

# EPPC NEWS – DECEMBER 2015/JANUARY 2016

*Your monthly newsletter from East Peckham Parish Council - Working on behalf of the people of East Peckham*

Dear All,

December is a very busy month with lots of activities taking place. We hope that you'll be able to attend some of the festive events. It is worthy of note that these events would not take place without the hard work of a team of volunteer organisers. If you would like to nominate one of these village champions for one of our awards we'd love to hear from you.

We're often asked "What does the Parish Council do?" Our meeting agendas and minutes are posted on our website and agendas displayed on our notice board in The Pound. Residents are welcome to attend our meetings and if you look at the Site Map on our website you'll get a flavour of the kind of things we do. Our website has information such as Annual Returns, Accounts, Policies, Procedures, Welcome Pack, Annual Reports, Planning Information and newsletters. You'll be surprised by how much information you'll find on the website [www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk](http://www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk). You can also follow us on twitter @EastPeckhamPC, we look forward to receiving your 'tweets' and hope you'll follow us. Some of the issues we're currently working on your behalf include:

- Liaising with TMBC's property services department regarding their intentions for the paved land in front of the parade of shops in The Pound. Neither we nor the business owners are the landowners.
- Liaising with KCC and the Primary School about future plans for the former caretaker's house which is adjoined to the school.
- Liaising with KCC regarding the footpath along Chidley Cross Road which is awkward to pass owing to overgrown vegetation.
- Lobbying BT to improve the broadband service in the village
- The summer hanging baskets were replaced first by winter/spring baskets then by the solar powered Christmas trees, the winter/spring baskets will be reinstated after Christmas. We've planted up the planters for winter/spring
- Our fingerposts have finally been installed. We have been frustrated with the long delay but hope you agree that the look fantastic and have made a positive impact on our village street scene.

The Christmas lighting has been installed. New this year is the solar lights which adorn the trees in the village centre and the Christmas tree outside the Merry Boys Public House. It is without a doubt that our biggest regret is that we're unable to do more in the village centre but as we're not the landowner and don't have access to an energy supply we're extremely restricted by what we can do. We're grateful to Mark Edwards, The Merry Boys Public House, RBS Electrical Contractors, Brookside Garden Centre, Village Butcher & Stores, Bourne Produce, KCC Libraries and Heavenly Glaze for helping us again this year.

Being a Councillor can be very fulfilling. It requires dedication and hard work (unpaid of course,) but in East Peckham it can be especially rewarding as it brings the additional opportunity to play a significant role in shaping our dynamic and ever growing community. Parish Councils have to work within a legal and regulatory framework which can sometimes make us appear slow and unresponsive, although this can be frustrating it provides essential protection of council tax-payers interests and provides vital safeguards for Councillors doing their job. Whilst there is not currently a vacancy for a Councillor, if the opportunity arises, do please consider joining our dedicated and hardworking team.

Kent Fire & Rescue has asked parishes to be pro-active in respect of reporting broken/vandalised Fire Hydrants. Could we therefore you to let us know of any concerns. You can view the positioning of our parish Fire Hydrants on our website.

Each year we aim to set a balanced budget that reflects the services you want, whilst fulfilling our statutory obligations. Our draft budgetary proposals are on our website; these indicate an increase in the Parish Precept of 2.42% from £110,274 to £112,945. It is hoped that we will secure some grant funding which will enable us to do more in 2016/2017. If we're successful in obtaining grant funding the kind of projects we would like to do on behalf of the community include possibly installing an adult Trim Trail on the Playing Fields, Please email us your views to [admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk). Would you like to sponsor a community project? There are many projects you could help, if you're interested please let us know.

Your Parish Council continues to strive to make our parish a desirable place to live. Please help all our community groups and continue to do your bit where you can for where you live. Don't forget if you'd like any information or advice on a Parish matter, please feel free to call into the Parish Office during normal opening hours. Please note however that during the Christmas and New Year break the Parish Office will be closed between 21 December 2015 and 04 January 2016. Emergency Contact details will be on our website [www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk](http://www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk) or you can send an email to [admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk).

Don't forget that if you have any interesting photos from in and around the village we'd love to see them. Please email them [admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk).

All of us at the Parish Council wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Kind regards  
Chairman, Councillors and Clerk

### **WOULD YOU LIKE TO NOMINATE A LOCAL HERO?**

There're so many local heroes in our village and we would like to recognise these special people at our awards evening which is held alongside the Annual Parish Meeting. Perhaps you know someone who's raised huge sums of money for charity or organised an amazing village event or someone who's given their time to run a village group or organisation. Our awards acknowledge and give recognition to East Peckham residents who've made a significant contribution to the village. If you know someone who's given this sort of service and merits an Award please nominate them. The awards will be presented by Parish Councils Chairman at the 2016 Annual Parish Meeting. A nomination form is printed at the end of this report and they can also be downloaded from our website [www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk](http://www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk).

