

# EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

**ISSUE NO 11**

**August 2013**

This newsletter focuses on our activities over the past month as well as providing useful and relevant information. Feedback good or bad is always appreciated so please do tell us what you think. If you would like to receive this newsletter by email please let us know. If there are any articles that you would like us to include in future editions do please let us know. Our contact details are at the end of this newsletter

During the Parish Councils Summer Recess (16 July 2013 – 22 September 2013) we will be delivering to all households a summer newsletter do please look out for it, it should be delivered to all households by the middle of August.

**CASUAL VACANCY:** A casual vacancy currently exists for the office of Councillor which we are able to fill by co-option. We are looking to complete the co-option process during September. If you are interested in joining the Parish Council then please contact the Parish Office for more information. Further information is also available on our website [www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk](http://www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk).

**PARISH PLAN:** During 2013/2014 the Parish Plan Steering Committee will push ahead and complete the Parish Plan. All of the parish councillors will be involved and we would welcome community involvement as well. If you would like to be involved please let us know.

**BRANBRIDGES ROAD LATEST UPDATE (*Rose & Crown Public House*):** Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council has served a notice under section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 on the owner of this property. The Notice requires the following steps to be taken:

1. Remove from the car park to an authorised place of disposal, all hardcore, bricks, waste and demolition materials. Materials to be removed will include all bricks, mortar, concrete and any plastic, metals, litter or other materials mixed in with those materials.

2. On completion of step 1 above, a 1 metre high chain link fence on timber posts is to be erected in a position that is no farther forward than the existing steel posts set into the ground, to secure the site from trespass. The fence is to be erected between the end of the wall on the southern boundary to the south-eastern corner of the building adjacent to Branbridges Road.

There is a right of appeal that must be exercised before the Notice takes effect on 13 August 2013. The above steps must be taken within 28 days from the date that the notice takes effect, that is by 10 September 2013.

**PLANNING:** During the month we have considered the following planning applications:

**TM/13/00953/FL** Side extension including extension to roof & conversion of roof space to habitable accommodation. Alterations to driveway at 98 Snoll Hatch Road. **NO OBJECTION**

**TM/13/01782/RD** Details pursuant to conditions 2 (materials), 3 (joinery), 4 (schedule of works), 7 & **TM/13/01783/LRD**(fencing), 9 (ecological enhancement), 11 (lighting), 12 (archaeology), 13 (sustainable criteria), 17 (refuse strategy), 19 (foul and surface water disposal), 20 (acoustic protection) and 22 (footpath link) of planning permission TM/12/02971/FL (Demolish porch, kitchen and WCs on north side of public house and form pitched roof in place of flat roof and convert to a dwelling. Convert oast to a dwelling. Construct three detached dwellings with access, car barns and landscaping at the Blue Bell Inn, 1 Beltring Road, Paddock Wood **NOTED**

**TM/13/01716/RD** Details submitted pursuant to conditions 2 (External materials), 3 (Joinery) and 13 (sustainable construction and renewable energy) in respect of TM/12/02594/FL for proposed redevelopment of existing sheltered housing site for 4 flats and 12 houses and associated works at Marvillion Court, The Freehold, East Peckham **NOTED**

TM/13/01996/TNCA Cut leyandii to 3.5m initially, and then remove. Remove Norway Spruce. Shape & reduce Bay Tree at Bucklers Cottage, 128 Addlestead Road **NO OBJECTION**

TM/13/01508/FL Construction of shed to extend side elevation of existing summer house & erection of a greenhouse at Keeble Cottage, 123 Snoll Hatch Road **NO OBJECTION**

TM/13/01688/FL Conversion of garage to habitable space at 10 Medway Meadows, East Peckham  
**NO OBJECTION provided there were adequate off street parking provisions**

**PLANNING DECISIONS: TMBC has APPROVED the following:**

TM/10/01870/FL Proposed static metal container to replace existing snack bar van on site of car park at rear of Branbridges Industrial Estate

**DOG FOULING:** is a problem within the village. Please ensure you pick up after your dog and do not allow them off the lead if children are playing or a football match is taking place. No one should have to clear up after other people's dogs and it is sad that a section of our community do not value our open spaces. We would urge you to notify us, TMBC'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 provide free of charge.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENTS:** We are continuing with our programme of village environmental enhancements the next phase being the installation of finger post signs. We have commissioned two new finger post signs which will be installed at Bullen Lane and at Peckham Bush.

