

EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Newsletter

June 2014

Dear Residents

We hope you are all enjoying the lovely weather we have been having. It's hard to believe the wet winter was only a few months ago, now that summer is finally here and blossoms are in full flower!

Earlier this year we set up a new website, www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk, and we are delighted at how popular it is turning out to be. We are continually looking for ways to improve the site to give you all the information you need on the Parish Council's and Local Authorities activities, as well as other village activities that we are notified of. If you wish to have an event added to the calendar, please send an email to admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk.

There has been some low level crime in the village. We are aware that many people think there is no point in calling the police when the crime appears to be minor i.e. youths causing disturbance or petty theft, but we would urge you to report all crime, no matter how small by either by telephoning 101 or by contacting our Community Warden Paul Harfleet on 07969 584183. This way, the police can note any particular patterns of crime in the local and surrounding area and take suitable action.

On 12th May, at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, Graham Haycock was re-elected Chairman, Tim Roper was re-elected Deputy Chairman and Stephanie Watson was elected Chairman of the Planning & Transportation Committee.

We would like everyone who came to the Annual Parish Meeting which was held on 21 May 2014. We were delighted with the turn out. At the meeting the annual Billy Can Awards were presented to Hannah Jackson and Steph Watson and the East Peckham Community Engagement Award was presented to David Boyle. As well as having the opportunity for residents to ask questions and meet the Parish Councillors, a wealth of information was available from the Hop Farm, the Environment Agency, East Peckham Magazine, East Peckham Twinning Association, ourselves (Parish Plan, Hale Street Road Narrowing Improvements and Environmental Enhancements), East Peckham Primary School PTA, East Peckham Flood Group and PSR Lighting and Signs (Footway Lighting Upgrade) and the Salvation Army who all had information stands. This year we experimented with a different and more informal format. If you attended and have not yet completed an event feedback form it is not too late to let us know your views, the form is available on our website. We have been overwhelmed with the positive response for the new format and hope to see many more of you at next year's Annual Parish Meeting, don't forget that the Annual Parish Meeting is your meeting and not a meeting of the Parish Council.

You probably already know that the Hop Farm Music Festival takes place over the weekend of 04 – 06 July; the management of the Hop Farm have advised that they will be making available some tickets at reduced prices to the local community. Whilst we have not yet received precise details of the offer please do keep checking our website because as soon as we have received more details they will be posted onto the website.

Kind regards
Chairman, Councillors & Clerk

Our 2014/2015 Aims & Objectives: These are

- Set a reasonable and sustainable precept.
- Decide key projects and investigate national and local funding streams
- Improve sustainability, maintenance and use of the Jubilee Hall
- Consider possible reduction in services by TMBC and KCC and what the PC could do to maintain key services and mitigate any loss in services to EP.
- Produce a new Community Emergency Plan
- Work with the business community to set up an East Peckham Business Forum
- Continue with the programme of village environment enhancements

EAST PECKHAM BUSINESS FORUM (EPBF) AN INTRODUCTION: In our May newsletter we reported that we were applying for a grant of £7,500 from Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council to be used on promoting business in East Peckham and that we would like to form an East Peckham Business Forum. Whilst it is our intention to spend the business grant on more litter bins outside retail premises, improved signage, and the setting up of an EPBF which would be run by a committee of volunteers we would really like to hear from you if you have any other suggestions on how to spend this funding allocation. Similarly if you are a business and interested in joining an East Peckham Business Forum please do let us know.

JUBILEE HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS: These are your facilities and we want you to enjoy using them. A wide range of activities take place each week including keep fit, Zumba, French lessons, gym, Children's Centre, badminton, bowls, Mini Music, Parent & Toddler group, goalkeeping school and a Carers Group. Our football pitches are used by the East Peckham Junior Football Team and we have super fitness equipment and play equipment for all ages. If you are looking for a venue for 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. Our latest programme of activities and the contact details of the activity organisers can be found on our website. There has been some vandalism, littering and anti-social behaviour; unfortunately a great deal of time and money is spent dealing with these incidents and carrying out repairs. If you know or witness anything please let us know or report it to the police on 101 or to our Community Warden on 07969 584183.

DEFIBRILLATOR: We have worked with the South East Coast Ambulance Service and have obtained a defibrillator for the village. The defibrillator is housed in a secure box attached to the wall of the Parish Office. This has allowed the defibrillator to be stored securely but enabling access by all residents. This facility is considered vital to the village and an ongoing training programme is offered to anyone who wants to learn how to use the device. There is no charge for this training so do please if you are interested let us know.

