

EPPC NEWS - NOVEMBER 2015

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

Dear All,

It never fails to surprise us how East Peckham is such a vibrant village with lots going on. October was no exception with Quiz evenings and the recent performances of The Importance of Being Earnest by the Russett Players being two highlights.

Being a Councillor can be very fulfilling, even if it does require 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.

We're often asked "What does the Parish Council do?" All 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 on your behalf, 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 will find on the website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk. You can now follow us on twitter @EastPeckhamPC, we look forward to receiving your 'tweets' and hope you'll follow us.

We are keenly aware of the continuing issues of vandalism and anti-social behaviour particularly on the Playing Fields. Please report any anti-social behaviour to 101 as this is then recorded and will help with any funding bids we make for additional CCTV equipment. Our Parish continues to have a low level of crime compared to other parts of the Borough. However, because of a reduction in Police resources, we should be more vigilant than ever, why not consider joining or forming a Neighbourhood Watch Group.

Now that Tax Discs are no longer displayed on windscreens of vehicles, if you suspect that a vehicle is untaxed, please check out the DVLA website. You will need the registration number and the make of the vehicle. Your enquiry will remain anonymous and it will be investigated by the DVLA. Alternatively you can call 101 and tell the police who will also check it out. <https://www.gov.uk/report-untaxed-vehicle>

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

Please remember to report anything requiring the attention of KCC Highways Services to <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.

Each year we aim to set a balanced budget that reflects the services you want, whilst fulfilling our statutory obligations. Work on our 2016/2017 is at an advanced stage and you can find our draft budgetary proposals on our website; these indicate an increase in the Parish Precept of 1.985% from £110,274 to £112,445. It is hoped that we will secure some grant funding which will enable us to do more in 2016/2017. If we are 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.

Your Parish Council continues to strive to make our parish a desirable place to live. We are currently lobbying BT to improve the broadband service in the village, it would help our campaign if residents could also ask BT to improve the service. Please help all our community groups and continue to do your bit where you can for where you live. Don't forget if you would like any information or advice on a Parish matter, please feel free to call into the Parish Office during normal opening hours. If you have any interesting photos from in and around the village we would love to see them. Please email them admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk.

Finally this month we would like to call upon your help for 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. The Remembrance Service takes place this year at 10.00 a.m. at Holy Trinity Church followed by a shorter Act of Remembrance at St Michaels Churchyard.

Kind regards
Chairman, Councillors and Clerk

THE PARISH COUNCIL

Your Parish Councillors are: Steph Watson (Chairman), Peter Crawford (Deputy Chairman), Penny Graham (Planning & Transportation Committee Chairman), Colin Silver, Jenny Macdonald, Amanda Hodgson, Murray Hodgson, Serina Page, Lynton Wright, Mick Barton and Michael Ferguson. All of the Parish Councillors have their own parish council email addresses and can be contacted via our website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk.

EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL'S ROLE

The Parish Council is the first tier of local government representing the village of East Peckham. There are eleven elected members and a part time Parish Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer. We also have two part time jubilee hall janitors, one part time litter clearer and one part time groundsman. The total precept (Parish element of the Council tax) for 2015/2016 is £110,274. We have a number of assets in the Parish which we manage including the Jubilee Hall, Playing Fields, car park and outdoor equipment (youth shelter, street snooker, outdoor gym, play parks, tennis court and multi use ball court), Allotment site, some footway lighting, benches and picnic tables, a number of open spaces including land in the village centre and planters. We also support local groups and organisations with grants. Applications for grants are accepted at anytime of the year. A newsletter is distributed eleven times a year and an annual report is delivered to every home.

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. If you are a local society or business you can ask to be listed and described on the website with a link to your own website if you have one. You can find all publicly available documents on the website. If you do not have internet access and would like to view anything from our paper files please contact the Parish Clerk.

SOCIAL MEDIA

FACEBOOK: Would you find a parish council Facebook page useful? We are thinking of having **two** Facebook pages. One labelled "Community" to be mainly used for announcements about Parish Council Business or official events we have been notified about. The other labelled "Friends" to be used by anyone in the Parish to post notices about upcoming events. Please let us know what you think.

