

EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Newsletter

January 2014

Dear Residents

We would like to start by wishing you all a **Happy and Peaceful New Year.**

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. At the time of writing, our new website is about to go live. Do please check it out, our website address is www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk. If you have any comments about the newsletter and/or our website we'd love to hear from you.

There is still a Parish Councillor vacancy which we are able to fill by co-option; we would like to complete the co-option process as soon as possible. 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.

We are delighted to welcome residents to our meetings, during January our Planning Committee will convene at 7.30 p.m. on 06 January 2014 and at 7.15 p.m. on 20 January 2014, our Finance Committee will convene after the Planning Committee on 06 January 2014 and our full meeting will take place at 7.30 p.m. on 20 January 2014. All our meetings are open to the press and public.

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.

Yours faithfully
Councillors and Clerk
East Peckham Parish Council

FOOTWAY LIGHTING: Inspired by the recent review by Kent County Council to reduce streetlight energy costs we have recently reviewed the East Peckham footway lighting. 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 will be Hale Street, Old Road, Church Lane and Pound Road which will continue to be illuminated from dusk to dawn.***

2014 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - 21 May 2014: Changes are being made to the Annual Parish Meeting which we are required to hold between 1st March and 1st June. However there are few basic requirements that have to be met and our County Association is of the opinion that this is one area in which we can experiment with and see what works for our community. The Annual Parish Meeting is not a Parish Council meeting but a meeting for residents and we would be delighted to receive your input, please let us know what you would like included so we can tailor the meeting around what you – our residents would like. We will be introducing a timed programme of speakers, trade stands and exhibitions/showcases from groups and organisations. So far we anticipate having exhibition stands from The Hop Farm, our Footway Lighting Contractor, Highways and TMBC who will be unveiling the Local Plan Consultation. We hope that the event will become less formal and more social and that you will look forward to attending.

COMMUNITY FOODBANK: The Community Foodbank located at The Wesley Centre, Commercial Road, Paddock Wood enables those who have plenty to share with those who do not. 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 by offering the free use of an allotment where Community Foodbank volunteers will be growing fresh fruit and vegetables.

ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENTS: Please look out for the new finger post signs at Bullen Lane and Peckham Bush which will be installed shortly.

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. A copy of the activity programme is available on request from the Parish Office. 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 £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 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. The defibrillator can be easily and quickly accessed by 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/11/1096/R21	Details pursuant to condition 21 (aggregate bay walls) of planning permission TM/11/1096 at East Peckham Quarry, Hale Street	NOTED
TM/13/03464/FL	Single storey link between main dwelling and games room built onto existing garden wall at Hextall Cottage, 67 Martins Lane	NO OBJECTION
TM/13/03474/TNCA	Remove Poplar tree (roots disturbing drive to be re-laid) at 161 Tonbridge Road	NO OBJECTION
TM/13/03483/POC	Cut back Oak tree overhanging fence line into the rear garden of 16 Hop Bine Close so away from the property and windows	NO OBJECTION
TM/13/03489/FL TM/13/03490/LB	Demolition of existing double garage and replacement with triple garage and room above and sun deck incorporating existing WW11 'pill box' at The Well House, 147 Hale Street	NO OBJECTION
TM/13/02544/FL	Detached double timber garage at The Homestead, 164 Bush Road.	NO OBJECTION
TM/13/03515/RD	Details pursuant to conditions; 2 (materials), 5 (landscaping & boundary), 8 (parking layout & drainage), 9 (turning area & drainage), 11 (refuse provision & storage) & 12 (energy consumption, water consumption & recycling) of TM/13/00006/FL (Conversion & extension of existing annexe to provide a 4 bedroom dwelling with a detached garage) at 27 The Freehold	NOTED
TM/13/03556/FL	Two storey rear extension and alterations to existing single storey dining room at Bourne House, 163 Tonbridge Road	NO OBJECTION
TM/13/03668/FL	Front porch & rear lean to extensions at Charley, 30 Pound Rd	NO OBJECTION
PLANNING DECISIONS: TMBC HAD GRANTED PERMISSION for the following:		
TM/13/02508/FL	Two storey side extension at 16 Snoll Hatch Road	
TM/13/02560/LB	Alterations to external lobby stable door including addition of glazed side light (pursuant to TM/13/01368/LB) at 39 Chidley Cross Road	
TM/13/02573/FL	Demolition of conservatory & new orangery at July Cottage, 194 Bullen Lane	
TM/13/02586/FL & TM/13/02587/FL	Change of use of land to private sand school/equestrian area, keeping of animals, erection of a timber stable block, hay store, pole mounted floodlight and double garage within the curtilage of dwelling house at 513 Bullen Lane	

TM/13/02653/FL	Rear glazed garden room at 117 Hale Street
TM/13/02621/LRD	Details submitted pursuant to condition 2 (joinery) of TM/13/01057/LB (Removal of internal walls to enlarge kitchen, formation of new opening with double doors to garden. Creation of WC and utility room in garage, replacement windows and door; new garage door and new window in first floor bathroom) at 4 Old Road
TM/13/02669/LB	Cut a 5 inch hole in external brickwork for boiler flue at The Coultts, 46 Pound Road
TM/13/02884/FL	Demolition and replacement dwelling to provide a three/four bedroom property with integral garage at La Furze, 25 Addlestead Road
TM/13/02907/LB & TM/13/02969/FL	Demolition of garage and construction of two storey side extension at Bucklers Cottage, 128 Addlestead Road

MARVILLION COURT REDEVELOPMENT: We have been consulted on the name for the new development. The developer has suggested either Marvillion Close or Thomas Coram Close. We have advised TMBC that we would prefer the development to be known as Marvillion Close.

ROSE & CROWN, BRANBRIDGES ROAD – UPDATE: We have learnt that on 29 November 2013 the site was purchased by Baxter Homes (South East) Limited. TMBC has received an informal enquiry on behalf of the new owner relating to the possible redevelopment of the site for residential purposes. We believe that the same owner has also acquired the site of the former East Peckham Club in The Freehold.

MOBILE HOME – BRANBRIDGES ROAD: TMBC has advised that the occupiers of the residential caravan have submitted an application to remain on the site and therefore they are not currently pursuing prosecution for breaching the terms of the enforcement notice. The planning policy context in regard of Gypsy and Traveller sites in the Green Belt is awaiting clarification, more specifically, TMBC are awaiting a decision of the Secretary of State on another enforcement Green Belt case which will set the context of latest government Policy and thus be a consideration of weight. Furthermore, the Environment Agency is in the process of refining how it designates flood risk areas and that also needs to be crystallised, bearing in mind its fundamental importance at this site. TMBC fully appreciates the concerns over the delay in dealing with this case but needs to ensure their decision is robust and not promptly undermined by a changing policy/technical context.

LOCAL PLAN: During 2014 Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council will be focusing on the Local Plan for the borough. TMBC has to plan until 2031 for housing and employment to sustain communities and provide for families, young people, older people, and more households. The Government's clear agenda is that **growth and change will happen**. The population structure will change and there will be an aging demographic, so the Borough Council has to attempt to provide for those changes. We intend including regular updates in our newsletters and representatives from the Borough Council have been invited to have an exhibition stand at the 2014 Annual Parish Meeting where you will have the opportunity to see the draft plan, comment and ask questions. Apart from envisaging how the borough will look like by 2031, key issues will include:

- What is the role of your parish/village in the overall picture?
- Will housing be affordable enough to sustain balanced local communities?
- Where will local people live, work and play?
- What infrastructure, services and facilities will be needed to sustain our communities?
- What opportunities can be seized to benefit local communities via the development process?
- How can we and you involve the younger members of local communities?
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ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE: During 2014 we will be considering whether we wish to submit an informal list to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council for consideration prior to making a formal submission. The basic criteria that any site/building needs to meet is that its current use must be the main use of the site/building (i.e. not ancillary) and that the use furthers the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community both currently and in the future. This really means that the site/building is already in community use and local people make use of it on a regular basis. Full details are available via <http://www.tmbc.gov.uk/services/community-and-living/community-advice/community-engagement>. If you would like us to consider any specific sites or buildings as Assets of Community Value in the village do please let us know.

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 and an excursion to the Bovine re-enactments which will be taking place near Chereng in July 2014. 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 using the website <http://www.kent.gov.uk/highwayfaults>. You might be interested in the roadworks.org website which gives details of all planned works for the village. If you type in the web address it will come up with a map, in the search field type in the location and it will zoom in on all the works for the area.

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES

Hampstead Lane Yalding from 05 January 2014: A road closure will be in effect for two nights in order to enable a RSM inspection and maintenance to be carried out by Network Rail.

Pierce Mill Lane, East Peckham from 06 January 2014: A road closure will be in effect for up to 5 days in order for a new gas service to be carried out by Southern Gas Networks

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 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. They would like to hear from you if you are a registered elector of the Tonbridge and Malling Parliamentary Constituency, 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.

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

HAVE YOUR SAY ON KENT AND MEDWAY FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY'S SAFETY PLAN 2014: You have until 13 January 2014 to submit your views on the Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority 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 KMFRA can carry out necessary changes and continue to maintain an excellent level of emergency cover. The results of the consultation will go to the KMFRA in February 2014. Anyone who wants a 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: Practical guides to help rural communities keep warm and cut bills this winter have been launched by Action with Communities in Rural England. The guides are available for free download at [ACRE's website](http://www.acre.org.uk).

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

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. More details from the [SITA Trust website](#).

ENHANCING COMMUNITIES: The Trusthouse Charitable Foundation runs a grant programme that supports projects which address issues in Rural Communities and/or areas of Urban Deprivation. 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. More details from the [WRAP website](#).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

06 January 2014	Planning Committee, *7.30 p.m. in the Meeting Room at the Jubilee Hall
06 January 2014	Finance Committee, following the Planning Committee in the Meeting Room at the Jubilee Hall
15 January 2014	Parish Council Surgery, 10.30 a.m. – 12.00 p.m. in the library. Holly Carey will be the duty councillor
20 January 2014	Planning Committee followed by meeting of the full Parish Council, *7.15 p.m. in the Meeting Room at the Jubilee Hall

****Note amended meeting start times***

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.**