

EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Newsletter

November 2013

Welcome to the November 2013 newsletter. We produce our newsletter to keep you informed about council activities and news. Our newsletter costs just over 13p per copy. If you have any comments about the newsletter we'd love to hear from you.

EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL - SERVING THE PEOPLE OF EAST PECKHAM: East Peckham Parish is a 'civil' or 'administrative' designation. The Parish Council is the third tier of local government, below Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council and Kent County Council. The Parish of East Peckham has around 1,200 households and 3,500 inhabitants, of whom 2,657 are on the Electoral Roll. East Peckham is bordered by the parishes of Hadlow, Nettlestead, Yalding, Mereworth and Paddock Wood. The Parish Council is made up of 11 members, elected every four years. The full council meets in public 11 times a year. There are additional monthly meetings of the Planning Committee and our Finance Committee meets twice annually. The Councillors are unpaid, local people, elected by local people. These volunteers put themselves forward for election to represent the community and give their time freely and willingly for the benefit of the whole village.

CASUAL VACANCIES: At the end of October we unfortunately received the resignation of Mrs Nikki Kearns, we would like to thank Nikki most sincerely for her contribution to the Parish Council and to the village. We wish Nikki well for the future. We have two casual vacancies for the office of Councillor one of which we can fill by co-option. We will be advised in due course by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council if the vacancy created by the resignation of Mrs Kearns can also be filled by co-option or if there is to be an election. If you are interested in joining the Parish Council and would like to find out more then please contact the Parish Office for more information. Further information is also available on our website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk.

HELP SET THE BUDGET FOR 2014/2015: We aim to set a balanced budget that reflects the services you want whilst fulfilling our statutory obligations. The austerity programme being rolled out across the country has already delivered deep cuts to local government funding and this is likely to continue. We need your help to set the priorities for our discretionary services. Please email your views to admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk.

PARISH COUNCIL CORPORATE LOGO: We are considering a new corporate logo; possibilities could include the traditional hop or our very own village sign. We would like to hear from you if you have any other ideas.

PARISH PLAN: Progress is being made and hopefully the Parish Plan will be in draft form in the early New Year. All of the parish councillors will be involved but community involvement will also be welcomed. If you would like to be involved please let us know.

ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENTS: Our programme of village environmental enhancements continues, the next phase being the installation of finger post signs at Bullen Lane and Peckham Bush which are due to be installed by 06 December 2013. We are delighted that Kent Highways Services has offered us some funding towards the enhancements.

COMMEMORATING WORLD WAR 1: The renovations of the war memorial will be completed in 2014. Funding is in place and our application to the Heritage Lottery Fund was successful. We were awarded £5,000 towards the renovations and £1,000 towards Community Projects, £750 of which we have awarded to the Russett Players for their WW1 Community Production and £250 has been allocated towards village poppy planting.

POST OFFICE: From 11 November 2013 the Post Office is due to transfer to its new outlet at Orchard Road; this date is however subject to change. Mr New has advised us that postage stamps will be available from the Village Stores and that there are no plans to close the post box attached to the village stores.

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, 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 been many incidents of 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 – your 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. The CCTV system at the Jubilee Hall has been upgraded and should hopefully act as a deterrent and assist the police in catching those responsible for any further acts of criminal and anti-social behaviour.

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 are very reasonable and 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.

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. To obtain further information, we invite you to contact Karen Bell 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. Sudden cardiac death can affect anyone at any time, including about 12 people per week in the UK under the age of 35. When someone suffers a cardiac arrest, swift action is critical to ensure survival. However, due to the time it can take an ambulance to reach rural villages survival from cardiac arrest is reduced when compared to major towns – each minute of delay reduces the chance of survival by about 10%. As a result, the South East Coast Ambulance Service has made it a priority to install defibrillators in rural communities and train villagers to use them. Modern defibrillators are highly automated, light and portable and, after brief training, very easy to use. 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.

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.

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:

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| TM/13/02635/LB & TM/13/02621/LRD | Internal secondary glazing to 5 no. existing single glazed windows at 4 Old Road East Peckham | NO OBJECTION |
| TM/13/02653/FL | Rear glazed garden room at 117 Hale Street | NO OBJECTION |
| TM/13/02669/LB | Proposal to cut a 5 inch hole in external brickwork for boiler flue at The Coult's, 46 Pound Road, East Peckham | NO OBJECTION |
| TM/13/02907/LB | Demolition of existing double garage and construction of a new two storey side extension at bucklers Cottage, 128 Addlestead Road, East Peckham | NO OBJECTION |
| TM/13/03032/RD | Details submitted pursuant to condition 6 (landscaping), 9 (Contamination) and 14 (Drainage scheme) for TM/12/02594/FL for redevelopment of existing sheltered housing site to provide 4 no 2 bed flats and 12 no houses and associated works at Marvillion Court, The Freehold, East Peckham | NOTED |

PLANNING DECISIONS

TMBC HAS GRANTED PERMISSION for the following:

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| TM/12/03364/RD | Conditions 2 (materials), 4 (landscaping) & 5 (surfacing & drainage) of planning permission TM/04/00569/FL (replacement warehouse) at 396 Bullen Lane |
| TM/13/01765/FL | Two storey rear extension, front porch, first floor side window to existing dwelling and new detached outbuilding to rear, car parking to front at 62 Old Road, East Peckham |
| TM/13/01823/FL | Front extension to increase retail and storage areas of existing newsagents and convenience store and accommodate post office with existing residential accommodation extended over at first floor level at 1-3 Orchard Road, East Peckham |
| TM/13/02029/FL | Single storey rear extension to replace existing conservatively at 52 The Freehold |
| TM/13/02129/RD | Parts c & d of condition 13 (land contamination & remediation) in respect of planning permission TM/11/01090/FL (Demolition of a public house store room, resurfacing of pub car park, erection of amenity area for pub and the erection of three new three bedroom terraced houses together with new car park for six cars at The Merry Boys |

TMBC HAS ADVISED THAT THE FOLLOWING HAD NOT BEEN PROCEEDED WITH

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| TM/10/00759/FL | Development of a new conference facility to replace existing building and erection of a 60 bed hotel, restaurant and 16 holiday lodges at The Hop Farm Country Park |
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TMBC HAS ADVISED THAT IT HAS NO OBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING

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| TM/13/01996/TNCA | Cut leylandii to 3.5 m initially, then remove. Remove Norway spruce. Shape and reduce Bay Tree at Bucklers Cottage, 128 Addlestead Road, East Peckham |
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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.

RELOCATION OF BUS STOP FROM CHURCH LANE TO POUND ROAD: A few residents have contacted us to seek help in obtaining the relocation of the bus stop from Church Lane to Pound Road near its junction with Chidley Cross Road. We are supporting this initiative and whilst Kent highway Services has acknowledged our request for a new bus stop or the relocation we have been advised that these types of requests take several months to process, in the first instance a qualified engineer from Kent County Council will need to assess the proposed bus stop location and give their agreement before they can commence the next stage which is to write to any affected properties. Once all this has been completed Kent Highways Services will advise whether the new bus stop or relocation can proceed.

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. Do not approach the offender or try to deal with it yourself; it may not be safe to do so. Try and find out where the dog lives, the breed and colour of the dog that is fouling, a description of anyone seen with the dog when it fouls, the time of day when it's happening. 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. Research shows that litter contributes towards further crime and that people feel less safe in areas that are littered. 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. The Clean Neighbourhoods Act 2005 has removed any doubt by explicitly stating that litter includes smoking and chewing gum related material. 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 them with a fixed penalty notice.

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. It doesn't matter what the crime is, please report it on 101 or contact the Community Warden Paul Harfleet on 07969 584183. East Peckham will not be in the schedule to be visited by the newly introduced police contact point as we already have a surgery which is attended by the Police Community Support Officers and our Community Warden and as a village we do not need the resource as much as some of the other smaller villages which do not have the facilities to run a regular surgery.

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. Read on for advice on your rights and responsibilities when clearing snow and ice from public areas.

The law on clearing snow and ice from public spaces

There is no law stopping you from clearing snow and ice on the pavement outside your property, pathways to your property or public spaces.

If an accident did happen, it's highly unlikely that you would be sued as long as you:

- are careful
- use common sense to make sure that you don't make the pavement or pathway clearly more dangerous than before

People using areas affected by snow and ice also have responsibility to be careful themselves.

Tips and advice on clearing snow and ice

- start early - it's much easier to clear fresh, loose snow compared to compacted ice that has been compressed by people walking on it
- don't use hot water - this will melt the snow, but may replace it with black ice, increasing the risk of injury
- be a good neighbour - some people may be unable to clear snow and ice on paths from their property
- if shovelling snow, think where you are going to put it so that it doesn't block people's paths or drainage channels
- make a pathway down the middle of the area to be cleared first, so you have a clear surface to walk on
- spreading some salt on the area you have cleared will help stop ice forming - table salt or dishwasher salt will work, but avoid spreading on plants or grass as they may be damaged by it
- pay particular care and attention to steps and steep gradients
- use the sun to your advantage - removing the top layer of snow will allow the sun to melt any ice beneath; however you will need to cover any ice with salt to stop it refreezing overnight
- if there's no salt available, sand or ash are good alternatives

WEST KENT WHEELS 2 WORK: No transport? 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 rider training, a helmet, padded reflective jacket and gloves. For more information and an application please visit the website www.eastsurreyrtp.org.uk/wkw2w.htm. This scheme is endorsed by Kent Fire and Rescue Service and funded by Kent County Council. West Kent Wheels 2 Work is a project of the East Surrey Rural Transport Partnership. Tel: 01883 732791 or Email rtp@tandridge.gov.uk. We have a few application forms in the Parish Office so do please feel free to contact us if you would like one.