RECYCLING BANKS: The borough council was asked recently by the new owners of the Harp Public House to remove the recycling banks and we together with others were asked to suggest possible new locations. One of which was for the recycling banks to be relocated to the Jubilee Hall Car Park, we advised the borough council that it was not an option for them to be relocated to the Jubilee Hall Car Park for two reasons one of which was the risk of increasing anti-social behaviour incidents and the other was the unwelcome disturbance that it would cause neighbouring residents.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES: On speaking to our village 13–17 year olds the overwhelming response from them is that they are bored and apart from the youth bus which comes on a Thursday there is nothing for them to do. We want to engage with our young people and are considering ways in which we can improve facilities for the 13-17 year olds. We are delighted to announce two initiatives which we hope will generate much interest, these are:

- **Street Snooker Workshop:** At 1.30 p.m. on 06 August 2014 a Street Snooker workshop will be taking place on the Playing Fields. Why not come along and pit your skills against those of an Olympian. Bobby White an Olympian Handball player will be leading the workshop and there will be trophy's and prizes available for the best performances. There is no charge for the event which is open to residents of all ages.
- **Outdoor Equipment:** During 2014/2015 we will be looking at ways in which we can fund and install a new youth shelter and an outdoor table tennis table.

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

TM/14/0097666/RD Landscaping and boundary treatment pursuant to condition 5 of planning permission TM/12/03407/FL (change of use of (A3) restaurant to two dwellings including alterations to building and external areas) at 53 Old Road **NOTED**

TM/11/1096/RVAR Details of Landscaping Wildlife Enhancement and Public Rights of Way Enhancement pursuant to conditions (2), (3) and (14) (respectively) of TM/11/1096 (Retention of Rail Sidings for permanent use to import construction aggregates. Relocation of Ready Mix Concrete Plant) at East Peckham Quarry **NO OBJECTION**

PLANNING DECISIONS: TMBC HAS **GRANTED PERMISSION** for the following:

TM/13/03464/FL Single storey link between main dwelling and games room built onto existing garden wall at Hextall Cottage, 67 Martins Lane

TM/13/03556/FL Two storey rear extension and alterations to existing single storey dining room at Bourne House, 163 Tonbridge Road

TM/13/03818/FL Erection of two detached four bedroom houses at Land adjacent to 19 Golding Gardens

TM/13/03932/AT Wall mounted & free standing signage at Brookers Oast Restaurant, Maidstone Road, Paddock Wood

CARAVAN AT BRANBRIDGES ROAD, EAST PECKHAM – AN UPDATE FROM TMBC: The following update was received on 19 May 2014.

"The location of the site in the Green Belt is one of the key factors in our considerations. The Secretary of State notified LPAs that he intended to intervene in cases in the Green Belt "as a matter of practice". Therefore, as a matter of common sense we have been waiting to see how, on a practical basis, the Secretary of State was going to deal with such matters in the Green Belt. The first decision he made, having stated that his practice would be to "call in" all such appeal decisions to himself, was at Askew Bridge (a site on the A25.)

However that Askew Bridge decision has now been challenged by Judicial Review (JR) of the SoS's decision. That JR case goes to the heart of how the SoS made his decision and the way in which he has developed his national policies.

So, as you may imagine, we feel no more confident as to the way in which national policy and practice is to be applied, than before the Askew Bridge case was heard.

As a result we feel it imprudent to move forward on outstanding Green Belt cases unless and until the JR has, or has not, been accepted by the High Court and if accepted the case is decided. We established last week that the JR "consent hearing" is to take place on 10 June and will be linked to another couple of cases where the SoS's actions have been challenged on a question of legality.

This is immensely frustrating but I hope that you will understand that in this current situation it is very difficult to see quite how we can advise members firmly at the moment. As soon as things are clearer we will be considering where we can go on a number of outstanding cases. If the JR goes to full hearing then it is likely to be many months before we hear a decision and are able to assess the implications of the Court's judgements. It is only fair to say that one outcome *could* be that cases are sent back to the SoS for reconsideration which will only add to the uncertainty of outcome and timetable.

I am sorry that I can't be more definitive but it really would be unwise of this Council to act precipitately in the light of the uncertainty being visited on us."

