

EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Newsletter

December 2013

Dear Residents

Welcome to the December 2013 newsletter. We produce our newsletter to keep you informed about council activities and news. Our newsletter costs just under 15p per copy and is also available on our website and via email. If you have any comments about the newsletter we'd love to hear from you.

We are delighted to announce a return of a very familiar face; we were delighted when Former Chairman, Peter Crawford contacted us to say that he would like to rejoin the Parish Council. Peter was formerly co-opted onto the council at our November meeting and we very much look forward to working with Peter again. We still have another vacancy which we are able to fill by co-option, this was the vacancy created by the resignation of Mrs. Nikki Kearns and we would like to complete the co-option process at our December meeting. If you are interested in becoming a councillor please register your interest with the Parish Office or visit our website. The webpage <http://www.beacouncillor.org.uk/default.htm> also has more information. It would be wonderful to maintain the wide breadth of views and experience on the Council and we would be delighted to hear from you.

Community interest has been shown in Speedwatch a scheme which is aimed at reducing traffic speeds. The success of the scheme will rely on volunteers. If a sufficient number come forward then we will look at funding the equipment needed. The more people involved the less of a burden it will be on any one person. Can you give an hour or so of your time each month to help lower traffic speeds in our village? Please don't assume someone else will do it; speeding affects us all and is a real problem that we need to tackle.

We are very proud that East Peckham continues to be a very social village with many activities taking place. If you are organising an event that benefits the community and would like it included on the Parish Council's online calendar, email details to the Parish Office. Don't forget that our website is a useful tool to find out more about East Peckham and your Parish Council.

We are delighted to announce that the 2013 Village Poppy Appeal raised £3,019.95. Our thanks are extended to Mr and Mrs Buckland for once again organising the poppy appeal. We would also like to take the opportunity to thank Mr Philip Easom the East Peckham Group Scout Leader for organising this year's Remembrance Parade.

We have recently commissioned Vision ICT to produce our new website which we are expecting to launch during December/early January. We have also agreed that we will continue to use the hop in our logo; our new corporate logo is shown above.

The preparation of our 2014/2015 budget is at an advanced stage and due to be consideration by the Finance Committee in January 2014. It is unlikely that our projected expenditure for 2014/2015 will exceed £118,544 which will require a precept of £109,110, an increase of 1.5% on 2013/2014. It is likely that our special projects for 2014/2015 will include the printing of the Parish Plan, the next stage of the Environmental Enhancements, contribution towards 2014 Summer Playscheme, Allotment site improvements, Resurfacing of the Toddlers Play Area, upgrade of the Footway Lighting, Phase 2 of the redecoration of the Jubilee Hall and the renovations of the War Memorial. Not all of these items will require budgetary provisions as some will be funded through our earmarked reserves and others through grants and the Jubilee Hall Repairs fund. We aim to set a balanced budget that reflects the services you want whilst fulfilling our statutory obligations.

Christmas is fast approaching and some splendid events have been planned. I hope you will enjoy this year's Christmas lights which were switched on at the end of November. Finally we would like to wish you all a very **Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.**

Yours faithfully

Councillors and Clerk of East Peckham Parish Council

FOOTWAY LIGHTING: Inspired by the recent review by Kent County Council to reduce streetlight energy costs we have similarly reviewed the East Peckham footway lighting. The energy costs are in excess of £5,800 and this is expected to rise annually by at least 10%. Our options include:

- Part night photocell fitted to some of the existing lanterns, some would require a Photocell & Socket. The part night cell would mean the lights would be switched on at Dusk and off at 23.59 and back on if insufficient light at 05.50. It is expected that the energy savings would be in the region of 30% per annum.
- On others it would be a challenge to fit a part night photocell to due to age and design. Soon these lamps will not be available to buy so it would not make sense to spend money on them now.

We have decided that included within our budget for 2014/2015, 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 will be provisions to upgrade the existing lighting stock to part night illuminations, ***excluded from the upgrade will be Hale Street, Old Road, Church Lane and Pound Road which will continue to be illuminated from dusk to dawn.*** Whilst the entire footway lighting will be upgraded during 2014/2015 the work will be paid over a period of three years and should have paid for itself within 5 – 8 years. Our new Footway Lighting Policy, is available on our website.

