

EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2015

Newsletter from EPPC - Working on behalf of the people of East Peckham

Dear All,

Did you know that you can now follow us on twitter @EastPeckhamPC, we look forward to receiving your 'tweets' and hope that you will follow us.

We hope you are enjoying the hot weather. We know our hanging baskets struggled despite being regularly watered; they're now providing a wonderful floral display. Our thanks go to Mark Edwards and his team for their magnificent efforts. The arrangements compliment the others we've placed around the village; together with the new fingerposts and benches on the playing fields they have improved our village street scene.

Our summer recess will be from 22 July 2015 to 04 September 2015, during this time there'll be no meetings and the office will be closed. This doesn't mean we stop work, business continues as usual; please therefore send emails to admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk, messages on twitter to @EastPeckhamPC or you can contact us through our website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk. If you'd like to speak to someone, please contact:

Karen Bell	Parish Clerk	01622 871309/07804 143224
Steph Watson	Chairman	01622 870154/07944212262
Peter Crawford	Deputy Chairman	01622 872238
Penny Graham	Chairman, Planning & Transportation Committee	01622 871494/07515143198

We've recently installed a projector and hearing loop in the meeting room, this means that our meetings will hopefully be 'paperless' and more engaging, we also hope that the new equipment will improve our offerings at the Jubilee Hall which will result in an increase in the number of users wanting to use our facilities.

If you missed last months' news, we have been awarded Foundation Status under the Local Council Award Scheme. Achieving foundation status has been very satisfying, especially considering that we are 1 of only 17 parish and town councils within Kent and 1 of only 2 within Tonbridge & Malling to achieve this status.

Don't forget, if you notice any highways issues, when out and about to report anything you see that requires attention to KCC Highways at <http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>. The Highways team is pretty prompt at dealing with any queries, but need to be made aware of them. Similarly issues with regard to overgrown vegetation are the responsibility of KCC Public Rights of Way and should be reported directly to them. Regardless of the growing season the vegetation will only receive two cuts per annum. To report a problem go to the website www.kent.gov.uk/report-a-problem-on-a-right-of-way.

Sadly there have been several acts of vandalism at the playing fields recently. We will not tolerate mindless vandalism of our facilities or anti-social behaviour which costs a great deal of time and money to deal with, if you know who might be responsible please report it to us or to the police on 101. Without incidents being reported the Police are not able to build up an accurate picture of what is happening and therefore unable to deploy appropriate resources. If you would prefer to report incidents anonymously, you can do so through Crimestoppers, the website <https://crimestoppers-uk.org> enables you to give information online or you can also call them on 0800 555 111.

KCC are piloting a Local Warden Support Officer Scheme, out of 24 parishes interested in the 12 pilots, East Peckham has been chosen. We have had an initial meeting with KCC who have outlined the Pilot Scheme and advertising for suitable volunteers will begin soon. KCC will oversee the role and management of the Local Warden Support Officer and it is hoped that recruitment and training will be completed in September/October so that the volunteer warden is in post by the autumn.

Finally this month we would like to mention the Annual Remembrance Parade, as the police no longer marshal the event and haven't for some years, it is down to us as a community to do so. If you would like to volunteer to be one of the marshals, please let us know and we will pass your details onto the Parade Organiser.

Kind regards

Chairman, Councillors and Clerk

MEMBERS BIOGRAPHIES

Over the next few months we will be including biographies from parish councilors, the first three are below:

Penny Graham



I have been a parish councilor since 2010 and am presently chair of Planning, Highways & Transport. I am also a Flood Warden.

I am interested in people and my aim is to aid communication between residents and local authorities, so that we can all live in a better environment. My most recent significant contribution has been with the team drafting of the village Resilience Plan.

My background is in social services, catering and community involvement. My special interest is in the coordination of social services and the NHS, and I am a member of Healthwatch Kent as a public representative. I am also a Silver Line volunteer.

I have lived in the village since 1987 and am presently actively involved in a number of village activities - Theatre Group, CAMEO (Salvation Army), Community Choir, Bridge, WI and the Library Book Lovers Group.



Serina Page

I have lived in East Peckham for just over 11 years. In August 2010 I volunteered to take on the East Peckham Parish Magazine as it was in danger of coming to an end if a new editor was not found. My first East Peckham Magazine was published in October 2010. It remains a Parish Magazine and was and still is an autonomous publication. Unknowingly at that time, the editorship of this publication brought me very close to the residents and heart of East Peckham, which is one of the reasons why I put my name forward for Parish Council.