Lindsay John Pearson
Chief Planning Officer
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council

TWINNING: East Peckham is twinned with Chereng in the Nord de Pas de Calais. The Twinning Association is independent of the Parish Council and activities are funded by those taking part and by fund-raising with no use of parish funds. Events planned for 2014 include the Chereng Carnival (April), visit to the War Graves in northern France and Belgium and an excursion to the Bovine re-enactments (July). For more information on Twinning please contact Colin Silver by sending an email to colin_plus@hotmail.co.uk.

SPEEDWATCH: We have received requests to set up a speed watch scheme which will be dependent on a sufficient number of volunteers coming forward. If they do then we would be willing to fund the start-up and equipment costs.

NEW FINGERPOSTS: Do please look out for the new fingerposts at Bullen Corner and Peckham Bush. We have recently commissioned another five new fingerposts which are to be installed at the Addlestead Road/Tonbridge Road junction, the Hale Street/Old Road junction, The Pound, the Hale Street/Church Lane junction and the Stanford Lane/Bells Farm Road junction. We have also commissioned the refurbishment of the existing fingerpost at the Bush Road/Church Lane junction. We are expecting these to be installed during the autumn

UPGRADE OF THE VILLAGE FOOTWAY LIGHTING: Inspired by the recent review by Kent County Council to reduce streetlight energy costs we similarly reviewed the East Peckham footway lighting. We decided that included within our budget for the next three years will be provisions to upgrade the existing lighting stock to part night illumination, *excluded will be Hale Street, Old Road, Church Lane and Pound Road which will continue to be illuminated from dusk to dawn*. Our long term aim is to reduce our energy charges and emissions into the environment. Whilst we have carried out a full assessment of the village and potential impacts, we would like to hear from you if you are able to identify any areas of the village where it is felt that a vulnerable group might be adversely impacted by the changes.

HALE STREET ROAD NARROWING IMPROVEMENTS: After many discussions with Kent Highways, we have been successful in obtaining improvements to the lower road narrowing by the Harp Public House. In the near future a 'table hump' is to be installed in the existing narrowing. We would like to thank past and present Councillors and our Clerk for persevering over the years which has finally brought about improvements to the existing scheme.

EAST PECKHAM TIME BANK: A time bank is a way to exchange skills and experience by giving time. For every hour that a member shares they get an hours credit which can be 'spent' however they choose and a variety of skills can be on offer. It's a flexible scheme that allows members to get involved as and when they can. The East Peckham time bank will aim to reduce social isolation by encouraging community awareness, support intergenerational activity, making links between existing groups within the village, building strong social networks, provide low level intervention to assist people to live independently in their own homes and to support each other socially to improve their environment. We hope you will support this new initiative.

BUS SHELTER GRANT OPPORTUNITY: Kent County Council has a grant scheme, through which assistance can be offered to Parish Councils who want to erect new or replacement bus stop shelters. The scheme also includes refurbishment works to existing bus shelters. If you would like to suggest locations within the village that could benefit from a bus shelter do please let us know as we could apply for grant funding covering up to 50% of the cost of a new, replacement or refurbished bus shelter, with a maximum value of £2,000.00 available.

COMMEMORATION OF WW1: This year it is particularly poignant as we commemorate 100 years of the Great War on August 4th. The war memorial is due to be renovated and we have been promised that the newly renovated war memorial will be ready for unveiling by 04 August. We are also planning to commemorate the centenary of WW1 by village wide poppy planting and we awarded a grant to the Russett Players which they used towards the costs of their amateur dramatic performance of Keeping the Home Fires Burning which many of you saw earlier this month.

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

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY: If you notice a problem or have a query with one of the Public Rights of Ways please report it on 0845 345 0210, for emergencies on 0300 333 5538 or report the fault online on Kent County Councils website <http://webapps.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccesscams/issues/default.aspx>

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.

