

EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Newsletter

JANUARY 2015

Dear All,

Happy New Year. Here's another edition of your monthly newsletter with news from us. We produce our newsletter to keep you informed about council activities and news. Our newsletter is also available on our website. If you have any comments about the newsletter we'd love to hear from you.

We hope you enjoyed the Christmas Lighting display. We've been delighted by your positive reaction and are delighted that we were able to place a greater emphasis on lighting the village centre. It's a shame we're unable to use the infrastructure in the village centre. There are many difficulties, such as we neither own the land nor have access to an energy supply. We were however able to use the council owned land, our only source of energy being the one streetlight we are responsible for. The positioning of the poles used for the solar powered trees, can be tweaked in due course, post-Christmas flowering hanging baskets will take the place of the Christmas trees. We would like to thank Brookside Garden Centre for providing the Christmas tree and Mark Edwards, Rikky Baylis-Strover, Nikki Kearns (Heavenly Glaze), Steve New (Village Stores), Graham Bourne (Bourne Produce) and The Library for assisting us with the Christmas Lighting. We hope that you were able to take part in some of the festive village activities which took place, not least the Christmas Carols and songs which we co-hosted with the Street Singers and Silver Band. We were delighted with the number of children and adults who came, the Christmas Fairies gave treats to the children and everyone was invited inside the Merry Boys for refreshments. The children's rendition of 'Let it Go'; from Frozen was magical.

Shortly before Christmas we received the resignations of Graham Haycock and Tim Roper, both cited work related reasons for resigning, in Grahams case he has taken up business role in the USA; we thank them both for their contributions to the council and village. As we are within six months of a scheduled election, TMBC has advised that we can co-opt automatically. We currently therefore have three Parish Councillor Vacancies which we can fill by co-option. If you are interested in becoming a councillor please let us know. It would be wonderful to maintain the wide breadth of views and experience on the Council. The Councils new Chairman is Steph Watson who will be assisted by Peter Crawford and Peter Street, who are known very well within the village and were both Chairmen of the Council as her deputies. Our new Chairman of the Planning & Transportation Committee is Claire Day.

Interest has been shown in Speedwatch a scheme aimed at reducing traffic speeds. The success of the scheme will rely on volunteers. If a sufficient number come forward then we will look at funding the equipment. The more people involved the less of a burden it will be on anyone. Please don't assume someone else will do it; speeding affects us all and is a problem we need to tackle.

The preparation of our 2015-2016 budget is at an advanced stage. It is unlikely that our precept for 2015-2016 will exceed £110,274; this is an increase of 1.07% on the 2014-2015. Full details can be found on our website. In January, our budget is to be considered by the Finance Committee, if you would like to comment on our budget we would be pleased to hear from you 12 January 2015.

Are you concerned about your local area? Do you want to represent the views of local people? Do you want to contribute your business or personal skills and expertise? Are you passionate about services provided to your local community? If you have answered yes to all of these questions why not consider becoming a Parish Councillor and make a difference. Reductions in Local Government funding may see services you take for granted reduced in the future. Your Parish Council can step in and fill the void in your community – to do this it will need your skills & enthusiasm. A Parish Council election is to be held in May 2015. If you would like to make a difference and be involved in shaping the future of the local community, why not stand for election? Details are available from the Parish Office or from our website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk.

We are very proud that East Peckham continues to be a very social village with many activities taking place. 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. Don't forget that our website is a useful tool to find out more about East Peckham and your Parish Council. 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. Don't forget to visit www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk for regular updates and for 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.

Kind regards

Chairman, Councillors & Clerk

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 we will ENDEAVOUR to treat the following locations:

- 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 includes 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 winter maintenance plan can be viewed on our website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk. In addition to this, Kent Highway Services will be providing two bags of a salt and sand mix; these will be available from the Curran Hall & Jubilee Hall car parks.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLANNING

Message from TMBC: On 10 December 2014, the following message was received from the borough council, 'May I congratulate you on your excellent flood preparedness which I hope will ensure that we are spared such an event this year! The sandbag stores have just been checked. There are 1,300 sandbags at the Curran Hall and the same number at the Jubilee Hall'.