FREE REPLACEMENT BOILERS and LOFT AND CAVITY WALL INSULATION: Action with Communities in Rural Kent has teamed up with British Gas to offer these **FREE** energy saving measures which you are entitled to if you are in receipt of eligible benefits including Child and Working Tax Credits, Pension Credit, ESA, Income Support. This is a Government initiative to cut energy bills and lower carbon emissions. You do NOT have to be a British Gas customer to qualify and there's no catch. If you are in receipt of benefits and live in private rented housing or own your own home and your boiler is inefficient due to age or is broken, you may be entitled to a replacement. To apply contact British Gas free on **0800 980 9037** choosing **Option 2** when you get through or for further information or help speak to Tessa at Action with Communities in Rural Kent on 01303 813790

AGE UK PUBLISHES STUDY OF ISOLATION OF OLDER PEOPLE LIVING IN RURAL AREAS: The report, Later Life in Rural England, looks at the challenges of living in rural areas for older people, such as higher living costs and relatively poor transport. It showcases different ways of overcoming them, drawing especially on creative practice from local Age UKs working with resourceful and innovative rural communities. The report can be downloaded from Age UK's website.

SITA TRUST ENRICHING NATURE PROGRAMME: Not-for-profit organisations may apply for large grants (£25,001 - £75,000) or small grants of up to £25,000 for biodiversity projects located within 10 miles of any landfill site in England or Wales. The landfill site can be operated by any company. The programme supports the recovery of species and habitats identified as a priority by both national and regional biodiversity action plans. Projects must focus on carrying out physical improvements to benefit species or habitats at identified sites. Expressions of Interest are due by 6 December 2013. The form can be downloaded from the [SITA Trust website](#) and should be submitted by email to the Trust.

OIL CLUB: The Oil-Club has launched in Tonbridge and the surrounding area. If you would like to find out more please visit the website www.oil-club.co.uk. Club benefits include reduced heating oil costs, reduced HGV traffic through our village and reduced carbon exhausted into our environment. The Oil Club is an independent organisation and has no links to any of the suppliers. By grouping deliveries, the bulk purchase ability means that they are able to negotiate with their suppliers the best bulk purchase price for heating oil and pass on the savings to their members. A village with 100 members will save between 150 to 180 heavy duty vehicle trips a year through the village. A big saving on wear and tear to our village, our lanes, roads and to the environment.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

04 November 2013 Planning Committee, 7.45 p.m. in the Meeting Room at the Jubilee Hall
10 November 2013 The Remembrance Parade leaves The Pound at 9.30 a.m. The Remembrance Services takes place at Holy Trinity Church at 10.00 a.m.
13 November 2013 Parish Council Surgery, 10.30 a.m. – 12.00 p.m. in the library. The Chairman Graham Haycock will be the duty councillor
18 November 2013 Planning Committee followed by meeting of the full Parish Council, 7.45 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. 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.**

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.

Message from Kent Police

Fraudsters are trying to trick people in Kent into revealing PIN numbers and handing over their bank cards. **Don't be fooled.** This is how they do it:

1. A fraudster calls pretending to be the police or from your bank, they claim your bank account has been used fraudulently.
2. They tell you to hang up and call the police or bank back to ensure the call is genuine. They stay on the line so when you redial you think you are through to the police or your bank. But you're not. They then tell you to give them your PIN number.
3. They send a taxi or courier to collect your card. With your card and PIN they can access your money.

Remember:

The police and banks will never ask for your PIN or bank card over the phone. So **never** give them to anyone.

If you think you have been a victim of this type of crime, call us on **101**. Or if the incident is in progress, dial **999**.

LETTER FROM KENT POLICE

Dear Resident

As we approach the winter many of you in the rural communities will, like me be checking your domestic oil fuel tank to make sure you have enough to see you through the winter. Many people will also buy now to get the best price. At this time I would also ask that you to check your fuel tanks and consider their security. Thieves will know that fuel tanks will be filling up at this time of year and will seek opportunities to steal the contents.

The simplest action you can take is to lock the tank cap. Other methods are shielding, disguising or hiding the tank or placing obstacles around it which make it difficult to get, such as thorny hedging. The tank needs to be accessible for delivery companies, of course, but they will understand the need for security and staff carry ladders to assist them in their deliveries.

Keep your yard or drive gates closed and locked and ensure gates and fences are in good repair. Lock away tools so they cannot be used to access your tank.

There are alarms available now that are set off when there is a sudden change in oil level. These are more expensive security options, starting at around £100. But this investment should be considered against the cost of the contents of your tank. Consider installing CCTV and security lighting too. If siting a new tank, make sure it is within sight of your home but difficult to spot by potential offenders.

Finally, do look out for your neighbours. Thieves are known to have followed oil delivery vehicles to identify locations where tanks are full. They will often use panel vans with plastic tanks in the rear and will use high speed pumps to transfer the oil. If you see anything suspicious contact the police by calling 101 or 999 if a crime is in progress

You can download and print off a leaflet on fuel thefts, plus read our latest magazine on rural crime and what Kent Police is doing to tackle it, using the links below.

Regards

Sergeant Mark Ginsberg

Tonbridge & Malling Neighbourhood Policing

http://www.kent.police.uk/advice/property_security/property/attachments/heating_oil_theft_flyer.pdf

http://www.kent.police.uk/advice/business/attachments/Rural_matters_lr.pdf