TWITTER: Follow us @EastPeckhamPC. We use twitter to tweet current events that may be of interest such as meetings, road closures, warnings by the police/TMBC etc.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO NOMINATE A LOCAL HERO?

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

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLANNING

Would you be prepared to help your community and support the Community Emergency Planning Team? If the answer is yes 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 are also looking for someone to coordinate the village Flood Warden Scheme and finally we would like to have more Flood Wardens. If you are interested and would like to find out more about any of these roles please let us know. Free training is available via Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council and all Flood Wardens will be given a flood preparedness kit.

Flood Warning System: To receive flood warnings from the Environment Agency please visit the website www.environment-agency.gov.uk and register with Floodline Warnings Direct. Through the website you can:

- Register to receive flood warnings
- If you want to register you will have to supply a telephone number that you can be contacted on any time of the day or night. You will also need your current email address.
- If you need to register both your home and a business you should register twice
- If you are a landlord registering a tenant's property then you should select the *business* category.
- If you are a tenant you can register the property in which you're living and should select the *home* category.

If you would prefer to register by telephone, or need help during the registration process, call 0845 988 1188.

EAST PECKHAM COMMUNITY WARDEN

A very warm welcome to Lara Sams our new Community Warden, Lara is looking forward to getting to know the village and its residents. Lara can be contacted on 07969 584183

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 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.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPONSOR A COMMUNITY PROJECT?

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

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 activity organisers contact details can be found on our website. In addition to the regular activities which take place we would like to widen the number of sporting and other activities available from the premises. 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 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.

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 on:

Thursday, 12 November 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 10 November 2015

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. The Group could become a member of 'Britain in Bloom' an organisation set up by the Royal Horticultural Society who get involved in various local 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 have many ideas for brightening up our village which we hope local businesses will want to sponsor. If you have any ideas/thoughts and are interested in becoming part of the East Peckham in Bloom group, please let us know. We are 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!

GARDEN COMPETITION

2016 will see the return of the Garden Competition. Whilst the details have not been finalised 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.

ABANDONED VEHICLES

Abandoned vehicles can be reported to TMBC on <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.

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.

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.

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 (except August); meetings are held in the Jubilee Hall Meeting Room, Pippin Road, East Peckham, TN12 5BT.

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT - BRANBRIDGES ROAD UPDATE

TMBC recently served a Section 215 Notice on the owners of the Rose and Crown requiring them to:

1. Cut down all weeds growing around the car park and adjacent to the building fronting Branbridges Road.
2. Cut down all weeds from that part of the land to the north of the building fronting Branbridges Road and Old Road and adjacent to the western boundary of the land with 134 Old Road.
3. Remove all bags of waste and refuse from that part of the land to the north of the building adjacent to the boundary wall fronting Old Road.
4. Remove all parts of the fallen fence to the rear of the building and replace with a new 2 metre high close boarded fence on the western or rear boundary.
5. Cut down weeds on land between the footway and the boundary wall fronting Branbridges Road and Old Road.
6. Fit black painted plywood sheets over the two ground floor and three first floor windows on the front elevation of the building facing Branbridges Road.

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 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>. 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. 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, particularly in the Playing Fields, seriously. We can't 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 also carries diseases, particularly Toxocariasis caused by roundworm. The microscopic eggs can remain in the soil for 2 years and if swallowed, develop into larvae which will travel around the body and can cause blindness, asthma, epilepsy and general aches and pains. The Playing Fields are owned by the Parish Council but controlled by Dog Control Orders enforced by TMBC. 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.
- 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.

NOVEMBER 2015 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 02 November 2015 | Planning & Transportation Committee, 7.00 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall Meeting Room |
| 03 November 2015 | Carers Support Group – 10.30 a.m. – 12.00 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall Meeting Room |
| 07 November 2015 | Bulky Refuse Freighter, 8.00 a.m. – 9.00 a.m., Jubilee Hall Car Park, Pippin Road |
| 12 November 2015 | Mobile Police Station – Branbridges Road Service Station between 4.30 p.m. – 5.30 p.m. |
| 16 November 2015 | Meeting of the full Parish Council, 7.15 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall Meeting Room |
| 21 November 2015 | Bulky Refuse Freighter, 8.00 a.m. – 9.00 a.m., Jubilee Hall Car Park, Pippin Road |
| 26 November 2015 | Mobile Police Station – Branbridges Road Service Station 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, Tel/ans: 01622 871309, Email: 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 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.