Flood Warden Scheme: Following the flood events of Christmas 2013, the Parish Council has set up a system of volunteer Flood Wardens for areas of the village at risk from flooding. If your area is covered by the flood warden scheme your flood warden will be introducing him/herself to you shortly to discuss any specific needs you might have in any potential flood situation. The flood wardens have also been directed to ask each household some specific questions about medical needs and welfare. These answers will enable us to help you better should you find yourself in an emergency situation. Of course this information is purely to be used in an emergency and for no other purpose and will be kept safe in the Parish Office. You would expect to see your Flood Warden when Flood Alerts are issued, we do not expect our Flood Wardens to put themselves in danger when flood water is already on the ground. If you have not already done so, we encourage you to register with the Environment Agency for their Floodline Warnings Direct service. Receive Flood Alerts and Warnings by phone, mobile or email. Register by phone on 0345 988 1188 or online at: <https://fwd.environment-agency.gov.uk/app/olr/home>. There are three levels of Flood Warnings; **Flood Alert** (Flooding possible; be prepared), **Flood Warning** (Flooding expected; immediate action required) & **Severe Flood Warning**: Severe flooding; danger to life

Funding for Leigh flood storage area: On Tuesday 2 December, it was announced that work to improve capacity at the Leigh flood storage area will receive financial support from government. This government funding reflects the hard work done by the Borough Council, the Parish Council and the East Peckham Flood Group and partners and is the result of months of lobbying. It is excellent news for those living in flood risk areas within our community who suffered severe flooding last winter following the exceptional amount of rainfall which fell as Kent experienced its wettest winter for 250 years. We know only too well that many homes and businesses were seriously flooded and fear of this happening again still exists for many. The fear and threat of further events clouds the vitality of communities and creates uncertainty for business and has become a drag on future investment. The Parish Council is pleased that Government will be investing in flood defences including the Leigh flood storage area.

Kent Resilience Forum: The Kent Resilience Forum has produced an excellent electronic version of their handbook "What should I do in an Emergency" , if you would like to obtain a copy please visit the website <http://www.kentprepared.org.uk/> or contact the Kent Resilience Team direct on 01622 212409 or e-mail KRT@kent.fire-uk.org.

In an emergency do you need help or can you help: In either situation we would really like to hear from you and **would** be grateful if you could complete and return to the parish office one of our questionnaires which is printed at the end of this newsletter.

In the event of a Power Cut: Contact ukpowernetworks.co.uk, text POWER and your postcode to 80876, Call 0800 31 63 105, Call 0333 32 32 105 from a mobile, Tweet us or send a Facebook message. **Need extra support during a power cut? Register for free at ukpowernetworks.co.uk/priority or email psr@ukpowernetworks.co.uk**

ALLOTMENTS

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

COMMUNITY DEFIBRILATOR

The community defibrillator is housed in a secure box attached to the wall of the Parish Office. 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 who can be any member of the public 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.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

In our budget for 2014/2015 we allocated a provision of £1,000. There is still some funding available. 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 plus the application form, alternatively you may contact the Parish Office for more information.

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.

JUBILEE HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS

We own and manage the Pippin Road Jubilee Hall complex which comprises of the Playing Fields, Sports Hall and Meeting Room with kitchen, changing rooms and toilet facilities. 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 Junior Football Team and a goal keeping school. We have a hot drinks machine and a snack machine 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

Children's Party Packages: We have some fantastic new booking packages, offering hassle free booking solutions for events to make your life easier and your event a great success. We are now able to 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, Class room for 12 – 30 people, Consultation Room, Board Style meeting for 25
Free Wifi, Projector Screen, Free parking

The playing fields are a beautiful village open space 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. Coming soon will be the installation of a youth shelter. There has been some vandalism and anti-social behaviour on the playing fields, the incidents have been referred to Kent Police and CCTV footage is being examined. It is a great shame that time and money has to be spent on dealing with the aftermath of anti-social behaviour and carrying out repairs. If you know or witness anything please either let us know, report it to the police on 101 or to our Community Warden on 07969 584183.

TWINNING

East Peckham is twinned with Chéreng 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 letter by email. To join the association please send your email your details to admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk or contact the Parish Office.

DEVELOPMENT IN THE FREEHOLD

Many residents have contacted us with regard to the developments taking place in The Freehold. We have asked the Borough Council in their capacity as the Local Planning Authority to comment, here follows their statement:

“There have been a number of residential developments in The Freehold in recent years; most of these have also been on previously developed land. East Peckham is identified as a Rural Service Centre in the Tonbridge and Malling Core Strategy 2007 where new development and redevelopment is acceptable in principle. A large part of East Peckham is identified in the Flood Zone, but parts of The Freehold are not within the defined Flood Zones 2 and 3. The National Planning Policy Framework 2012 also highlights the need for new housing on previously developed land and within defined settlement confines, such as East Peckham. In Planning Law, planning applications need to be considered in accordance with the adopted development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. In respect of more detailed planning considerations, each planning application received is judged on its own merits and is assessed against a number of other national and local planning policies. I hope this goes some way to explain the basics of planning considerations and recent development in The Freehold.”

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

We have recently considered the following planning applications:

TM/14/03083/FL	Change of use of The Harp Public House to a dwelling; Extensions to rear and north side elevations and other alterations to the building. Associated new residential curtilage and alteration of access to Hale Street at The Harp, 218 Hale Street, East Peckham	NO OBJECTION
TM/14/03565/RD	Details of external materials, maintenance regime of septic tank, surface water drainage and a soil chemical analysis pursuant to conditions 1, 4, 5 & 6 of permission TM/14/01960/FL (Change of use of former agricultural building to dwelling house (retrospective) with alterations to the exterior of the building including provisions of additional windows, additional doorway and re-cladding of elevations at Oakley House, Stilstead Farm, Tonbridge Road	NOTED
TM/14/03634/FL	Repair or original hard standing driveway from the entrance gate to the existing Dutch barn and repairs to present hard standing car park. Construction of cess pit and placement of two porta cabins. Facilities for water and electricity on site and two shipping containers for storage of forestry equipment at Field Adjoining Stone Cottage, Maidstone Road, Hadlow	NO OBJECTION
TM/14/03669/FL	Proposed porch extension at 54 Crown Acres, East Peckham	NO OBJECTION
TM/14/03793/LB	Change to car barn roof and repositioning to garden wall to LB application TM/12/02972/LB at Blue Bell Inn, 1 Beltring Road, Paddock Wood	NOTED
TM/14/03667/FL	Alteration to the roof line, conversion of loft space, insertion of dormer windows, skylights and casement windows to flank walls. External treatments to all elevations and movement of front entrance door to 1 Bardsley Close, East Peckham	NO OBJECTION

DOG FOULING

Sadly 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 in the village. If you spot 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 try and obtain as much information as possible as it will assist the Dog Warden. There have also been reports from residents about dogs off leads and our Community and Dog Wardens are seeing what can be done. We are just about to sign up to the national 'We're Watching You Campaign' which is promoted by Keep Britain Tidy.

- 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 had been bitten then the incident is to be reported to the Police on 101

PUBIC RIGHTS OF WAY

We have been concerned with our overgrown village footpaths; however, it is not the Parish Council but Kent County Council who is responsible for their maintenance. 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 report the fault online at <http://webapps.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccesscams/issues/default.aspx>

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.

HALE STREET CHICANE – ADVANCED NOTICE OF TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE

There will be a temporary road closure in Hale Street, East Peckham – from 2 February 2015 for up to 6 days between 09.30hrs and 15.00hrs. During this time there will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Seven Mile Lane and Church Lane. [The alternative route is via A228 Boyle Way and Branbridges Road.](#) The closure is necessary to facilitate carriageway safety and improvement works to be carried out by KCC Highways.

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.

WINTER DRIVING

The British winter is unpredictable. Severe weather can strike suddenly so the best advice is to avoid the roads if you can. If you must drive, then taking a few precautions will give you peace of mind:

- Plan your journey during wintry weather conditions
- Keep your vehicle in good condition – check the tyres and anti-freeze regularly
- Be prepared for the worst, carry water and food, a torch, boots, extra clothing and a mobile phone
- Adjust your driving to the conditions of the road. Driving in low visibility on icy wet roads requires a very different driving style.

The highways agency is responsible for the motorways and trunk roads in England. If you need further information on winter driving, please visit highways.gov.uk. For weather reports please visit Metoffice.gov.uk.

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.

POLICING

Police Contact Point: This is your opportunity to discuss policing issues with a neighbourhood officer, get crime prevention advice, have your say on Kent Policing and pick up a free crime prevention item. The Contact Point will be at the Co-op, Branbridges Road, East Peckham, TN12 5WH. For Further information including dates of the Police Contact Point visit the Kent Police Website www.kent.police.uk, follow Kent Police on twitter @kentpoliceton, find Kent Police on Facebook, call 999 in an emergency, if you are deaf or speech-impaired, text 'Police' and your message to 60066 or you can call 101 to report a non-urgent crime or contact your local officer.

Kent Police leaflet - Shutting the Gate on Rural Crime: Kent Police has produced a helpful leaflet on "Shutting the Gate on Rural Crime". It can be downloaded via the following link: http://www.kent.police.uk/advice/business/attachments/shutting_the_gate.pdf

ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

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

COLLECTIVE SWITCHING SCHEME TO HELP RESIDENTS SAVE MONEY ON ENERGY BILLS

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council is working with Energy Deal on a collective switching campaign which aims to help and support residents looking to reduce their gas and electricity bills.

The Energy Deal scheme was launched in 2013 by Dover, Dartford, Tunbridge Wells, and Gravesham councils with Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council joining the collaboration this year. Grouping together offers a straightforward solution for residents to find out whether they can get a better deal and benefit by saving money on their home energy bills.

The more people who register, the more interested the suppliers are in gaining them as customers and so the better the deal they offer.

The scheme is open to all households using gas and electricity who pay monthly, quarterly or via a pre-payment meter. It's free to register for the scheme, and residents are not obliged to switch energy supplier. Registration will require details of annual energy consumption, current tariff/supplier, (shown on fuel bill/annual energy statement), and method of payment. Registration closes on 2 February, and on 3 February 2015 energy suppliers are invited to compete with their best offer at an energy auction, (administered by iChoosr). Residents registered with Energy Deal will then be sent a personalised offer showing the winning tariff, which they can then decide whether they want to accept.

Since the Energy Deal scheme was launched in 2013, 3,315 households have registered, and 592 have switched supplier. In the first round, the annual average saving was £93, and the second round saw average savings of £190. The October auction saw a unique market leading tariff offered specifically for collective switching with an average saving of £221.

Energy Deal is an easy way for residents to see if they can reduce energy costs, especially those who have never switched before, as it offers a helping hand to guide them through the process. We are pleased to support the collective switching campaign and hope residents will take advantage of the new scheme.

Registration for Energy Deal runs until 02 February 2015. For more information, or to register online, please see www.energydealswitch.com. Residents without internet access can call Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council on 01732 876395 to register to be part of the scheme.

JANUARY 2015 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

05 January 2015	Planning & Transportation Committee. Proceedings commence at 6.00 p.m.
08 January 2015	Mobile Police Station, 4.30 p.m. – 5.30 p.m. Co-op, Branbridges Road
12 January 2015	Finance Committee. Proceedings commence at 7.30 p.m.
17 January 2015	Bulky Freighter, Jubilee Hall Car Park, 8.00 a.m. – 9.00 a.m.
19 January 2015	Planning & Transportation Committee followed by a meeting of the full Parish Council. Proceedings commence at 7.15 p.m.
22 January 2015	Mobile Police Station, 4.30 p.m. – 5.30 p.m. Co-op, Branbridges Road
31 January 2015	Bulky Freighter, Jubilee Hall Car Park, 8.00 a.m. – 9.00 a.m.

EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council, Karen Bell, The Parish Office, East Peckham Jubilee Hall, Pippin Road, East Peckham, TN12 5BT, Telephone/answerphone: 01622 871309, Email: admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk. The Parish Office is open weekday mornings during term time except Wednesdays. If you would like to speak to a Councillor please write, phone or email and a Councillor will contact you; alternatively you may contact a Councillor via our website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk.

KENT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS COMMUNITY AWARDS SCHEME 2015

Supported by the High Sheriff of Kent, Chairman of Kent County Council and Mayor of Medway Council

The KALC Community Award is to acknowledge and give recognition to a resident of East Peckham who has made a significant contribution to this Parish over a period of years. If you know of someone who has given this sort of service and merits an Award then please do nominate them. The person must live or work within the East Peckham Parish boundary. The winner will receive a certificate signed by the Kent Association of Local Council's Chairman and the High Sheriff of Kent. The Award will be presented by the Chairman of East Peckham Parish Council Chairman at the 2015 Annual Parish Meeting. A nomination form is printed below. Only **ONE** nomination per resident but all adult members of a family may submit a nomination form. Just photocopy the form or telephone Karen Bell on 01622 871309 or email admin@eastpeckam2-pc.gov.uk for extra forms. Forms can also be downloaded from our website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk. 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 for '8receiving nomina'8tion forms is 17 January 2015.

KALC COMMUNITY AWARDS 2015 - NOMINATION FORM

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

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

SIGNED: Print Name:

Only one vote per resident. For details of returning this form see above.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLANNING QUESTIONNAIRE

Resident's Address:

Name:

Tel:.....

Mobile:.....

In a potential Flood Event, will you need help with: (Please Circle)

- | | | |
|---|-----|----|
| • Evacuation | Yes | No |
| • Getting medicines / receiving medical treatment | Yes | No |
| • Making meals & drinks | Yes | No |
| • Carer(s) getting access | Yes | No |
| • Moving valuable items to a safe place | Yes | No |
| • Getting Sandbags to your property | Yes | No |

If there is loss of Power for an extended period, will you need help with: (Please Circle)

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|----|
| • Evacuation | Yes | No |
| • Alternative heating (gas?) | Yes | No |
| • Receiving medical treatment | Yes | No |
| • Making meals & drinks (gas?) | Yes | No |
| • Communications*** | Yes | No |

*** Essential to have landline phone set not needing power, for when batteries run out.

Can you help with 'watching out' or caring for your neighbours? Yes No

Are you able to deliver sandbags to other properties as well as your own? Yes No

Additional Comments (and other help you feel you may be able to give)

This information will only be used in an Emergency Situation & will be kept safe in Parish Office

GO 20 CAMPAIGN

Brake, the road safety charity, has produced a free toolkit to help local authorities, community campaigners, emergency services and schools encourage drivers to go 20mph or below in towns and villages. The GO 20 toolkit, supported by Allianz Insurance, also helps raise awareness about the benefits of 20mph limits in making streets safer and more pleasant for people to walk, cycle and live healthy lifestyles. **Resources including posters, web banners, leaflets, factsheets and an infographic are available to download for free at www.brake.org.uk/go20toolkit. Hard copies of the leaflet and two posters are available to order.**

Earlier in the year Brake and Allianz Insurance released a survey showing overwhelming public support for 20mph limits, with eight in 10 people (78%) thinking 20mph should be the norm around schools, homes, and in town and city centres. The Brake and Allianz Insurance survey also found:

- Seven in 10 (72%) say roads in their town or village need to be safer for walking and cycling;
- Eight in 10 (81%) say traffic travels too fast on some (51%) or most (30%) of their local roads;
- Eight in 10 (79%) think it would encourage more people to walk or cycle if roads and routes in their town or village were made safer.

When drivers GO 20, they have more time to react in an emergency and avoid hitting someone or something: stopping distances at 20mph are about half those at 30mph. Children benefit especially, since they struggle to judge the speed of vehicles over 20mph. Many areas that have introduced 20mph limits have seen reductions in casualties, such as Portsmouth where they fell by 22% and Camden, where crashes reduced by 54%. Other high profile local authorities 'GOing 20' include the City of London, Birmingham, Newcastle and Edinburgh. It's estimated that 12.5million people now live in places that have implemented 20 limits or are committed to doing so.