In a previous life, I lived and worked in West London before retiring. The countryside beckoned and so we decided on early retirement when fate brought my husband John and I to live in East Peckham. We searched Norfolk, Surrey and Devon for our new home before considering Kent, eventually settling here. Don't know why we chose East Peckham, it just happened; another piece of our personal history jigsaw fell into place and it felt right.

My children, long grown up, have children of their own, who in turn have made my children grandparents, which means that John and I now have the honour of bearing the title 'great-grandparents'. This makes us sound very old, but even so, we still have a lot to give; hence another reason why I made the decision to become a councillor.

Jenny Macdonald



Having served on the Parish Council for some years. I must say I was delighted that enough of you knew who I was and then, very kindly, voted for me. Although those of us who have lived in East Peckham for many years are aware of what a friendly place it is, we cannot deny that, compared to many other Kent villages, East Peckham's looks have tended to go against it. There has been too much litter and littering, whether by villagers or from vehicles passing through; dilapidated road signs left to rot and apart from the delightful tubs outside the Village Stores, there has been no attempt historically at floral displays. With a small budget, the Parish Council is doing its best to change this.

We are making progress with our phased programme of environmental enhancements. Phase One was the village signs and the fingerposts at Peckham Bush and Bullen Corner. Phase Two is the renovation of the traditional iron post at the Parish Church junction and replacement of the Invicta prancing horse that was stolen from above the village sign on the Tonbridge Road. Phase Three is the replacement with traditional oak of all the remaining rusting metal posts, five in all. Two are in Hale Street, one at The Pound, one at the Stanford Lane/Bells Farm Road junction and one at the Tonbridge Road/Addlestead Road junction. Phase Four will be to reinstate the hamlets that were bought together as East Peckham Parish many years ago and now risk being lost in the mists of time.

We hope you have noticed our initial forays into tubs and hanging baskets in the village centre. They represent a determined start and we plan to increase and improve our floral displays in future years. So, lots still to get done despite these straightened times, but look out for improvements as they happen and celebrate all that is good about where we live.

My best wishes to all for a sunny summer break. Let's hope!

PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE – www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk

We are looking at changing the look of our website. If you have the time, we'd be grateful for your feedback on what you think of the current site and what you'd like from a new design, but would ask you read the following first.

- Our current site is almost 2 years old. Even during this relatively short period, users' preferences have changed dramatically. Approximately 50% of the visits to our website are now from tablets or smart-phones.
- A number of visitors to the site do not enter at the home page, but directly into the content, making it important to us that they find what they are looking for, especially if that content is not what they were seeking.
- More visitors are looking to do things themselves; we want to support this by making it easy, quick and intuitive.
- We need to ensure that the site is accessible and easy to use so that users, irrespective of their 'web savyness' can find their way around without distractions and 'content clutter' that is of no relevance to them.

The main principles we want to achieve are;

- The website to become the preferred choice of channel for transacting with us. Therefore the design should reflect the change from 'website' to 'customer service portal'.
- The website should support customer self-service and pro-active service delivery
- The website should be fully responsive and designed for mobile technology first.
- The website should allow customers to do what they are looking to do simply and quickly.
- The website should be accessible and minimise the need to download data.
- The 'Home page' design should support customers' needs, not the Council's 'marketing'.
- Navigation should be based on what the customer wants to do.
- The website should use tools and imagery that mobile users are familiar with.
- The website should encourage customers of all ages to engage with us.

We hope you'll look at our current website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk and let us know how we can make it better.

COUNCILLORS AREAS

The Parish Councillors represent the village as a whole, but, for administrative and Emergency Planning purposes the village has been divided into areas and an area assigned to each councillor. Councillors can be contacted through our website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk or via the Parish Office. The areas are:

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|---|------------------|
| 1. Hale Street, Bardsley Close, Hale Court, Medway Meadows, Cates Court & Maidstone Road | Peter Crawford |
| 2. Smithers Lane, Pattenden Gardens, Hop Bine Close, Smithers Court, Beltring Road, Branbridges Road & Maidstone Road (A26) | Amanda Hodgson |
| 3. Old Road, Strettitt Gardens, Pinkham & Pinkham Gardens | Penny Graham |
| 4. Addlestead Road, Chidley Cross Road, Caysers Croft & Tonbridge Road | Lynton Wright |
| 5. Pound Road, The Old Dairy & Snoll Hatch Road | Serina Page |
| 6. Orchard Road, The Freehold, Red Roses, Marvillion & Crown Acres (Odds) | Colin Silver |
| 7. Whitebine, Golding & Henham Gardens & Crown Acres (evens) | Mick Barton |
| 8. Fell Mead, Stockenbury, Bramley Road, Pippin Road & Russett Road | Steph Watson |
| 9. Hatches Lane, Bullen Lane, Bells Farm Road, Grove Close & Stanford Lane | Jenny Macdonald |
| 10. Westwood Road, Drage Road, William Luck Close & Cotman Way | Murray Hodgson |
| 11. Court Lodge, Roydon Hall & Bush Roads, Seven Mile, Martins & Church Lanes | Michael Ferguson |

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPONSOR A COMMUNITY PROJECT?