Our website is useful for finding 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. You can now follow us on Twitter **@EastPeckhamPC**. Our Welcome Pack is also available on our website; some hard copies are 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 please let us know.

Useful Contact Information

Police Contact: PCSO Toni Matthew 101 Email toni.matthew@kent.pnn.police.uk
PCSO Kim Hockey 101 Email: kimberley.hockey@kent.pnn.police.uk

Community Warden Contact: Lara Sams – 07969 584183

Your Local MP: Tom Tugendhat Email tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk

Fault Reporting:

TMBC: Flytipping, Abandoned Vehicles, Dog Fouling, Street Cleaning – 01732 844522 www.tmbc.gov.uk

Kent County Council: For road and drainage issues, pothole, vegetation and Street Lighting – please call 03000 418181 or via the website www.kent.gov.uk

Bits and Pieces

HELPER WANTED BY WOK GYM CLUB

Wanted a reliable person available to work in East Peckham, for about 1 hour most weekdays between 3 and 4pm.

This work is for a 'not-for-profit' sports club and involves lifting so needs a fit person, maybe recently retired.

Good pay well above minimum rate. Email wealdgym@gmail.com

PADDOCK WOOD COMMUNITY ADVICE CENTRE

This was set up in 2012 and provides face to face advice for members of the public. PWCAC believes it is essential to have an advice centre that offers face to face advice to the community of Paddock Wood and the surrounding villages including East Peckham. People can make appointments to come to the office and home visits are conducted for those in need. As an independent face to face advice centre, accessible to all, it is staffed entirely by volunteers.

Address: 64 Commercial Road, Paddock Wood, TN12 6DP Opening Hours: Mon – Fri 9.30 a.m.–1.30 p.m.

Email: info@pwadvice.org Tel: 01892 838619

NATIONAL FLU CAMPAIGN

The campaign was launched in October. Children aged from two to four-years-old, alongside people aged 65 or older, those with long term medical conditions and mums-to-be, are among the priority groups to get the vaccine. This year, all children of school years 1 and 2 age are also eligible for the free jab, as are those in long-stay residential care homes and carers. For more information on the flu vaccine, contact your GP or visit www.kent.gov.uk/winterhealth.

KCC HIGHWAYS

The KCC Highways teams have been out this summer cutting grass verges and other highway vegetation, but home and land owners also have a responsibility to inspect and maintain trees and other vegetation within their property boundary to ensure they do not endanger or obstruct the highway user. KCC's annual grass maintenance works are scheduled between March and October. Urban grass verges receive up to eight cuts per year and rural roadside verges are cut once. Sight-lines at road junctions have up to three cuts to maintain visibility for road users. You can view KCC's schedule and other information about their soft landscape service on the website, www.kent.gov.uk/softlandscapes. If you notice any vegetation that could be an obstruction to road users or pedestrians, you can report this online. Emergencies should be reported by calling if vegetation on private land is causing a problem to the road or pavement. KCC will send a letter to the owner recommending they take action and arrange any work that is needed. If the owner doesn't do this, there are legal steps we can take to make sure it happens, but this is a last resort. If you have trees and hedges by the edge of roads or pavements, KCC recommend you have them inspected regularly, preferably by a tree specialist to check they are safe. Any work should be done by a competent and fully insured professional.

POLICE

The Home Secretary has launched a consultation into proposed changes to powers held by police staff & volunteers. The consultation can be accessed via the website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/reforming-the-powers-of-police-staff-and-volunteers>. The proposals include:

- Creating a list of 'core' police powers – including arrest and stop and search that will remain exclusive to police officers
- Enabling chief officers to designate a wider range of powers on police staff and volunteers
- Enabling volunteers to be designated with powers in the same way as staff
- Abolishing the role of traffic warden under the Road Traffic Acts

GETTING YOUR HAIR DONE? PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM FIRE TOO!

