Peckham Twinning Association Committee has hired a coach to take residents to Chereng on 24 March 2013 to attend the annual carnival. The 2012 Carnival was a fun day out and enjoyed by all those who were fortunate to be able to go. From what we have heard the 2013 Carnival promises to be bigger and better. At the time of preparing this newsletter there were still some places available at the cost of £30 (adult), £27 (members of the East Peckham Twinning Association and £25 (under 16's). This is a whole day excursion leaving East Peckham at 7.30 a.m. and arriving back at approximately 11.00 p.m. Please contact the secretary of the East Peckham Twinning Association, Karen Bell on 01622 871309 or Email admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk if you would like to find out more.

HOW TO CONTACT THE PARISH COUNCIL

Karen Bell, the Parish Clerk can be contacted on 01622 871309 or email admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk. The Parish Office is located in the Jubilee Hall, Pippin Road, East Peckham 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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

04 March 2013	Meeting of the Parish Councils Planning Committee. 7.45 p.m. in the Meeting Room at the Jubilee Hall.
13 March 2013	Meet your Parish Councillor Stephanie Watson at the Parish Council Surgery in the Library 10.30 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.
18 March 2013	Meeting of the Planning Committee followed by meeting of the Full Parish Council, 7.45 p.m. in the Meeting Room at the Jubilee Hall
24 March 2013	Chereng Carnival
27 March 2013	Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, 7.30 p.m. in the Sports Hall
08 April 2013	Meeting of the Parish Councils Planning Committee. 7.45 p.m. in the Meeting Room at the Jubilee Hall.
17 April 2013	Meet your Parish Councillor Penny Graham at the Parish Council Surgery in the Library 10.30 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

East Peckham Parish Council	01622 871309
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council	01732 844522
Kent County Council	01622 696965

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

EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL, Clerk to the Council, Mrs. K Bell, The Parish Office, East Peckham Jubilee Hall, Pippin Road, East Peckham, Tonbridge, Kent, TN12 5BT, Telephone & answerphone: 01622 871309, Website: www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk, Email: admin@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. We will do our best to accommodate any requests.