DOG FOULING: We continue to receive a number of complaints about dog fouling. We would be grateful if those dog owners, who exercise their dogs around the village, could collect and correctly dispose of their dog's mess. Failing to clear up after your dog is an offence. The 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 and to which members of the public have access. 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. Contact information is as follows:

- For a found, lost dog or straying dog telephone 01732 876181 (also out of hours service), or
- For fouling, dangerous dog, a dog on dog attack or anything else telephone 01732 876147 or
- Email: dog.warden@tmbc.gov.uk.
- If a person had been bitten then the incident was to be reported to the Police on 101

EAST PECKHAM POLICE CONTACT POINT: This is your opportunity to discuss any policing issues with a neighbourhood officer, get expert crime prevention advice, have your say on policing in Kent and pick up a free crime prevention item (subject to availability). The Police Contact Point will be available on 29 June 2014 outside the Co-op, Branbridges petrol station, Branbridges Road, East Peckham, TN12 5WH between 4.30pm – 5.30pm. For Further information; visit the Kent Police website www.kent.police.uk, follow Kent Police on twitter @kentpoliceton, find Kent Police on Facebook, call 999 in an emergency, if you are deaf or speech-impaired, text 'Police' and your message to 60066 or you can call 101 to report a non-urgent crime or contact your local officer

HIGHWAYS: Potholes and other highway problems can be reported directly to Kent Highways. You might be interested in the roadworks.org website which gives details of all planned works for the village, on this website 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. Residents are asked to report potholes and other faults online at www.kent.gov.uk/highways, where details can be easily uploaded and locations pinpointed on an interactive map. Providing this information will help speed up the rate of repairs. In the event of an emergency, residents should call 03000 41 81 81.

Every year throughout the spring and summer KCC Highways & Transportation receive numerous complaints regarding trees, hedges and other vegetation, which overhang the highway from private property. This matter can pose a number of problems for people trying to use the footways, especially if they are trying to pass with buggies, wheelchairs and scooters. It would be greatly appreciated if you could ensure that any trees and hedges that are bordering the Highway are maintained and cut back to your boundary which would greatly benefit all Highway users. This will help us all keep the highway safe and prevent the need for KCC Highways & Transportation writing to you requesting that you cut back your vegetation. Also, we would ask that you pay special attention to your trees, hedges and vegetation if your property is on or near a junction, and/or inside bend of the road, to maintain maximum visibility for road users. So that you are aware of the requirements, please refer to the following below.

If the boundary of your property borders the footway, then please be aware that:

- The full width of the footway/pavement must be available for use by pedestrians.
- As well, there must be a minimum height clearance over the footway/pavement of 2.1 metres / 7 feet for any vegetation.

If the boundary of your property borders the carriageway, then please be aware that:

- If you have vegetation that overhangs into the road, there must be a minimum height clearance of 5 metres / 16 feet, to accommodate buses and HGV's that may use the road.
- If your property is rural, then vegetation should be 0.45 metres / 1'6" feet behind the edge of the road and all signs need to be kept clear of foliage for at least 20 metres.

THE BIG LOTTERY FUND: has launched an online conversation about how it should direct its funding and its framework going forward. Fundamentally it concerns how £4bn of lottery funding should be spent between 2015 and 2021. The exercise, called Your Voice, Our Vision, is open to everyone from charity professionals to the general public on a dedicated [website](#). People will be asked to share their opinions by registering on the website and submitting suggestions by mid-July.

BRING HOME THE HARVEST FOR BRITISH FOOD FORTNIGHT 2014: Autumn 2014 marks the return of the hugely popular Bring Home the Harvest campaign, for British Food Fortnight, which aims to bring together communities from across the UK to help rekindle the age old tradition of celebrating the Harvest.

What's Happening? A challenge to find the community and the school or group of young people who organise the most imaginative and inclusive harvest celebration; a fun social media campaign; and the National Harvest Service for children. Plus the event's annual drive to encourage shops, pubs and restaurants to run British food promotions during the Fortnight. Here is a taster of how everyone can get involved:

Bring Home the Harvest in your Community: The campaign is searching for the new Harvest Heroes – the community and the groups of young people that organise the most innovative, inclusive and imaginative harvest celebrations during British Food Fortnight.

#HarvestFever: The campaign wants to see you showing off your home grown produce during British Food Fortnight, with your funkier "Harvest Fever" poses! Throw those shapes, use the hashtag #HarvestFever and nominate people you know by "Harvest Fever forwarding" to your friends on Facebook and Twitter. Don't forget to tag @LoveBritishFood and @FarmersGuardian !

The National Harvest Service: Campaign organisers are bringing the British Food Fortnight National Harvest Service to the people. Following the success of the Service in Westminster Abbey last year, it will rotate around the country on an annual basis. Schools and other young people will be invited to create a harvest box that celebrates the food produced in their part of the country and the best will be part of the Service.

Harvest fare on menus: Pubs and restaurants, from the small to the very large are invited to join in with celebratory Harvest menus during British Food Fortnight.