There are many projects you could help. If you are interested please let us know.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

If your group or organisation would like to apply for a small grant please visit the website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk where you will find details of our grants policy and application form.

COMMUNITY DEFIBRILATOR

The defibrillator is attached to the wall of the Jubilee Hall in Pippin Road, it is vital to the village and we offer a ***free training programme to anyone wanting to learn how to use it.*** The defibrillator 'talks' to the operator and gives easy instructions on where to place electrode packs, how to administer CPR and when to press the 'shock' button. An operator can't 'shock' a patient that doesn't require it and can't make a bad situation worse. SECamb know of the location of the defibrillator so that when someone dials 999 about a possible heart attack, they can immediately see if there is a defibrillator near to the caller, give them the access code and direct them there.

ALLOTMENTS

Allotments are provided on land adjacent to the Playing Fields. The annual rents are very reasonable. We currently have a few vacant plots. If you are interested, please contact the Parish Office.

OVERGROWN SIGHTLINES

We have asked Kent Highways to cut back the overgrown sightlines into and out of East Peckham

JUBILEE HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS

We own and manage the facilities which comprise of the Playing Fields, Sports Hall and Meeting Room. There are many regular activities for adults and children and the facilities buzz with excitement. From the under 5's toddlers' group and gym sessions to activities for adults such as Keep fit, badminton, bowls and Zumba, we are also the venue for a monthly carers group. Outside we have the East Peckham Football Team and a goal keeping school. We have hot drinks, cold drinks and snack machines too. Please consider our facilities for your next event; the facilities are perfect for any occasion. A programme of activities and the activity organisers contact details can be found on our website.

In addition to the regular activities which take place each week we would like to widen the number of sporting and other activities available from the premises and create a more community hub. We would be pleased to hear from you if there are any indoor or outdoor activities you would like us to provide such as archery, cycling and running clubs. We would also be pleased to hear from you if you would be interested in starting up a new activity.

Children's Party Packages: We have some fantastic packages, offering hassle free solutions to make your life easier and your event a great success. For more information such as costs and availability please contact the Parish Office,

Business Event Solutions: We can offer solutions for business events such as one-to-one consultations to a classroom or meeting venue. We can provide a great space for training, meetings and exhibitions. We now have a hearing loop and a projector which we can hire for your events. For more information such as costs and availability please contact the Parish Office.

The playing fields are a beautiful open space in the centre of the village and are open to all residents. We want them to be a safe haven for you to enjoy the peace and quiet and for children to play safely, families to picnic, joggers to run securely, play rounder's, kick a football, fly a kite or just a place to sit and contemplate. We will continue to develop the facilities so that the village; is well equipped with leisure facilities for everyone. We are currently exploring the idea of a fitness trail around the perimeter of the playing fields to blend in with the natural environment.

EAST PECKHAM BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Are you a member of the East Peckham business community and would like to see East Peckham have a business forum, if so we would be delighted to hear from you. Some of the things that an East Peckham Business Forum could do are publish a business directory, visitor's information leaflet and to arrange an East Peckham Business Showcase event where residents could come along and meet the many businesses in the village who employ many local people. We think it would be a wonderful opportunity for everyone to see what is produced, meet the business owners and find out about local services. To kick start this initiative, we would like to invite representatives from local businesses and community groups to a networking breakfast on:

Thursday, 10 September 2015
7.30 a.m. – 8.30 a.m.

At the Jubilee Hall Meeting Room, Pippin Road, East Peckham

This is a great way to meet local business people and those representing community groups over coffee and breakfast. If you would like to attend please RSVP to admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk by 08 September 2015

BLOOMING IN EAST PECKHAM

We would like to form an East Peckham in Bloom group which will have our endorsement and comprise of residents whose aim is to enhance the appearance of the village. The Group's first step could be to become a member of 'Britain in Bloom' an organisation set up by the Royal Horticultural Society who get involved in various projects such as caring for local parks, helping to establish school gardens and run wildlife projects.