Kent Fire and Rescue Service is calling on the help of hair professionals to launch a new initiative - the UK's first 'Haircare Network' which aims to support the fire service in keeping people safe in their homes. It'll see firefighters teaming up with hairdressers and barbers to offer a service that's a cut above. KFRS will support hair professionals to offer their clients greater access to home safety advice along with their hair do's. Hair professionals are perfectly placed to offer their clients that little extra care. They spend their working day talking to people of all ages across the community and know older people, and those with mobility, eyesight, hearing or memory issues are more likely to be killed or seriously injured in a fire in their homes. There's a large social element to getting your hair done, so this new initiative offers the perfect opportunity for clients to chat about the challenges they face. Hairdressers are being asked to ask clients a few simple questions which will enable KFRS to deliver free home safety visits where they are needed most. The development of the initiative coincides with a recent report by the Royal Society for Public Health which encourages professionals in the community, like firefighters and hairdressers to work together to help tackle growing social issues around health and lifestyle. If you are a hair professional please visit www.kent.fire-uk.org/hair for information and to sign up or call KFRS on 0800 923 7000.

KENT FIRE AND HEALTH SERVICES – JOIN UP FOR HOME SAFETY

A new partnership is being launched between Kent's fire and health services to ensure the county's most vulnerable residents are safe and well at home this winter. Kent Fire and Rescue Service is teaming up with Kent County Council to get vital, potentially lifesaving advice to key target groups such as young families, elderly residents and people with disabilities and long-term medical illnesses. The partnership will see KFRS community safety officers, while carrying out home visits to encourage fire safety measures are in place, will also make sure crucial health advice is passed on – such as eligibility for the free flu vaccine, details of NHS111 and Health Help Now App – to keep people healthy and relieve the burden on doctors' surgeries and A&E departments over winter months. Working collaboratively with health partners means we have an even greater chance of reaching members of the community who need our services the most. Most of us never expect to have a fire in our homes but sadly it can and does but can make a lifesaving difference and reduce the demand on our health and emergency services. To find out if you or someone you know is eligible for a free home safety visit, please call KFRS' Home Safety team 0800 923 7000.

STREETLIGHTING

Street lights continue to be a big issue in our county. Kent County Council would like to know how they should proceed in the future, and would like your opinion on the subject. They have opened a consultation and are very keen to have feedback as soon as possible. You can view the information by visiting their dedicated web page on the matter, and the consultation is open until 29 November 2015. You can start the process by visiting the website <http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/streetlighting/consultationHome>.



09 March this year marked Commonwealth Day 2015. Over 750 Commonwealth flags were raised together at 10am that morning by local authorities (including 191 town councils) and a small number of others, throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man, UK Overseas Territories and the Commonwealth, with His Excellency Kamallesh Sharma, Commonwealth secretary-general, raising the final flag outside the Great West Door of Westminster Abbey, London, before attending the annual Commonwealth Observance there that day. This was the largest, single, raising of the Commonwealth flag in the history of the Commonwealth, which bodes well for the future, especially as this event is to become an annual occasion growing in size and stature over the next few years, involving the countries and communities of all the other 52 Commonwealth countries on Commonwealth Day each year, (which always falls on the second Monday in March).

Having been invited, your Parish Council will be taking part in 2016 Fly the Flag. We are delighted to have accepted this invitation to participate in this unique, annual occasion which will bring the communities and countries of the commonwealth together in a common celebration of this great family of nations, its diverse cultures and communities. We will be releasing details of our involvement as soon as they have been confirmed.

TOGETHER, LET US CLEAN UP EAST PECKHAM

The Queen Celebrates her 90th Birthday in 2016. When she came to the throne litter was not the problem it is today. Food packaging, plastic bottles, takeaway meals and cigarette butts have all contributed to a growing menace that affects our wildlife, streets, countryside and sense of pride. The "Clean for The Queen" initiative is calling on individuals, volunteer groups, local councils, businesses and schools to do their bit. You can start now and also take part in their weekend on March 4th, 5th and 6th 2016. Please register your interest at their website: <http://www.cleanforthequeen.co.uk/home/2365>

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.

EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNITY AWARDS 2016 - NOMINATION FORM

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

REASON:

SIGNED: Print Name: