

EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS – JUNE 2015

The monthly Newsletter from East Peckham Parish Council - Working on behalf of the community

Dear All,

The Parish Council continues to go from strength to strength and we are confident that this year will be no different. We have a proper vision for our community. Our easy access website and monthly newsletter, enables us to keep in contact with our residents and let you know the latest news that concerns all the community. We have some regular features that appear in the news each month and we hope you continue to find this newsletter interesting.

With all the wet weather we had over the winter months, the roads in the village have suffered; please report any potholes you see directly 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 obviously they need to be made aware of them first!

During 2015/2016 the Council will be considering the commencement of a Neighbourhood Plan. A Neighbourhood Plan refers to housing – how many houses and where they will be located. This gives the residents of the village a say on these matters, rather than being dictated to by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council. This will involve a large amount of work and we will need volunteers to help us bring this to fruition. If you are interested in being involved, please put your name forward to the Parish Office.

The 2015 Annual Parish Meeting which took place on 28 April 2015 was well attended. Thank you all for coming, the new and relaxed informal format which we trialled last year was such a success that we ran with the same format this year and have noticed a significant increase in numbers attending this annual event. Feedback from the event has been complimentary with the consensus of opinion being that we repeat the success of the 2015 APM next year.

The big news at the moment are the results of the elections which were held on 07 May 2015; your new MP is Tom Tugendhat, your Borough Councillors are Howard Rogers, Janet Sergison and Jill Anderson and your Parish Councillors are Mick Barton, Peter Crawford, Serina Page, Amanda Hodgson, Murray Hodgson, Steph Watson, Penny Graham, Jenny Macdonald, Michael Ferguson, Colin Silver and Lynton Wright. Congratulations to them on their election, our sincere commiserations to Peter Street and Lorraine Baseden who were not re-elected, we thank them most sincerely for their enormous contributions to the village over a combined service of almost 20 years. On 18 May 2015 at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, Steph Watson was re-elected Chairman, Peter Crawford was re-elected Deputy Chairman and Penny Graham was elected Chairman of the Planning and Transportation Committee.

Sadly we have seen several acts of vandalism at the playing fields recently, one of the picnic benches was damaged and the Youth Shelter has been vandalised several times, graffiti we can accept provided it is not racist or obscene. What we will not tolerate is the mindless vandalism of the facilities; overnight on 12 May 2015 one of the panels was taken off the Youth Shelter as well as the removal of many of the fixings which made the equipment unsafe. Whilst the Youth Shelter has been fixed, mindless acts of vandalism like this cost a great deal of time and money, your money, to deal with, if you know who might be responsible please report it to us or to the police. On a more positive note, we will shortly be installing two benches on the playing fields and our long awaited fingerposts are almost ready for installation.

The Parish Office is open weekday mornings during term times (except Wednesdays), do feel free to drop in and talk to us about any village issue you think that the Council can help you with. As we also run the Jubilee Hall and Playing Fields, feel free to speak to us about anything to do with those facilities as well.

Thank you for all your support this year; please continue and let us know your views.

Kind regards
Chairman, Councillors and Clerk
East Peckham Parish Council

WHAT IS A PARISH COUNCIL?

A Parish Council is the tier of local government closest to the people. It is not linked to the church in any way. The Council can respond to the needs of the community - delivering the services or representation it most needs. To do this well we need to hear from the community about local issues, so please keep in touch.

WHAT DOES A PARISH COUNCIL DO?

The responsibilities of a Parish Council can include the provision and management of allotments, looking after open spaces and maintaining bus shelters and community buildings. A Parish Council can provide them itself, or by helping others (such as a charity) financially to do so. Councils are also the focal point for various local consultations. The Parish Councillors know the village and can represent its views to other authorities.

WHO RUNS THE COUNCIL?

A Parish Council election was held on 07 May 2015 to elect eleven councillors to run the council for four years. They work for the community on an unpaid voluntary basis. A Parish Clerk is appointed to advise the Council and manages the administration of the Council and the Jubilee Hall.

WHAT DOES EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL (EPPC) DO?