We would also like to encourage residents and retailers to keep their frontages clean and tidy. If you are a local business and would like to sponsor this project or make a donation, please let us know. Similarly, we would like to hear from you if you are interested in becoming part of the East Peckham in Bloom Group. We are looking for garden enthusiasts, carpenters/DIY'ers, artists or just residents who want to be involved.

2016 will see the return of the Garden Competition. Whilst the exact details have not yet been confirmed it is likely that there will be several categories such as the best front garden, basket, patio/balcony, shop front, wildlife garden, planter/tub, allotment and entry into each category will be by entry form.

LITTERING

Litter does not clear itself away. The cost of clearing up litter runs into hundreds of pounds. A person is guilty of a littering offence if they throw down, drop or deposit and then leave it in a public place. TMBC will respond to complaints and have the power to issue fixed penalty notices. It's such a shame that an uncaring few spoil it for the rest of us. To help keep East Peckham beautiful, please clear up your frontages and collect rubbish along your roads. Let's keep our village tidy. We are aware of a number of local residents who regularly collect litter and our thanks go to these unsung heroes - what caring citizens you are. If you would like to nominate a special village person, please let us know.

ADVICE RE FOOD WASTE DURING HOTTER WEATHER

It's that time of year again and we're starting to get some hotter weather. With this in mind, it is useful to summarise the options. One of the key advantages of TMBC's alternating collection service is that food waste can still be disposed of weekly, especially during periods of hotter weather.

In **green-lidded bin collection week**, food waste should be placed directly into the green-lidded bin with your garden waste and cardboard. As this waste is sent straight for composting, plastic or corn-starch bags cannot be used to wrap the food waste. If you want to wrap food waste to help reduce odours, you can wrap it in newspaper or cardboard (eg cereal boxes). Alternatively, you might wish to use paper liners. TMBC has a supply of sample liners for residents to try, and also provide a list of stockists on their website, although more and more supermarkets now stock them. TMBC also provide kitchen caddies for food waste, to help reduce trips to the green-lidded bin. Clearly we should compost as much food waste as possible, but we do appreciate that residents may have concerns about odours during hotter weather and may wish to use their black bin on the alternate week.

In black bin collection week, any food waste placed into the black bin can be wrapped in plastic bags to reduce odours. This allows residents to use whichever bin is next due for collection.

Full details of TMBC's services can be found on the website at www.tmbc.gov.uk/waste. TMBC also has a range of online forms for reporting problems such as a missing bin or fly tipping - <http://www.tmbc.gov.uk/do-it-online> and residents can also sign up to TMBC's My Account facility so that you receive automatic updates on a range of TMBC services, including waste updates such as any changes over Bank Holidays or during bad weather: <https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/my-account#register>. For more information please contact TMBC's Waste Services by email to waste.services@tmbc.gov.uk or telephoning 01732 876147

KCC – CURRENT POSITION RE SPEED LIMIT REVIEWS

The guidance local authorities consider when setting speed limits is found on the website https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/63975/circular-01-2013.pdf. It is the characteristics and levels of development of a road which determines the speed drivers choose to travel. If they feel safe to drive at a given speed they will do so, regardless of the speed limit. The exception is where there is likely to be enforcement. Where a significant new development occurs and it is appropriate to alter existing speed limits then KCC will where possible make developers bear the cost of those changes along with any infrastructure to make the speed limit as self-enforcing as possible, for example traffic calming measures. KCC's priority is to reduce road casualties; if changes to speed limits are considered appropriate then they will do all they can. However, drivers need to understand the reasons why they are being 'told' to drive at a given speed if they are to be complied with. Simply putting up a few additional signs will not achieve much. KCC has a reduced budget and it will take a disproportionate amount to fund speed reductions, of course if there is more than a "perceived" safety reason then things will have to be done.

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

Speed watch is a local initiative where active community members supported by the police monitor vehicle speeds using speed detection devices. Vehicles exceeding speed limits are referred to the Police with the aim of educating drivers to reduce speeds. If you're worried about the speeding in the village and want to help do something about it, now's your chance. We have agreed in principal to fund the cost of equipment if at least 12 volunteers are prepared to be trained to operate the equipment. If you're interested in speed watch for East Peckham and would like to volunteer we'd be pleased to hear from you. Speed Watchers collate information about speeding motorists and this is passed to Kent Police who then issue warning letters and monitor the situation.

HIGHWAYS

The preferred way to let highways know about faults such as potholes or overgrown vegetation is through the website www.kent.gov.uk/highwayfaults where details can be uploaded and locations pinpointed on a map. In the event of an emergency you should call 03000 41 81 81. There is no need for the Parish Council to refer highways issues direct to Highways as this often gives the impression to customers that they need to come back to the Parish Council. You might be interested in the roadworks.org website which gives details of planned works, on this website, 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 works for the area.