2014 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - 21 May 2014: Changes are being made to the Annual Parish Meeting, not only will the meeting be held in May but we are changing the format. We are required by law to hold an Annual Parish Meeting between 1st March and 1st June. However there are few basic requirements that have to be met and our County Association are of the opinion that this is one area in which we can experiment with and see what works for our community. We will therefore be introducing a timed programme of speakers, trade stands and exhibitions/showcases from groups and organisations. The Annual Parish Meeting is not a Parish Council meeting but a meeting for residents and we would therefore be delighted to receive your input, please let us know what you would like included, is there a specific speaker that you would like us to invite, is there a service that you would like to find out more about, we can then tailor the meeting around what you – our residents would like. We hope that the event will become less formal and more social and that you will put the date in your diary and look forward to attending. Refreshments will be provided.

2014 ANNUAL REPORT: The 2014 Annual Report will be distributed to all households during May 2014.

PARISH CARETAKER SCHEME: Progress is being made and Peter Street has been nominated to sit on a Working Party together with representatives from other Parish Councils, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council and Kent County Council.

COMMUNITY FOODBANK: Please support The Community Foodbank which is located at The Wesley Centre, Commercial Road, Paddock Wood and enables those who have plenty to share with those who do not. We all know what it's like to be anxious, but perhaps we don't know what it's like to feel worried about where the next meal is coming from to feed ourselves or our children. Opening Times: Tuesday 13:00 - 15:00 hrs. and Thursday 09:30 - 11:30 hrs. Foodboxes are located at:- The Paddock Wood Churches of St Andrew's, St Justus and the Baptist Church, East Peckham Salvation Army and Methodist Church, Paddock Wood Children's Centre and Waitrose. We are supporting the Community Storehouse in this initiative by offering the free use of an allotment where Community Foodbank volunteers will be growing fresh fruit and vegetables.

PARISH PLAN: Hopefully the Parish Plan will be in draft form in the early New Year. All of the parish councillors are involved but we would also welcome community involvement too. If you would like to be involved please let us know.

ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENTS: Please look out for the new finger post signs at Bullen Lane and Peckham Bush which will be installed during December 2013. We are delighted that Kent Highways Services has provided some funding towards the enhancements.

COMMORATING WORLD WAR 1: The renovations of the war memorial will be completed in 2014. Work is due to commence in March 2014 with the grand unveiling taking place in August 2014.

ALLOTMENTS: We currently have three vacant allotments. If you are interested in growing your own fruit, vegetables and flowers and would like to find out more please contact us for more information.

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, gym, Children's Centre, badminton, bowls, Mini Music, Mummy and Me Pilates, Parent & Toddler group and a monthly Carers Group. If you would like details of any of these activities please let us know and we will pass your details onto the individual activity organisers. Our football pitches are used by the East Peckham Junior Football team and we 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 and hire charges we can also arrange for you to have a tour of the facilities.

Sadly there have many incidents of vandalism and anti-social behaviour on the playing fields and the car park. If you know anything of these incidents or witness any acts of vandalism or anti-social behaviour please report it to us, the police on 101 or to our Community Warden on 07969 584183. The CCTV systems in the centre of the village and at the Jubilee Hall have been upgraded so that they can be remotely accessed and should act as a deterrent and assist the police in catching those responsible.

We want to rejuvenate interest in the Street Snooker and in association with the makers of the concept, Play Innovation; in the spring we will be holding a workshop which will involve Bobby White an international handball player. More details are to follow but the workshop will be fully inclusive and open to residents of all ages.

VACANCY: We currently have a vacancy for a part time cleaner to work two hours per week. Rate of pay is between £6.50 - £8.50 per hour. Hours of work are on a Thursday either before 9.00 a.m. or between 11.30 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. Further information is available from the Parish Office by telephoning 01622 871309, by sending an email to admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk or by calling into the Parish Office.