Some of our responsibilities include;

- The East Peckham Jubilee Hall complex
- The Jubilee Playing Fields
- Maintenance of the outside play areas at the Jubilee Playing Fields including the outdoor fitness equipment, street snooker, youth shelter, picnic benches, benches, ball court and tennis court.
- The provision and maintenance of some bus shelters
- Community Notice Board
- Allotments
- Consulted on all planning applications in the parish
- Acting as a liaison between the community and other local organisations and Councils
- Monthly newsletters and annual report
- Nominates representatives to serve on local voluntary, public and community organisations

COUNCILLORS AREAS

Although the Parish Councillors represent the village as a whole, for administrative and Emergency Planning purposes the village has been divided into areas and an area is assigned to each councillor as follows:

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

PARISH COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATION ON LOCAL GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS

The 2015/2016 membership of local organisations and groups is as follows:

Kent Association of Local Councils	Chairman & Deputy Chairman
Action with Communities in Rural Kent	Chairman & Deputy Chairman
Village Tree Warden	Lynton Wright
Community Resilience	Penny Graham & Steph Watson
Parish Partnership Panel	Chairman & Deputy Chairman
Village Transport Representative	Planning Committee Chairman
Youth	Serina Page
CCTV	Murray Hodgson
Jubilee Hall	Colin Silver
Environmental Enhancements	Jenny Macdonald
Allotments	Jenny Macdonald & Steph Watson
Skatepark	Mick Barton
Library Keyholder	Penny Graham
CAMEO	Penny Graham
Carers Support Group	Amanda Hodgson
Joint Parish Councils Transport Consultative Group	Planning Committee Chairman
Village Planting	Jenny Macdonald
Voluntary warden for B2015 Branbridges Road Nature Reserve	Lynton Wright
Business Forum	Murray Hodgson
Borough Cllr. Liaison	Penny Graham
Parking & Speeding Issues	Planning Committee Chairman

2015/2016 FINANCE

Plans for the coming year include additions and improvements to the facilities and services we offer the community. Finances are tight so no major projects are planned but we will begin preparing for new community facilities which we will implement when funding allows or if we are successful in obtaining grants. We will continue the strategic review of our operations, which have grown significantly in the last few years, to ensure that we continue to provide residents with best value. We will continue to invest in community assets, provide key community services and represent the views of residents. After taking on the operations of the Jubilee Hall in 2011, we have worked hard to increase income and work will continue to focus on this. The Council's accounts are prepared in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations and they are subject to external and internal audit (by an independent auditor). Our income is derived from the precept, which is collected via council tax, hire charges for use of council facilities and grant funding to support community activities. The Council is striving to increase income from facility hire charges, with the continued success of the Jubilee Hall; we anticipate that on-going running costs of the facilities will be mainly met from operations and hire income.

WHY NOT SPONSOR A COMMUNITY PROJECT?

Would you like to sponsor a community project? We have various projects that you could help fund. If you are interested please email admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk

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. For 2015/2016, we have made a provision of £1,000 available specifically for grants to community groups and organisations.

COMMUNITY DEFIBRILATOR

The community defibrillator is housed in a secure box attached to the wall of the Parish Office at the Jubilee Hall. This allows the defibrillator to be stored securely but enabling access by all residents. The defibrillator is vital to the village and an ongoing training programme is offered to anyone who wants to learn how to use it. There is no charge for this training so do please if you are interested let us know. The defibrillator is an intelligent and affordable item of medical equipment which 'talks' to the operator and gives easy to follow instructions on where to place the electrode packs on the chest, how to administer Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and when to press the 'shock' button. An operator cannot 'shock' a patient that does not require it and cannot 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 nearby to the caller, give them the access code and direct them there.

JUBILEE HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS

We own and manage the Jubilee Hall complex which comprises of the Playing Fields, Sports Hall and Meeting Room. The complex has many regular activities and events for adults and children and is buzzing with excitement. From the under-fives toddlers' afternoon 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 clubs include the East Peckham Football Team and a goal keeping school. We have hot drinks, cold drinks and snack machines too for your comfort or for your event. The facilities are perfect for any occasion be it a children's party, sports activity or business function. If you are looking for a venue for an event or meeting, please contact us for details of availability and hire charges. Our latest programme of activities and the contact details of the activity organisers can be found on our website.

The Jubilee Hall continues to provide a wide range of classes and facilities for the residents of East Peckham and our Playing Fields are in excellent condition. Our aim to widen the number of sports provided is slowly being achieved; in addition to the WOK Gym Club (a major user), football, goalkeeping courses, keep fit, Zumba and badminton all take place each week, with others planned. We would be pleased to hear from you if there are any 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. We now offer a variety of levels of service for children's parties.

Bronze	3 hour exclusive use of the Sports Hall, Tables and chairs, Kitchen and toilet facilities, free parking, Free Wi-Fi £45 (£50 non East Peckham residents)
Silver	All of the above, plus exclusive use of the meeting room, Paper plates, cutlery and napkins £70 (£80 non East Peckham residents)
Gold	All of the above plus cleaning after the event £100 (£115 non East Peckham residents)

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 at a low cost. We also offer the following:

Hot drink station, Classroom for 12 – 30 people, Consultation Room, Board Style meeting for 25 people
Free Wifi, Projector Screen, Free parking

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 residents 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 to enjoy. We have just installed a fabulous new Youth Shelter.