OVERGROWN PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

KCC is responsible for maintaining public rights of way. Regardless of the growing season the majority will be cut twice each year. Report any problems online at <http://webapps.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccesscams/issues/default.aspx>. Kent County Council Public Rights of Way Department has provided us with a copy of their vegetation clearance schedule for East Peckham. A copy of the map is available on our website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk. Most of the village Public Rights of Ways are scheduled to receive two cuts per year, the first should have been completed by end of June 2015 and the next will be done in August. If you are aware of any extras which need to be added, please contact PROW directly by telephoning 03000414145.

ILLEGAL CARAVAN AT THE REAR OF THE ROSE AND CROWN

At the time of preparing this newsletter we have received no update regarding its removal from the site.

TWINNING – ENTENTE CORDIALE

In common with many other towns and villages across the UK, East Peckham is twinned, our twinned village is Chéreng. We have special village signs that declare our twinned relationship. But what does twinning mean today? Is there a cost and who reaps the benefits? And is there any value in making friends abroad?

WHERE IS CHERENG?

Chéreng a small town located in the department of Nord of the French region Nord-Pas-de-Calais. Chéreng is located in the township of Lannoy part of the district of Lille. In 2007, the population of Chéreng was 3,033. The number of houses in Chéreng was 1,140 in 2007. These homes consist of 1 105 main residences and 35 vacant homes. There is huge enthusiasm for the relationship from the people of Chéreng and they have a great consciousness of being twinned with East Peckham.



WHY IS EAST PECKHAM TWINNED?

One of the reasons behind the Twinning is that because as an island the UK has a tendency to remain insular and by linking with villages abroad, twinning can broaden horizons culturally, linguistically and socially.

WHO ORGANISES THE TWINNING IN EAST PECKHAM?

East Peckham Twinning Association (EPTA) is a self-funded member based society supporting the existing links between East Peckham and Chéreng in education, youth, culture sport and trade and seeks to promote and nurture new ones. We are always looking for new potential links, essentially acting as intermediaries, pairing local clubs and societies with their Chéreng counterparts, i.e. East Peckham Silver Band and the Chéreng Harmonie, East Peckham Walking Group and the Chéreng Walking Group and the primary schools in East Peckham and Chéreng, in addition to this many people in East Peckham have made firm friends with people in Chéreng.

The EPTA receives no financial support from the Parish Council and is entirely self-funding. Sadly the constitution of the EPTA has been suspended as there are currently not enough active members to form a Committee but we are hopeful that a committee will be formed in the near future and then funding on Twinning Activities will come from membership subscriptions and fundraising activities.

We would like to be able to organise a full and varied calendar of events such as music concerts, sporting competitions, quiz nights, bingo nights and film shows. In recent months, the East Peckham Silver Band joined the Chéreng Harmonie and performed in Chéreng and the East Peckham Walking Group hosted a group from Chéreng, without the twinning connection these events would not have happened.

If you are interested in learning more about Chéreng and finding out about Twinning please contact Karen Bell, Secretary/Treasurer East Peckham Twinning Association by sending an email to admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk.

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The Committee aims to represent the views of the community when consulted on planning applications and to improve transportation issues in East Peckham. The Committee would like to encourage residents to exercise their rights to comment on planning applications. Committee meetings are held at 7.15 p.m. on the first Monday in each month (except August); meetings are held in the Jubilee Hall Meeting Room, Pippin Road, East Peckham, TN12 5BT.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

TM/15/01179/FL	The Committee has recently considered the following planning applications Conservatory to Plot 1 (Erection of detached four bedroom house) at Land Adjacent to 19 Golding Gardens, East Peckham	<u>Amended plans received for information only</u>
TM/15/01665/FL	Replacement oak framed garage with home office and domestic storage in roof space at Hale Street Farmhouse, 150 Hale Street, East Peckham	OBJECTION
TM/15/01692/FL	uPVC window to outside wall of integral garage at 1 Caysers Croft	NO OBJECTION
TM/15/01853/FL	Colour change to the existing frame around main entrance and replacement of plant to the rear of the store at Petrol Filling Station, Branbridges Road	NO OBJECTION
TM/15/01939/FL	Single storey side extension and first floor rear extension over existing living room at 11 Henham Gardens, East Peckham	NO OBJECTION
TM/15/01948/FL	Change of use and extension to redundant telephone exchange to create two bedroom dwelling with parking at Telephone Exchange, Old Road, East Peckham	OBJECTION