**HIGHWAYS:** Potholes and other highway problems can be reported directly to Kent Highways. If you need to report an emergency situation call them straight away on 08458 247 800 or by reporting the fault to on the website <http://www.kent.gov.uk/highwayfaults>

**PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY:** If you have encountered a problem on one or more Public Rights of Ways please report it on 0845 345 0210 (Lines open 8am - 8pm Monday - Friday), for emergencies on 0300 333 5538 or use the online fault reporting tool on Kent County Councils website.

**BULKY REFUSE:** The fortnightly Saturday bulky service now has separate collections of Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and scrap metal items. Items collected will be stripped down into their component materials and recycled.

**COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS:** We would like to introduce you to the East Peckham Time Bank which we are considering setting up, it is essentially a way to exchange skills and experience by giving a little time. For every hour that a member gives they will receive an hour's credit which can be 'spent' however they chose. A variety of skills could be on offer such as pet care, housesitting, photo restoration, aromatherapy massage, cookery, smartphone advice, help with form filling, lifts to the shops, children's parties, keep fit lessons, gardening, CV help etc. The Parish Council could host regular social activities such as a Film Club, coffee mornings and possibly create a community garden. Businesses, village groups and organisations could be involved too and they could support each other and involve individuals who would not normally volunteer. It is important that the time bank is led by the community and the aims of the East Peckham time bank will be to reduce social isolation by encouraging community awareness, supporting intergenerational activity, making links between existing groups within the village and building strong social networks and capacity. It could also provide low level intervention to assist people to live independently in their own homes and to support each other socially to improve their environment. Parish Councillors Holly Carey and Jenny Macdonald would be delighted to hear from you if you would like to express an interest or to find out more, they can be contacted via the online contact form on our website [www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk](http://www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk) or by telephoning the Parish Office on 01622 871309.

**INSPECTION OF PARISH COUNCIL OWNED TREES:** As a landowner we have a legal responsibility to maintain the safety of the trees on our land and we have therefore commissioned an inspection of trees on Parish Council owned land, i.e. small parcel of land at The Pound and the Playing Fields.

**JUBILEE HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS:** 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, Children's Centre, badminton, bowls, Mini Music, 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 us for details of availability, hire charges and for you to have a tour of the facilities.

Sadly there has been some vandalism and anti-social behaviour on the playing fields and the car park. Whilst these incidents have been reported to the police and the issues dealt with it is frustrating for us to have to spend a great deal of time and council tax payer's money dealing with such matters. This affects the entire community not just nearby residents as all households contribute towards the maintenance costs through the Council Tax. If you know anything of these incidents or witness any other acts of vandalism or anti-social behaviour please report it to us, the police on 101 or to our Community Warden on 07969 584183. As a deterrent the CCTV system at the Jubilee Hall is shortly to be upgraded.

We have installed two vending machines which you are welcome to use when the Parish Office is open. The machine in the lobby dispenses cold drinks and snacks and the machine in the meeting room dispenses hot drinks. The prices of the vended items have been set to cover the hire costs of the machines and the vended products. Free Wi-Fi access is also now available at the Jubilee Hall.

We are currently seeking funding towards the purchase of a Community Defibrillator and are delighted that residents and users of the Jubilee Hall are generally supportive of this initiative. There is a possibility that the Ambulance Service will be able to provide us with a defibrillator, equipment and training totally free of charge. In return we would have to provide a 24/7 rota and undertake to respond to serious calls locally as community responders. We are due to meet with the Ambulance Service to discuss this further. We would like to hear from you if you would like further information or if you would like to be included in the rota.