To find out how you can take part, download promotional material, sign up for monthly updates on the latest British food news and for details of what is happening near you, see www.lovebritishfood.co.uk or email info@lovebritishfood.co.uk .

KENT SHEDS Is a new programme that looks to support groups and organisations across Kent to establish a network of Sheds projects. These Sheds will provide a place for men and ex-service personnel to come together to pursue hobbies and interests, share their knowledge and skills and develop new friendships. Kent Sheds are looking to help groups set up their own Shed within their community. As such Kent Sheds is pleased to offer interested groups a package of support, including:

- One-to-one mentoring and support
- Advice and guidance
- Development grants and financial assistance

As part of the network of Sheds they would be particularly interested to hear from organisations who would like to establish Sheds specifically for ex-service men and women. If you are interested in setting up a Shed you can learn more about the programme or see the guidance notes on the [Kent Sheds website](#) or contact Julie Cowdry on 01322 384 848 or email her at kentsheds@groundwork.org.uk

NEW EUROPEAN MONEY WILL HELP THE JOBLESS IN KENT: Almost £400,000 of EU grant funding is now available to support smaller charities and social enterprises that help people get back to work. Action with Communities in Rural Kent will be managing the European Social Fund (ESF) Community Grants scheme across Kent and Medway until mid-2015, and awards of up to £15,000 will be available. The Community Grant funds small organisations and community groups that have been in receipt of less than a total of £300,000 income over the last financial year and who have no more than 9 full-time equivalent staff. ESF Community Grants support a wide range of activities including Initial help with basic skills, taster work experience, voluntary work, training, advice, confidence building. Priority will be given to projects that support lone parents, women, people with health/disability issues, older people (50 years plus) and people from ethnic minorities and diverse communities. The next deadline for applications will be at 1.00 pm on 2nd June and 1st September.

BE WILD ABOUT YOUR GARDEN! Kent Wildlife Trust has launched its 2014 Wild about Gardens awards scheme. The Wild about Gardens awards scheme is free to enter. Anyone who gardens in Kent is welcome to take part, however large or small their plot and whether they are a business, community group, school, allotment, private garden or even a collection of adjoining gardens. The closing date is 30th June. Kent Wildlife Trust's volunteer gardening advisors aim to visit as many entrants as possible during the season and recommend gardens for bronze, silver or gold certificates as well as giving out useful advice. In addition, 'Gold' winners receive one of the Trust's coveted Wild about Gardens Blue Plaques and may be put forward for a special award for gardens of particular merit. The 11 categories are: *Cool School for Nature*, *Best Community Wildlife Project*, *Best Water Wise Wildlife Garden* (all sponsored by Southern Water); *Best Wildlife Churchyard* (sponsored by Kent God's Acre); *Best 'Dragon' Garden* (sponsored by Kent Reptile & Amphibian Group); *Best 'Buzz' Garden* (sponsored by Bumble Bee Conservation Trust); *Best Garden for Bats* (sponsored by Kent Bat Group); *Best Urban Garden - Jewel in the Town*; *Top of the Plots – Best Wildlife Friendly Allotment*; *Best Small Wildlife Garden*; and *Best Wildlife Garden in Kent*. Winners will be notified by the end of September and invited to attend an awards presentation in November. The entry form can be found at www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk or ask for a leaflet by calling 01622 662012.

JUNE 2014 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

03 June 2014	Carers Group, 12.00 p.m. in the Meeting Room at the Jubilee Hall
09 June 2014	Meeting of the Planning & Transportation Committee followed by a meeting of the full Parish Council. Proceedings commence at 7.15 p.m.
18 June 2014	Surgery, 10.30 a.m. – 12.00 p.m. in the library. Holly Carey will be the duty councillor.
23 June 2014	Planning Committee, 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, 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.

Kent Highways - Summer 2014 (Private Vegetation obstructing Highway)

Dear Resident

Please can you monitor your vegetation, hedges and trees and keep the roads and pavements outside your property clear and unobstructed for the benefit of pedestrians and other highway users.

Please also keep streetlights and road signs adjacent to your property clear and unobstructed.

If the council contact you regarding the need to cut back vegetation on your property, please ensure that you do so within the time specified.

Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated and will help to keep the highway within your parish clear and safe this summer.

*Andy Watson
Highway Steward
Kent County Council Highways & Transportation*