ALLOTMENTS

Allotments are provided on land adjacent to the Playing Fields. The annual rents are very reasonable at £15.00 for a small plot and £20.00 for a large plot. We currently have a few vacant plots which will be reallocated in the spring. If you are interested, please contact the Parish Office.

EAST PECKHAM BUSINESS COMMUNITY

We would like to see East Peckham have a business forum and would be delighted to hear from you if you would like to be involved.

TWINNING

East Peckham is twinned with Chérenge in the Nord de Pas de Calais. Twinning activities are funded by those taking part and by fund-raising with no use of parish funds. For information on Twinning please visit our website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk. The East Peckham Twinning Association is currently free to join and everyone who joins the association will be sent a monthly e-letter. To join the association please email your details to admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk.

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The Planning & Transportation 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 7.30 p.m. on the first Monday in each month (except August); meetings are held at the Jubilee Hall Meeting Room, Pippin Road, East Peckham, TN12 5BT.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Committee has recently considered the following planning applications

- TM/15/01029/FL** Single Storey pitch to east elevation at 1 Grove Farm Cottages **NO OBJECTION**
- TM/15/01179/FL** Adding a conservatory to plot 1 and plot 2 on the approved application TM/13/03818 at land adjacent to 19 Golding Gardens, East Peckham, TN12 5PB **NO OBJECTION**
- TM/15/00927/FL** Alterations and conversion of building to 2 no. dwelling houses with associated parking and amenity space at 396 Bullen Lane, East Peckham **NO OBJECTION**
- TW/15/502981/FULL** Variation of condition 4 of planning permission TW/14/502966/FULL – Proposed use of an existing access/egress from Hartlake Road and associated temporary access road to serve a proposed Solar Park at Hadlow Place Farm, Tudely, Tonbridge, Kent (Following the cessation of construction activities associated with the solar farm, the access track shall no longer be used for any purpose associated with the solar farm. The upgraded access track shall revert to use solely for the purpose of agricultural use of the existing farm) at Hartlake Road, Tudely **NO OBJECTION**
- EAST PECKHAM PCP** Installation of Primary connection Point CCC This application forms part of the BDUK Superfast Broadband project, there will be a DSLAM stand up request associated with the request at a later date at Pinkham Lane, East Peckham **NOTED**

ROSE & CROWN PUBLIC HOUSE

We have expressed to the Borough Council our continued concern with the dilapidated site which is not only a complete eyesore but in our opinion a health and safety issue. We have insisted that the Borough Council take action and force the landowner to tidy up the site and erect appropriate hoarding.

LITTERING

Litter does not clear itself away. The cost of clearing up litter runs into hundreds of pounds. It is an offence to leave litter and a person is guilty of an offence if they throw down, drop or otherwise deposit and then leave it in a public place. The 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

As a community we still have the ongoing disgusting problem of dog fouling particularly on the Playing Fields. 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 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

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

It is Kent County Council who are responsible for maintain public rights of way. Regardless of the growing season the majority of the rights of ways will be cut twice each year. Please report any problems to Kent County Council by telephoning 0845 345 0210, or by reporting the fault online at <http://webapps.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccesscams/issues/default.aspx>

PARKING ON PAVEMENTS

With the problem in the village of inappropriately parked vehicles on pavements, we have registered our interest with 'Guide Dogs for the Blind' who are campaigning against pavement parking. It is being proposed that motorists should be banned from parking on pavements because the practice forces vulnerable pedestrians to walk in the road and blocking the pavement, is inconsiderate and dangerous. There is already a ban on parking on footways on most London streets and a recent poll suggests that most people want restrictions for the rest of the country. If you spot a vehicle wrongly parked, please 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.

HIGHWAYS

Did you know that 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 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 or if you don't have access to the internet you should call 03000 41 81 81. There is no need for the Parish Council to refer highways issues direct to Kent Highways as this often gives the impression to customers that they need to come back to the Parish Council in the future. You might be interested in the roadworks.org website which gives details of all planned works for the village, 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 the works for the area.

HALE STREET CHICANE UPDATE

Whilst we have not been advised of when the postponed works will be carried out we have been advised that the issue is with the illuminated sign, or more to the point, the electrical connections which would impact on the pipeline. Kent County Council has now agreed that a solar powered light could be used which will negate the need for further involvement with the utility company responsible for the pipeline, and allow the scheme to progress. At the current time Kent County Council are waiting to hear back from their contractor regarding cost and delivery times for the new light.

VILLAGE SPEED REVIEW

We are supporting our County and Borough Councillors in their aims to have the speed limit reviewed by both KCC and TMBC. The real problem is that drivers disregard the current speed limit. To get a lower speed limit we would need to be successful in getting "average" speeds down to a point that Kent Police would say that they would enforce them and this will require a good deal of engineering for which Kent County Council currently has no money. Matthew Balfour our County Councillor is of the opinion that the way in which funding is allocated is far from ideal, but, with limited resources, it is really only now spent where there is a bad crash record. KCC is about to start a project in Kent using funds from a different pot of money, but with a similar problem with the aim of changing the whole nature of what drivers will perceive in the hope that this will make them feel less comfortable and have to think about where they are and how fast they are going. If this works then Kent County Council might be able to apply the ideas to other places such as Hale Street. In the meantime we believe that some irregular police enforcement would be a great help!

BOROUGH ECONOMIC REGENERATION STRATEGY

Your views needed. Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council has published a draft Economic Regeneration Strategy setting out their priorities for supporting the local economy and are inviting comments on the draft strategy - are there any issues they have left out? Are the proposed actions the right ones to support the local economy? Further information is available on TMBC's website www/tmbc.gov.uk. Please send your comments to economic.regeneration@tmbc.gov.uk by 1st June 2015.

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. (Subject to availability).

How to Contact Kent Police: 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

ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

If you witness any incidents of anti-social behaviour, anywhere in the village, or know who is involved, please tell us, our community warden or the police. Anti-Social Behaviour can affect everyone's quality of life and should not be tolerated.

E-WATCH

The Parish Council would like to encourage residents to sign up to E-watch, the website that provides twice weekly updates on reported incidents from the police by area, together with important updates from Trading Standards. To sign up please go to their website **e-watch.co**

COMMUNITY WARDEN & PILOT LOCAL WARDEN SUPPORT OFFICE SCHEME

Our temporary support warden is Dawn Riach-Brown who can be contacted on 07773397125. KALC, our County Association is working with Kent County Council and Kent Police on a Pilot Local Warden Support Officer Scheme. This follows on from the KCC consultation last year on Community Wardens where, following over 100 responses from Parish and Town Councils, KCC announced that it would keep its existing 70 Community Wardens. The existing Community Wardens will be realigned to provide greater coverage and a more equal balance across Kent. The Pilot Local Warden Support Officer (LWSO) Scheme is a voluntary role and is not intended to replace Community Wardens. LWSOs are expected to be the "ears and eyes" of their communities, be conduits for information and support and engage with the local community providing general advice to members of that local community, signposting them to the appropriate agencies and liaising with local community groups, partners (e.g. police, Fire Service, Neighbourhood Watch etc.) and with the local KCC Community Warden. KALC are **looking for up to 12 Pilots across Kent**. There is no cost to those Parish/Town Councils who take part in the Pilot Scheme, as funding is being sought for the Pilots. If the Pilot Scheme is successful and the Scheme is rolled out in the next financial year, it is estimated that a Parish/Town Council who takes part in the Scheme would make a financial contribution of around £400 for the uniform and towards training costs. The aim is to start the Pilot Scheme in September. We have expressed an interest in being one of the 12 pilots and will hear in June if our expression of interest will be taken further.

JUNE 2015 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

01 June 2015	Planning & Transportation Committee, 7.15 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall Meeting Room
02 June 2015	Carers Support Group, 10.30 a.m. - 12.00 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall Meeting Room
11 June 2015	Mobile Police Station at the Co-op Branbridges Road between 4.30 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.
15 June 2015	Meeting of the full Parish Council, 7.15 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall Meeting Room
25 June 2015	Mobile Police Station at the Co-op Branbridges Road between 4.30 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.

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, Telephone/answerphone: 01622 871309, Email: admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk.

The Parish Office is open weekday mornings during term time except Wednesdays. We love seeing you all in our office and 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 are available. Karen works part time and is sometimes at external meetings and therefore not always available, so do please ring or email first. 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. Don't forget that our website is a useful tool to 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; 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 Playscheme 2015

Summer Playschemes are a great way for children aged 4–11 to have fun and make friends over the long summer holidays.

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

For further details please visit www.tmbc.gov.uk or contact the Playscheme hotline on **01732 876166 or email leisure.services@tmbc.gov.uk**