PLANNING DECISIONS

TMBC has **GRANTED PERMISSION** for the following

TM/15/00059/FL	Conversion of commercial barn into dwellings with alterations to building exterior, additional windows, larch cladding and slate roof at Barn Southwest of the Granary, Stilstead Farm.
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ROSE & CROWN PUBLIC HOUSE

We have expressed to TMBC our continued concern with the site which is not only a complete eyesore but a health and safety issue. We have insisted that TMBC take action and force the landowner to tidy up the site and erect appropriate hoarding. TMBC has advised that having taken the opportunity to revisit the site believe that its condition has continued to deteriorate. With that in mind, they have reached the view that it is now in such a condition as to adversely affect the visual amenities of the locality, justifying the formal service of a Section 215 Notice. We expect the Notice to require general clearing of the car park and garden area, removal of advertisements and re-boarding of the windows/openings but will need to look in more detail at exactly what will be cited as necessary action for the site owner to take.

DOG FOULING

We take dog fouling, particularly in the Playing Fields, very seriously. We cannot over-stress the dangers dog faeces poses – Toxocariasis is found in dog faeces and can cause partial blindness. Children are particularly susceptible and the disease affects up to 100 children every year in the UK. The Playing Fields are owned by the Parish Council but controlled by Dog Control Orders which are enforced by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council. It's such a shame that just a few uncaring dog owners spoil things for others but as a community we still have the ongoing disgusting problem of dog fouling. Dog deposits provided it is bagged up can be put into any bin. If you see anyone failing to clear up after their dog please contact the Community or Dog Wardens. We have a supply of dog bags which subject to availability are available free of charge from the Parish Office. Please be aware that failing to clear up after your dog is an offence and 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 the public have access. If you have a dog fouling complaint obtain as much information as possible as it will assist the Dog Warden.

- For a found, lost 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 has been bitten then the incident is to be reported to the Police on 101

POLICE

Police Contact Points are on a rolling two week schedule. The police van will be in the Co-op Car Park, Branbridges Road, East Peckham for an hour long visit on Thursdays from 4:30pm to 5:30pm on a fortnightly basis. Come along to talk to a neighbourhood officer about any policing concerns you may have, to get safety advice or to collect a free crime prevention item. In an emergency, if a crime is in progress or life is in danger, call **999** For non-urgent issues call **101** If deaf or speech impaired, text „Police „and your message to **60066** For news and advice visit **www.kent.police.uk** Follow on Twitter **@kent_police** or **@kentpoliceton** Find Kent Police on Facebook.

COUNTRY EYE
FREE APP FOR PEOPLE LIVING AND WORKING IN THE RURAL COMMUNITY

Helping Keep the Rural Community in Kent Safe. The app records and disseminates information using the camera and GPS location settings. The app has been built to help Kent residents and farmers receive rural information and report information quickly and efficiently. It allows users to record and share information on crime, suspicious behaviour and damage in their home community or whilst out and about.

PARKING ON PAVEMENTS

This is a common problem, partly because many roads were built before cars and because drivers want to park as close as possible to where they live. In areas where there are no parking restrictions the borough councils Civil Enforcement Officers will not be able to help and the police can only enforce against dangerous parking. If you spot a vehicle wrongly parked, call 101 and our PCSO's will try and attend, contact the owner and get the vehicle moved on. Whilst the PCSO's cannot issue tickets they can issue advice notices. The Police have advised as follows:

- They are aware of complaints with vehicles parking on pavements. This is however a common problem in villages.
- The PCSO's will continue to deal with vehicles causing an obstruction
- The PCSO's have placed warning notices on several vehicles in East Peckham, they have also explained to complainants that they can't stop people parking with two wheels on a pavement if there is still room to get through.

Parking problems are an issue of concern but there has to be a balance between keeping pavements free for pedestrians and allowing people to park within the village. Sometimes this has led to unofficial systems being used such as vehicles parking on pavements one side of the road leaving the opposite pavement unobstructed where there is physically not enough room to park cars wholly on the road; however these systems do still lead to on-going complaints. It is unfortunate however that it is nearly impossible to please everyone when dealing with issues like this and it is best to try and find a balance that allows everyone to get around the village as best they can whilst hopefully understanding the other side of the issue.

PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT OF THE POUND ROAD METHODIST BUILDING

Message from John Butt, the Methodist Minister

'It may appear that things have gone quiet recently, but that is not the case so here's what's happened so far:

- The questionnaires received have been collated. Our thanks go to everyone who responded. We know that ideas are still coming forward and it is not too late to make suggestions.
- The Circuit Finance and Property Committee asked the architect who did the quinquennial report to obtain quotations for the work outlined in his report, the roofing survey and the report from the structural engineer. This involved visits from roofing contractors, services engineer and damp and rot specialists. The cost of this exercise is being met by the Circuit.

What next?

- When the architect's findings have been received by the Circuit Property and Finance Committee arrangements will be made for a General Church Meeting. The Superintendent Minister and representatives from the Committee will be there to answer any questions that arise. Also at the meeting a summary of the responses to the questionnaire will be presented.
- Following the Church Meeting there will be a Church Council to act on the recommendations of the Church Meeting. It is hoped that that this will happen early in September.

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2015 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

08 August 2015	Bulky Refuse Freighter, 8.00 a.m. – 9.00 a.m., Jubilee Hall Car Park, Pippin Road, East Peckham
22 August 2015	Bulky Refuse Freighter, 8.00 a.m. – 9.00 a.m., Jubilee Hall Car Park, Pippin Road, East Peckham
07 September 2015	Planning & Transportation Committee, 7.15 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall Meeting Room
12 September 2015	Bulky Refuse Freighter, 8.00 a.m. – 9.00 a.m., Jubilee Hall Car Park, Pippin Road, East Peckham
21 September 2015	Meeting of the full Parish Council, 7.15 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall Meeting Room
26 September 2015	Bulky Refuse Freighter, 8.00 a.m. – 9.00 a.m., Jubilee Hall Car Park, Pippin Road, East Peckham

EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Contact Details: Clerk to the Council, Karen Bell, The Parish Office, East Peckham Jubilee Hall, Pippin Road, East Peckham, TN12 5BT, Tel/ans: 01622 871309, Email: admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk.

Our Office is open weekday mornings during term time except Wednesdays. Whilst we look forward to your visits, if you have an important matter which you wish to discuss, please make an appointment so that we can make sure we're available. Karen works part time and is sometimes at external meetings and therefore not always available. If you'd like to speak to a Councillor please write, phone or email and a Councillor will contact you; alternatively you can contact a Councillor via our website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk. Don't forget that our website is a useful tool too where you can find out more about East Peckham and your Parish Council, on the website you will find regular updates, details of all Parish Council meetings and links to agendas, consultations and other information relevant to the whole village. Our new Welcome Pack is also available on our website but we do have some hard copies available if you would like one. 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.

SUMMER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES FOR 4 – 16 YEAR OLDS ARE AVAILABLE TO BOOK

Monday 3 August – Friday 21 August 9am–1pm

For further details please telephone 01732 876166, email leisure.services@tmbc.gov.uk or visit the websites www.tmbc.gov.uk/playscheme (Summer Playscheme 2015 for 4-11 years) and www.tmbc.gov.uk/activate (Summer Activate 2015 for 8-16 years)



FREE COUNCIL TAX BAND VALUATION SERVICE

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council is reminding residents who think their property might be in the wrong Council Tax band that they can take advantage of a FREE council tax band valuation service, provided by the Valuation Office Agency. The reminder comes after the Council received several calls from residents who had been contacted by companies offering to apply on their behalf to get their council tax band reduced for a fee of £55. While it is perfectly permissible for companies to offer to provide this service, residents may easily obtain the same Council Tax valuation service free of charge by contacting the Valuation Office directly. Anyone wishing to apply for a FREE council tax band valuation should contact the Valuation Office Agency by calling 0300 0501 501. Alternatively, application forms can be downloaded online at: <https://www.gov.uk/council-tax-appeals/challenge-your-band>

LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE – STREET SCENE GUIDANCE - JUNE 2015

TMBC's network of volunteer Street Monitors act as the eyes and ears of communities, reporting any "Street Scene" related issues to the relevant authority. The scheme is run by Tamsin Ritchie, the Environmental Projects Coordinator.

TMBC has recently updated their Street Monitor guidance booklet which gives up-to-date details of online forms, email addresses and telephone numbers. The guidance does not attempt to be an exhaustive directory for every issue that may arise, but does reflect the most common queries raised by members of the public and the Street Monitors relating to Street Scene issues.

TMBC are currently developing a redesign of the Council's website and once this is completed, they intend to make the guidance available as an online resource, with live links to the various report forms. In the meantime a copy of the guidance booklet can be found on our website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk. We hope that you find this to be a useful resource.

If you do have any suggestions for issues to be included in the online version, would like a hard copy of the guidance, or you want to become a volunteer, please let TMBC know.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – LIBRARY, REGISTRATION AND ARCHIVES CONSULTATION

KCC has carefully considered all the feedback and views that were received during the consultation period. You can find the analysis of the consultation, as well as summary key information, at www.kent.gov.uk/lraconsultation.

Having considered all the information, and following a full debate on the matter at Cabinet Committee, Kent County Council's Cabinet has taken the decision that a move to a trust does offer the most sustainable option for these services for the long term, and that they should move to such a model as soon as it is possible for all the elements of the Library, Registration and Archive service to do so.

KCC will in the meantime retain and transform the services in-house and will be working to deliver the same outcomes that the trust would have done as this will lay the foundation for the eventual move. They will also be exploring the different options for income generation that have emerged through the work on the trust proposal as it remains imperative that they deliver the required savings. KCC will also continue to work with the relevant government departments in order to achieve the necessary framework that will enable them to move forward.

KCC will provide more information as their plans for the future progress.

GATWICK AIRPORT
Statement on Davies Commission recommendation

You will no doubt have seen the news that the Airports Commission has published its final report and recommendation to Government on airport expansion. While Gatwick Airport is still digesting the full report, we thought you would be interested in Gatwick's initial response:

- The Commission has made a recommendation, but it is of course up to the Government to make a final decision. While ignoring the changing nature of global aviation and firmly recommending Heathrow, the Commission has recognised Gatwick as a credible alternative that can be delivered.
- Therefore, Gatwick is very much still in the race and remain confident that the Government will still ultimately choose Gatwick
- Sir Howard's report has significantly underplayed the environmental challenges of air quality and noise at Heathrow. They are huge. For example it states 'additional operations at an expanded Heathrow must be contingent on acceptable performance on air quality' and must not 'delay compliance with EU limits.' Heathrow breaches these limits.
- The last attempt to expand Heathrow was deemed unlawful by the UK courts on grounds of air quality limits and any further attempt is likely to end the same way.
- The opposition to Heathrow's expansion from hundreds of thousands of Londoners and their political representatives is down to the fact the airport is simply in the wrong place and will blight their lives with intolerable noise, congestion and pollution. This recommendation will do nothing to help Heathrow overcome the environmental tests that matter to them.
- Gatwick has long argued that aviation is changing and they have a business case fit for the future of aviation, not the past. Their vision for a second runway maximises competition to deliver all of the economic benefits of expansion at a fraction of the environmental impact.
- This report has not only disregarded the possibility of a network of competing airports throughout London and the rest of the UK, its recommendations would effectively recreate a monopoly at Heathrow that will suck in long haul connections from the regions of the UK and drive up prices for passengers.
- It goes against everything that we all know about the success of airport liberalisation in recent years and will damage direct connectivity from airports all over the country.

Gatwick CEO has said, *"Of course the UK needs the economic benefits of expansion. But the country cannot fly to new markets from a runway that can never be built. Expansion at Gatwick will be quicker simpler and quieter. It will promote greater competition benefitting all passengers whilst limiting the environmental impact. "The choice ahead is clear. Choose Gatwick and - after decades of delay - something can actually happen. Choose Heathrow and nothing will happen. It will simply be Groundhog Day."*

This will clearly be a significant issue in the political arena until the Government makes its final recommendation later this year.



Kent Rural Retailer 2015

Please encourage your local shop to enter

To celebrate the superb service and unwavering dedication Kent rural retailers bring to the lives of residents in Rural Kent we are once again running Kent's Rural Retailer of the year competition. To make this year's competition a little more special and rewarding for those taking part, there will be an 'Oscar' style Awards Dinner for all entrants on Wednesday 4th November 2015 at Broadview Tea Rooms, Hadlow College, Hadlow, Tonbridge Kent TN11 0AL.

This years' competition has four categories to choose from so it is up to you which category you enter. There are 5 key dates to be aware of..... **1st to 31st July 2015** - competition open for entries, entry form enclosed or enter on line at www.kentruralretailers.co.uk. **1st to 31st August 2015** - the public have the opportunity to vote. This can be done via the official voting slips which we will send to you once you have returned your entry form or online at www.kentruralretailers.co.uk.

The categories are best small village shop (under 1000sq ft.), best large village shop (over 1000sq ft.), best small farm shop (under 1000 sq. ft.) and most community focused village shop or PO. If eligible you can enter more than one category if eligible. The finalists will be determined as the 3 shops who receive the most votes in each category. **September/October 2015** - The final stage of the competition will involve 3 'mystery shopper' visits from members of our judging panel. If you have any questions please contact Sharon on 07551 725383 or Rebecca on 01303 813790 alternatively email info@kentruralretailer.co.uk.