### **VOLUNTEER SUPPORT WARDEN**

We have been selected to participate in the pilot scheme and KCC are currently recruiting for a Support Warden to work in our parish, part of the role will be to work alongside our Community Warden. The closing date for applications is 31 January 2016. As part of the recruitment process we and our Community Warden will be hosting drop in sessions on

**Thursday 14 January 9.00 a.m. - 12.00 p.m. and Monday 18 January 2016 6.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.**

The drop in sessions will be held in the Meeting Room at the jubilee Hall, Pippin Road, East Peckham and interested persons can find out more about the role locally and pick up an application form. If you're interested but unable to attend one of the drop in sessions further information will be on our website [www.eastpeckham-pv.gov.uk](http://www.eastpeckham-pv.gov.uk) or send an email to either [admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk) or [lara.sams@kent.gov.uk](mailto:lara.sams@kent.gov.uk).

### **COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLANNING**

Would you be prepared to help your community and support the Community Emergency Planning Team? If so, we have three ways in which you can help, first the East Peckham Flood Group which is independent of the Parish Council is looking for a new Chairman, we're also looking for someone to coordinate the village Flood Warden Scheme and finally we'd like to have more Flood Wardens. If you're interested and would like to find out more please let us know. Free training is available via Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council and all Flood Wardens are given a flood preparedness kit. Our Community Emergency Planning Team is currently preparing a Road Closure Plan which we will be submitting to KCC for approval. This needs to happen before we can close any roads in an emergency situation.

**Flood Warning System:** To receive flood warnings from the Environment Agency please visit the website [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk) and register with Floodline Warnings Direct. If you would prefer to register by telephone, or need help during the registration process, call 0845 988 1188.

### **POWER CUTS**

UK Power Networks own and maintain the electric cables and lines in this area of the UK making sure your lights stay on. Power cuts are rare but please keep these details safe in case you need to contact UK Power networks:

**Text POWER and your postcode to 80876, website: [www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/powercut](http://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/powercut), Tel 0800 3163105  
Tel (Mobile) 0333 32 32 105, facebook and Twitter @ukpowernetworks**

### **LOCAL WINTER MANAGEMENT POLICY**

The Parish Council does not have a statutory duty to prepare for and deal with snow and ice (except around our own property). It is the role of Kent County Council to carry out such precautionary salting and snow clearing, as far as reasonably possible, to keep the precautionary salting network free from ice and snow, permit the safe movement of vehicular traffic and pedestrians and minimise delays and accidents directly attributable to the adverse weather conditions. Although we do not have the resources to make a commitment to provide a snow clearing service we will endeavour to assist where practicable. Our plan has been created to clarify what can be expected from the Parish Council. During periods of severe/persistent frost, ice or snow the Parish Council will **ENDEAVOUR** to treat the following locations where the public have access;

- Entrance to the Jubilee Hall and Council Office, Pippin Road, East Peckham
- Jubilee Hall Car Park, Pippin Road, East Peckham (main walkway from car park only)
- Path to the Primary School via the Playing Fields

It should be noted that in extreme weather conditions where transport is difficult or dangerous it may not be possible to treat the above named locations as we may have difficulty in reaching the locations. It is also to be noted that in very low temperatures the effectiveness of salt is significantly reduced.

Property which will **NOT** be gritted by the Parish Council include the following;

Playing Field Allotment site – not a priority area

Orchard Road Post Office – responsibility of owner

The Village Centre - responsibility of owner/tenant

Bus shelters – owned by Parish Council at various locations in the Parish – access difficult in severe weather therefore gritting cannot be guaranteed

Our complete winter maintenance plan can be viewed on our website [www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk](http://www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk).

### **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.

### **JUBILEE HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS**

We own and manage the facilities comprising of the Playing Fields, Sports Hall and Meeting Room where there are many activities for adults and children. The facilities buzz with excitement, from the toddlers' groups including gym and the welcome return of Mini Music Makers 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.

A programme of activities and the organisers contact details can be found on our website. In addition to regular activities which take place we'd like to widen the availability of sporting and other activities. We would be pleased to hear from you if there are any indoor or outdoor activities you would like provided 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. We have plenty of daytime availability in the Sports Hall and have both evening and daytime availability in the Meeting Room.

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

**Business Event Solutions:** We offer solutions for business events such as one-to-one consultations to a classroom or meeting venue. We provide a great space for training, meetings and exhibitions. We now have a hearing loop and a projector which can be hired. Please contact us for more information such as costs and availability.

The playing fields are a beautiful open space in the centre of the village and are open to all. We want them to be a haven for you to enjoy peace and quiet and for children to play safely, families to picnic, joggers to run securely, play rounders, kick a football or fly a kite. We will continue to develop the facilities so that the village; is well equipped with leisure facilities for everyone.