EAST PECKHAM COMMUNITY DEFIBRILATOR: East Peckham is one of the first villages in the borough of Tonbridge and Malling to install a defibrillator in order to provide fast-response action for anyone suffering a cardiac arrest in the parish. The defibrillator has been installed on the outside of the Jubilee Hall (by the Parish Office) and is available 24hrs a day. We are delighted to be involved in this important community initiative, because the Jubilee Hall is in the heart of the community the defibrillator can be easily and quickly accessible to anyone who needs it. A defibrillator training programme has already started for anyone who wishes to learn how to use the device. The aim is to train as many people as possible to ensure that someone who knows how to use it is always on hand. There is **no charge** for the training, if you wish to learn more please let us know. The emergency services have been advised of the availability of the defibrillator in the village and its location, anyone requiring its availability will be given the access code by dialing 999.

EAST PECKHAM AND HADLOW CHILDRENS CENTRE: The Children's Centre operates out of the Jubilee Hall on a Thursday morning between 9.30 a.m. and 11.00 a.m. There is no charge for the facilities and parents, carers and grandparents of young preschool age children are welcome to drop in.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS: We have recently considered the following planning applications:

TM/13/03332/LB	Alterations to increase door opening width on north west elevation and increase in amount of dark stained soft wood cladding (pursuant to approval TM/12/02972/LB) at Blue Bell Inn, 1 Beltring Road, Paddock Wood	NOTED
TM/13/03360/FL	Erection of aviaries and ancillary shed for birds of prey at The Hop Farm Country Park, Maidstone Road, Paddock Wood	NO OBJECTION
TM/13/02586/FL & TM/13/02587/FL	Change of use of land to private sand school/equestrian area and keeping of animals, erection of a timber stable block, hay store, pole mounted floodlight and timber double garage within curtilage of dwelling house (retrospective application) at 513 Bullen Lane	NO OBJECTION
TM/13/02884/FL	Demolition and replacement dwelling to provide a 3 / 4 bedroom property with integral garage at La Furze, 25 Addlestead Road	NO OBJECTION

TM/13/02969/FL	Demolition of existing double garage and construction of a two storey side extension at Bucklers Cottage, 128 Addlestead Road	NO OBJECTION
TM/13/03103/FL	Single storey extension at 255 Hale Street, East Peckham	NO OBJECTION
TM/13/03255/FL	Access to Bush Road at Land adjoining 125 Bush Road	NO OBJECTION

PLANNING DECISIONS: TMBC HAD GRANTED PERMISSION for the following:

TM/13/02336/FL	Retrospective application to raise balcony wall at rear of property by 1100 mm and install fire escape from premises at 7 Old Road
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ROSE & CROWN, BRANBRIDGES ROAD – UPDATE: TMBC has advised that the owners did remove most of the rubble from the car park arising from the demolition of a wall adjacent to Branbridges Road and that a small pile of waste material left on the land was removed by arrangement with Waste and Street Scene Services on 7 November 2013. A charge will be made against the landowner to recover the costs. Whilst these actions remedied the detriment to the amenity of the area, the owners were also required to erect a fence to secure the site from trespass, however TMBC have since concluded that the fence is not absolutely necessary to remedy the condition of the land, and in the light of subsequent legal advice no longer consider it appropriate to take any further action in respect of this. The property is currently being advertised for sale and TMBC has received a number of enquiries from prospective purchasers. Unfortunately one potential purchaser did cancel a meeting in November because the vendor decided not to progress with the sale and TMBC has not received any further enquiries since then.

TRAFFIC CALMING BY THE HARP PUBLIC HOUSE, HALE STREET: After many years of debate and numerous meetings with Kent County Council, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, the Police and Independent engineers we have concluded that we will no longer pursue the removal of the chicane. KCC are of the opinion that it is generally accepted that the chicane is having an effect and it should remain in place, they feel that its removal could reduce safety rather than increase it. KCC also feel that motorists who should be giving way are not and they are looking at providing an improved message to motorists. KCC are also considering reducing the speed limit. KCC therefore plan to carry out an automatic traffic count to ascertain what actual traffic speeds are and to work on the design of hard engineering measures such as, weight/width restrictions, speedwatch, vehicle activated signs, improving existing road markings, red high friction road surfacing and improving bollards and cats eyes. As a Parish Council we feel that we have done all that we can to seek the removal of the chicane and we will now focus our efforts on seeking a speed limit reduction and the hard engineering measures.

CRIME PREVENTION: 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. It doesn't matter what the crime is, please report it on 101 or contact the Community Warden Paul Harfleet on 07969 584183.

TWINNING: East Peckham is twinned with Chereng in the Nord de Pas de Calais. The East Peckham Twinning Association (EPTA) 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. Events planned for 2014 include a visit to the War Graves in northern France and Belgium. For more information on Twinning please contact Colin Silver the Secretary of the EPTA by sending an email to colin_plus@hotmail.co.uk.

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 by using the website <http://www.kent.gov.uk/highwayfaults>.

FREIGHT GATEWAY: Kent County Council has recently introduced Freight Gateway, this is a web-based route planner aimed at helping HGV drivers and transport managers plan routes when travelling to or within Kent. Freight Gateway provides journey planning and local stopping and parking information to the commercial vehicle industry, local businesses and the public. Further information is available at www.freightgateway.co.uk/kent.

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.

DOG FOULING: Failing to clear up after your dog is an offence. It is disgusting, it is a nuisance and can be a health hazard, do not tolerate it – report it. Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council enforces dog fouling through the Dogs Fouling of Land Act 1996 which applies to all land within the borough which is in the open air and to which members of the public have access. The Borough Council will respond to all complaints regarding dog fouling in public places. Their Dog Warden will respond to information obtained, visit areas to try and catch offenders and will take action against anyone caught failing to clear up. If you have a dog fouling complaint try and obtain as much information as possible. All this information will assist the Dog Warden. The message is clear - Clean up after your dog, bag it and dispose of it responsibly. Subject to availability we do have dog bags in the Parish Office which we provide free of charge.

LITTERING: Litter does not clear itself away. It can take years to degrade causing harm to the environment. The cost of clearing up litter runs into hundreds and thousands of pounds - Council Tax payer's money; your money. It is an offence to leave litter and a person is guilty of an offence if they throw down, drop or otherwise deposit and then leave it in a public place. Officers from Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council will respond to complaints and have the power to demand a person's name and address in order to issue fixed penalty notices.

CLEARING SNOW AND ICE YOURSELF: Last winter many people helped keep pavements and public spaces around their homes clear of snow. However, many people were put off doing so because of fears of being sued. Our November newsletter provided advice on your rights and responsibilities when clearing snow and ice from public areas, if you would like a copy please let us know or visit our website where the information is available.

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING ELECTORAL SERVICES – REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES: Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council is carrying out a review of Polling Districts and Polling Places in the borough. Details of the current arrangements and the Returning Officer's proposals for changes are available to view at the Electoral Services Office and on the website www.tmbc.gov.uk/pdr. Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council would like to hear from you if you are a registered elector of either the Tonbridge and Malling or Chatham and Aylesford Parliamentary Constituencies, or if you are a representative of a body with expertise in access for persons with any type of disability. You can view the proposals on the website, and comment directly online. Please make sure you submit your comments by **24 January 2014**. If appropriate, please include alternative venues that may be used as Polling Places. Please note that all proposals and comments will be available for inspection at the Electoral Services Office, and will be published at the conclusion of the review. The Council will decide on the final polling arrangements at its meeting on 15 July 2014.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET CONSULTATION: The consultation paper says that Kent County Council needs to find savings of £273m over the next 3 years if they don't increase council tax. KCC advise that savings of £91m have to be delivered next year and similar amounts in following years. They are consulting on their savings proposals of £81m and raising £10m of income through a council tax increase of 1.99%. Further details are available from the KCC website. If you would like to respond please do so by using the weblink http://www.kent.gov.uk/your_council/council_spending/budget_consultation.aspx.

WW1 FUNDING: Is your group planning a commemoration event to mark the centenary of the First World War? if so you could benefit from some funding (£3,000 - £10,000) and might be interested in the link <http://www.hlf.org.uk/HowToApply/programmes/Pages/FirstWorldWarThenandNow.aspx> which invites bids for small grants.

HAVE YOUR SAY ON KENT AND MEDWAY FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY'S SAFETY PLAN 2014: Local people have until 13 January 2014 to give their views on the Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority (KMFRA) annual Safety Plan. After freezing Council Tax rises for three years, KMFRA is asking local people if they are willing to pay an extra 3p a week for a band D household. This 1.99% increase will mean KFRS can carry out necessary changes but still continue to maintain its excellent level of emergency cover in the county. The results of the consultation will go to the Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority in February 2014 who will make a final decision. Anyone who wants a paper copy can call 01622 692 121, email safetyplan@kent.fire-uk.org, or request via Twitter at [@kentfirerescue](https://twitter.com/kentfirerescue), via Facebook at www.facebook.com/kentfirerescue or write to Safety Plan, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, FREEPOST NAT 9369, Maidstone, ME15 6BR

NEW GUIDES TO KEEP COMMUNITIES WARM THIS WINTER: Two free, practical guides to help rural communities keep warm and cut bills this winter have been launched by ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England). The Energy Efficiency and Affordable Warmth community guides, produced in partnership with Calor Gas, aim to help people reduce spending on fuel by using energy more efficiently in their homes. The Energy Efficiency guide explains how families can make simple changes— such as insulation, draught-proofing and low energy light bulbs –to reduce bills. It shows how volunteer 'energy champions' can help people in their neighbourhoods by passing on tips and pointing householders towards sources of professional advice. It also explains how eligible households may be able to get help with improvements to their homes, such as boilers or loft insulation, through Government initiatives such as Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation. The Affordable Warmth guide focuses on how communities can help households to stay warm and avoid falling into fuel poverty. It explains how the most vulnerable households can get help from the Government towards their heating bills. With winter fast approaching, many families will be thinking about how they can cut their energy bills. The guides are a good place to start, with plenty of advice and ideas. Evidence shows that rural households are twice as likely as their urban counterparts to struggle to afford to heat their homes, due to lower than average incomes and houses that are less energy efficient. Lack of access to cheaper fuel supplies is also a problem – 36% of homes in rural areas are off the gas grid, so many households rely on fuels such as oil, electric heating, LPG or coal. Tackling fuel poverty is important because the impact of cold homes on people's health and wellbeing is significant. Many households are faced with a 'heat or eat' crisis where they are forced to choose between putting the heating on to get warm or buying food. The guides are available for free download at [ACRE's website](http://www.acre.org.uk).

FREE TREES FROM THE WOODLAND TRUST: The Woodland Trust is offering community groups, youth groups and schools the chance to apply for packs of free trees for delivery in March 2014. Applications are being accepted up until 9 January next year. Whether groups are interested in helping wildlife; creating a faith, or inter-faith, green space; planting for remembrance, creating a community garden or allotment; or just want to enhance their local area - any community groups are very welcome to apply for free packs of saplings. They have over 3,000 packs to give away in spring and they come in three sizes – 30 saplings, 105 saplings and 420 saplings in various themes (hedge, copse, wildlife, wild harvest, year-round colour, working wood, wild wood and wetland). Find out more and how to apply from the [Woodland Trust](http://www.woodlandtrust.co.uk)

LOCAL HOUSING FOR LOCAL PEOPLE: This consultation from the Department for Communities and Local Government sought views on proposals to issue new statutory guidance on social housing allocations for local authorities in England. The Government is of the view that, in deciding who qualifies or does not qualify for social housing, local authorities should ensure that they prioritise applicants who can demonstrate a close association with their local area. The aim is to assist them to use the allocation flexibilities in the Localism Act 2011 to meet the needs of local residents and local communities; and to encourage them to be open and transparent about who is applying for and being allocated social housing in their local area.

WEST KENT WHEELS 2 WORK: Would you like the loan of a moped for up to a year to help you get to work, education or training? This moped loan scheme includes training, a helmet, padded reflective jacket and gloves. For more information please visit the website www.eastsurreyrtp.org.uk/wkw2w.htm, Tel: 01883 732791 or Email rtpt@tandridge.gov.uk. This scheme is endorsed by Kent Fire and Rescue Service and funded by KCC

SPURIOUS VILLAGE GREEN APPLICATIONS ENDED: Changes announced by Defra means it will no longer be possible to block local development by making spurious village green applications. Loopholes in the system have been abused by people looking to stop local development. As well as having a negative effect on the rural economy and reducing the value of land – often by over 90% – it reduced the availability of rural homes, facilities and hospitals across the country. From now on, applications relating to land which is regularly used for local recreation will have to be made within a year of the land's use, rather than two. Similarly, landowners will be encouraged to allow local communities to make use of their land, as they will be able to protect it being registered as a village green through new landowner statements. Last April, the government took the first step in reducing village green abuses, by closing a loophole that made it possible to submit applications on land which had already been earmarked for development.

ENHANCING COMMUNITIES IS THE NAME OF SITA TRUST'S FUNDING PROGRAMME FOR COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS: SITA support projects that make physical improvements to community leisure facilities and historic buildings/structures. Not-for-profit organisations including community groups, parish councils, local authorities and charities can apply. The Enhancing Communities Programme offers two funds:

Core Fund: Grants of up to £60,000 are available to not-for-profit organisations whose community leisure amenity improvement project has an overall cost of no more than £250,000.

Fast Track Fund: The Fast Track Fund provides grants of up to £20,000, available to not-for-profit organisations with a community leisure amenity improvement project that has an overall cost of no more than £40,000.

Applicants will find out whether their application has been successful within 60 days of the application deadline date. Projects need to be located within specified funding zones - generally within 3 miles of a SITA site. More details from the [SITA Trust website](#).

ENHANCING COMMUNITIES: The Trusthouse Charitable Foundation runs a grants programme that supports projects which address issues in Rural Communities and/or areas of Urban Deprivation. Within these two main headings, they are interested in helping established projects which work in the fields of Community Support; Arts, Education & Heritage; Disability & Health Care. The Foundation accepts applications from organisations which are addressing issues in rural areas. 'Rural' in this context means cities, towns, villages and areas with 10,000 or less inhabitants. They are interested in, for example, projects providing transport for the elderly, disabled or disadvantaged; contact networks for the young disabled; projects which encourage a sense of community such as community centres and village halls; employment training schemes especially those promoting local, traditional crafts; projects addressing issues such as drug/alcohol misuse or homelessness. More details from the [Trusthouse Charitable Foundation website](#).

THE RURAL COMMUNITY ENERGY FUND (RCEF): supports rural communities in England to develop renewable energy projects which provide economic and social benefits to the community. The fund provides up to approximately £150,000 of funding for feasibility and preplanning development work to help projects become investment ready. RCEF provides support in two stages:

Stage 1 provides a grant of up to approximately £20,000 to pay for an initial investigation into the feasibility of a renewable energy project.

Stage 2 provides an unsecured loan of up to approximately £130,000 to support planning applications and develop a robust business case to attract further investment.

More details from the [WRAP website](#).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

02 December 2013	Planning Committee, 7.45 p.m. in the Meeting Room at the Jubilee Hall
07 December 2013	East Peckham Primary School Christmas Fayre Christmas Tree Festival at St Michaels Church
11 December 2013	Parish Council Surgery, 10.30 a.m. – 12.00 p.m. in the library. The Deputy Chairman, Tim Roper will be the duty councillor
14 December 2013	Community Choir Sing Christmas, 5.30 p.m. in the Curran Hall
16 December 2013	Planning Committee followed by meeting of the full Parish Council, 7.15 p.m. in the Meeting Room at the Jubilee Hall (Note change of time)

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. 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. **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.**

MESSAGE FROM KENT POLICE

Burglars target insecure properties

Over recent weeks burglars have targeted properties in this area, particularly where doors and windows have been left unlocked and valuables like car keys have been left on display.

Help us to help you

- **Lock it** – secure your home and garden properly before you go out or go to bed, and double-lock uPVC doors and windows using the keys.
- **Hide it** – keep car keys and other valuables somewhere secure, away from windows, doors and letterboxes where they might be spotted, but always know where keys are in case of emergency
- **Secure it** – security mark valuable items and use alarms or security lighting if you have them to help deter unwanted visitors.

If you see something suspicious, **report it:**

- Call **101** to report a non-urgent crime or to talk to a local officer
- In an emergency, if life is in danger or a crime in progress, call **999**
- If deaf or speech-impaired, text '**police**', and your message, to **60066**

For more safety advice visit www.kent.police.uk/staysafe

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