**CRIME PREVENTION:** Public communication remains an important part of crime prevention and a contact directory is available to join in order to receive electronic updates – the link is <http://www.kent.police.uk/enews>. New crime prevention guides are available at [http://www.kent.police.uk/advice/personal/your\\_guide.html](http://www.kent.police.uk/advice/personal/your_guide.html). It doesn't matter what the crime is, please report it on 101 or contact the Community Warden Paul Harfleet on 07969 584183. In a new initiative, Police Contact Points have been launched and they will come to West Kent during August. The Contact Points are held each day from Wednesday through to Sunday, on a rolling two-week schedule. The police vans stop at a prominent location for one and a half hours, enabling residents to drop by and speak to a neighbourhood officer about any policing concerns or issues they may have. The new Contact Points are in addition to the existing surgeries, meetings and online question and answer sessions local officers hold each month. For times and locations of the Police Contact Points, and to find out about other ways of contacting Kent Police please visit the Kent Police website ([www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk)) and follow the links from the home page.

**WAR MEMORIAL RENOVATIONS:** We are intending to complete the renovations of the war memorial, funding is in place and all that is needed is a start date for the commencement of the work, we are liaising with our preferred contractor in this respect.

**CHANGES TO HOW COUNCIL ASSESS HOUSING NEED:** Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council has developed a new scheme for assessing housing applications and allocating housing association properties. The housing register will be open only to those who have a local connection to the borough and a housing need. People will be placed into one of four bands, according to their reasons for needing to move. Further details are available from Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council. Households currently on the housing register will be reassessed and this is expected to take around a month, during this time, the housing register will be closed to new applications. After that the new scheme will be in place and the new criteria will apply to future applications. If you are currently registered for housing then you will receive details of your new assessment along with a summary of the new scheme as soon as your application has been reassessed. If you are assessed as having no need for housing you will no longer qualify to be included on the housing register. In this case your application will be suspended and you will be given the opportunity to provide further details. Tenants currently living in larger homes who wish to move to a smaller home will be given priority on the housing register. They can also consider exchanging homes with another tenant.

**TWINNING:** The Twinning Association is independent of the Parish Council and twinning activities are funded by those taking part and by fund-raising with no use of parish funds. Future events include:

- 07 September 2013 The Street Singers will be performing at Holy Trinity Church; proceeds from the event will be split 50/50 between Holy Trinity Church and the Twinning Association. Tickets priced at £7.50 which will include canapés and a glass of wine or soft drink will be available shortly.
- 14/15 September 2013 Chereng Jumelage is holding a Fun Day and residents have been invited for the whole weekend; subject to demand the Twinning Association will book a coach. Overnight accommodation will be with host families in Chereng. Tickets cost £30 (children), £45 (Members of the Twinning Association) and £50 (non-members of the Twinning Association).
- 11 October 2013 Visit by East Peckham Primary School to schools in Chereng
- 2014 Centenary Commemoration visit to the War Graves in France and Belgium
- For details about these or any other twinning activities please contact the East Peckham Twinning Association by sending an email to [admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk).

#### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

- August 2013 No Parish Council Meetings or Surgery
- 07 September 2013 Street Singers concert at Holy Trinity Church, proceeds will be split 50/50 between the East Peckham Twinning Association and Holy Trinity
- 09 September 2013 Planning Committee, 7.30 p.m. in the Meeting Room at the Jubilee Hall
- 14/15 September 2013 Weekend visit to Chereng
- 18 September 2013 Parish Council Surgery, 10.30 a.m. – 12.00 p.m. in the library. Colin Silver will be on duty
- 23 September 2013 Planning Committee followed by meeting of the full Parish Council, 7.30 p.m. in the Meeting Room at the Jubilee Hall

**EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL:** Clerk to the Council, Karen Bell, The Parish Office, East Peckham Jubilee Hall, Pippin Road, East Peckham, Tonbridge, Kent, TN12 5BT, Telephone & answerphone: 01622 871309, Email: [admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk](mailto: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](http://www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk). **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.**