### **TENNIS COURT**

The Tennis Court is open all year round and is free to use on a first come first served basis by residents and those who work in East Peckham. If you would like to use the tennis court for a specific purpose we can take bookings.

### **ALLOTMENTS**

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

### **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 the forum could do are publish a business directory and a visitor's information leaflet. It would be fantastic if the East Peckham Business Community could come together for a 'Showcase Evening' where a variety of local businesses, both large and small could display their 'commodities' to help make residents more aware of what happens on the commercial side of the village. There are many businesses in East Peckham and they all contribute to local employment both, within the village and from the surrounding area. So many products are made locally it would be wonderful to showcase them to the community. 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 and trades are available right on our doorsteps. To kick start this initiative, we would like to invite representatives from local businesses and community groups to a networking breakfast, please let us know if this is something that would be of interest to you.

### **BLOOMING IN EAST PECKHAM**

We would like to form an East Peckham in Bloom group whose aim would be to enhance the appearance of the village. 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. We've many ideas for brightening up our village which we hope local businesses will want to sponsor. If you've any ideas and are interested in becoming part of the East Peckham in Bloom group, please let us know. We're looking for garden enthusiasts, carpenters/DIY'ers, artists or if you just generally want to be involved in the community. Let's get our village of East Peckham looking beautiful in 2016 and be proud of where we live! 2016 will see the return of the Garden Competition. Whilst details haven't yet been finalised it's likely that there'll be several categories and entry will be by entry form.

## **ABANDONED VEHICLES**

Abandoned vehicles can be reported via <http://www.tmbc.gov.uk/services/environment-and-planning/abandoned-vehicles>, this info is contained in TMBC's Street Monitor Guidance booklet available on our website.

## **PARKING STILL AN ISSUE!**

We take the issue of inconsiderate and dangerous parking seriously and are continuing to work with KCC, The Police, the Community Warden and TMBC to investigate ideas and schemes to alleviate this growing problem. These have included targeted notices by the Police on specific immediate localized issues. Please be a considerate vehicle user. Pedestrians, wheelchairs, pushchairs, cyclists all need to use the full width of the footways. Private driveways, entrances and junctions need to be kept clear of obstruction for safety reasons. Please help us to help you.

## **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. 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. If you would like to nominate a special village person, please let us know.

## **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 7.00 p.m. on the first Monday in each month.

### **PLANNING APPLICATIONS** (The committee has recently considered the following)

<b>TM/15/02704/FL</b>	Extensions at 19 Henham Gardens, East Peckham	<b>NO OBJECTION</b>
<b>TM/15/02934/FL</b>	Condenser unit on wall at rear area of Co-op, 50 Pound Road	<b>NO OBJECTION</b>
<b>TM/15/03119/FL</b>	Extension (with balcony) & single storey side garage at 5 Strettitt Gardens	<b>OBJECTION</b>
<b>TM/15/03241/FL</b>	Two storey side extension at 87 Bush Road, East Peckham	<b>NO OBJECTION</b>

## **PLANNING ENFORCEMENT - BRANBRIDGES ROAD UPDATE**

At the time of preparing this report we are encouraged that the owner has carried out the works and that the site is a lot tidier. We're sure you will agree that the work has made a significant improvement; it is unfortunate that it took such a long time and we sincerely hope that neither TMBC nor the landowner will let standards slip. With regard to the caravan to the rear of the Rose and Crown, this remains undetermined. TMBC was waiting for key decisions on other sites from the Court of Appeal and the Planning Inspectorate. Those decisions have now come forward and as such TMBC is currently considering their position and the implications for this case.

## **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](http://www.kent.gov.uk/highwayfaults) where details can be uploaded and locations identified. In an emergency you should call 03000 41 81 81. There's no need for the Parish Council to refer highways issues direct to Highways as this can give 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 find details of all works for the area.

## **COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH**

Come on East Peckham, let's get Speed Watching – we need more volunteers! Speedwatch is a local initiative where active community members supported by the police monitor speeds using 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 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 willing to be trained to operate the equipment.

## **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 problems online at <http://webapps.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccesscams/issues/default.aspx>. If you are aware of any extras which need to be added, please contact PROW directly by telephoning 03000414145.

## **DOG FOULING**

We take dog fouling seriously and over-stress the dangers dog faeces poses. It's illegal not to clear up the mess left by your dog and dog mess in public places is offensive to see, smell or tread in. It's a shame that just a few uncaring dog owners spoil things for others. Dog deposits provided it's 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 we are happy to provide free of charge. Please be aware that failing to clear up after your dog is an offence and TMBC enforces dog fouling through the Dogs Fouling of Land Act 1996 which applies to all land within the

borough which is open and to which the public have access. If you've 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 etc. telephone 01732 876147 or Email: [dog.warden@tmbc.gov.uk](mailto: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](http://www.kent.police.uk)** Follow on Twitter **@kent\_police** or **@kentpoliceton** Find Kent Police on Facebook.

### **DECEMBER 2015 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

01 December 2015	Carers Support Group – 10.30 a.m. – 12.00 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall Meeting Room
07 December 2015	Planning & Transportation Committee, 7.00 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall Meeting Room
12 December 2015	Bulky Refuse Freighter, 8.00 a.m. – 9.00 a.m., Jubilee Hall Car Park, Pippin Road
10 December 2015	Mobile Police Station – Branbridges Road Service Station between 4.30 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.
14 December 2015	Meeting of the full Parish Council, 7.15 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall Meeting Room
19 December 2015	Bulky Refuse Freighter, 8.00 a.m. – 9.00 a.m., Jubilee Hall Car Park, Pippin Road

### **JANUARY 2016 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

04 January 2016	Planning & Transportation Committee, 7.00 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall Meeting Room
05 January 2016	Carers Support Group – 10.30 a.m. – 12.00 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall Meeting Room
07 January 2016	Mobile Police Station – Branbridges Road Service Station between 4.30 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.
09 January 2016	Bulky Refuse Freighter, 8.00 a.m. – 9.00 a.m., Jubilee Hall Car Park, Pippin Road
11 January 2016	Finance Committee, 7.15 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall Meeting Room
18 January 2016	Meeting of the full Parish Council, 7.15 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall Meeting Room
21 January 2016	Mobile Police Station – Branbridges Road Service Station between 4.30 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.
23 January 2016	Bulky Refuse Freighter, 8.00 a.m. – 9.00 a.m., Jubilee Hall Car Park, Pippin Road

### **EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

Contact Details: Clerk to the Council, Karen Bell, East Peckham Jubilee Hall, Pippin Road, East Peckham, TN12 5BT, Tel: 01622 871309, Email: [admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk) Twitter @EastPeckhamPC

Our Office is open weekday mornings during term time except Wednesdays. Whilst we look forward to your visits, if you have an important matter 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](http://www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk).

### **Useful Contact Information**

<b>Police Contact:</b>	PCSO Toni Matthew 101 PCSO Kim Hockey 101	Email <a href="mailto:toni.matthew@kent.pnn.police.uk">toni.matthew@kent.pnn.police.uk</a> Email: <a href="mailto:kimberley.hockey@kent.pnn.police.uk">kimberley.hockey@kent.pnn.police.uk</a>
<b>Community Warden:</b>	Lara Sams – 07969 584183	Email: <a href="mailto:lara.sams@kent.gov.uk">lara.sams@kent.gov.uk</a>
<b>Paddock Wood Community Advice Centre</b>	Tel: 01892 838619	Email: <a href="mailto:info@pwadvice.org">info@pwadvice.org</a>
<b>Your Local MP:</b>	Tom Tugdenhat	Email <a href="mailto:tom.tugdenhat.mp@parliament.uk">tom.tugdenhat.mp@parliament.uk</a>
<b>TMBC:</b> Flytipping, Abandoned Vehicles, Dog Fouling, Street Cleaning – 01732 844522	<a href="http://www.tmbc.gov.uk">www.tmbc.gov.uk</a>	
<b>KCC:</b> For road & drainage issues, potholes, vegetation & Street Lighting Tel 03000 418181 or via the website	<a href="http://www.kent.gov.uk">www.kent.gov.uk</a>	

### **TONBRIDGE & AREA INTERACTIVE DVD**

**Covering the Town and  
The following Parishes**

**Tonbridge  
Hadlow- Hildenborough  
Plaxtol - Shipbourne  
Matfield - Brenchley  
Five Oak Green - Capel  
Leigh & Penshurst  
East Peckham - Golden Green**

Peter Ellis of Tonbridge is in the process of creating a new version of his interactive DVD. The type of input Peter requires is the History of the Places and PRESENT activities of the Contributor be it their own story or club activities of all types in their area. You can contact Peter on email [pafellis@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pafellis@hotmail.co.uk) for further information. It is hoped to have the project finished in the summer of 2016.

**EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNITY AWARDS SCHEME 2016**

Completed forms in a sealed envelope should be sent to East Peckham Parish Council, The Parish Office, East Peckham Jubilee Hall, Pippin Road, East Peckham, Tonbridge, Kent, TN12 5BT. The closing date is 17 January 2016.

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**EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNITY AWARDS 2016 - NOMINATION FORM**

I would like to nominate .....(print name) for a Community Award.

REASON: .....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

SIGNED: ..... Print Name: .....

Galaxy poster here