20mph limits also promise to deliver improvements in public health and social activity, and reductions in congestion, pollution and noise, as more people feel safe to walk and cycle for local journeys, commuting or simply for enjoyment. Making streets safer and more pleasant for walking and cycling can also benefit local economies. The GO 20 campaign is about defending everyone's right to walk and cycle freely without being endangered, whether it's to get to work, school, the shops, or just getting out and being active. We need to tackle the senseless and violent casualties that happen daily on our roads, and we need to enable people to live healthy, active, social lives. It's clear that 20mph limits in communities can help bring this about and it is clear that people want this.

Benefits of 20mph limits:

- **Fewer casualties:** drivers have more time to react in an emergency and avoid hitting someone: stopping distances at 20mph are about half those at 30mph. Children benefit especially, since they struggle to judge the speed of vehicles over 20mph. Areas where 20mph limits have replaced 30mph limits have seen significant reductions in casualties such as 22% in Portsmouth and Camden where crashes dropped by 54% in trial areas.
- **Healthy, active lifestyles:** less fast traffic makes people feel safer, which encourages more walking and cycling. Where widespread 20mph limits have been introduced, walking and cycling has increased, including by 20% in Bristol. This means better health and prevention of illnesses like heart disease and diabetes, and less strain on the NHS.
- **Sociable communities:** 20mph limits help turn our streets from soulless thoroughfares for traffic to enjoyable social spaces where people live. Lower traffic speeds (and traffic volumes) have been shown to improve the 'sociability' of streets: people get out more and are more likely to know their neighbours.
- **Less pollution:** more people walking and cycling means less traffic and more carbon-free journeys. 20mph limits also reduce pollution by causing vehicles to travel at a more consistent speed, with less of the speeding up and slowing down that produces most vehicle emissions. For the same reason, journey times are barely affected; in fact, they may be smoother and use less petrol.
- **Lower costs:** every road death in the UK is estimated to cost £1.7 million. Fewer casualties mean less strain on the NHS and emergency services as well as preventing families suffering emotional and financial devastation. Add the public health benefits of more walking and cycling, and introducing 20mph limits ultimately pays for itself many times over.

Brake is calling on government to acknowledge that we have reached the tipping point where it is time to change the national default urban speed limit to 20mph, thereby reducing the cost of implementation for cash-strapped local authorities. In the meantime, Brake continues to encourage more local authorities to join the growing numbers that have already implemented widespread 20mph limits in their areas. Brake appeals to all drivers to make a difference by slowing down to 20mph or below around homes, schools and shops, even where the limit is still 30mph. This gives you much more time to react in an emergency and avoid hitting someone, with stopping distances at 20mph about half those at 30mph. It can also make your journeys smoother, with less speeding up and slowing down, so you'll barely notice a difference in journey times, and will probably use less petrol and have less vehicle wear.

INTRODUCING MID KENT ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

We are a friendly local group who are interested in all aspects of astronomy. We exist to provide facilities to explore astronomy in the form of meetings, talk's instruction, workshops and astronomical equipment! Come along to one of our talks, or visit us at our observatory (see the events pages) and see what's on offer.



We have a full range of talks, workshops, exhibitions and external events throughout the year. Members have access to our website and forums, as well as to our equipment. The society owns and operates a suite of astronomical equipment for the use of its members which ranges from a 16" dobsonian telescope and 14" computer controlled SCT down to portable telescopes and imaging cameras.

If you are interested go along and talk to their Instruments and Observing Coordinator at any of their meetings. Membership is £20/year for full adult membership, and there are concessionary and family rates. Junior members are welcome. Prospective members are welcome to any of the meetings (free of charge for your first visit), non-members are always welcome, but they do make a nominal charge for non-members.

The Society has a project to refurbish a Grubb Parsons professional telescope, and install it in their observatory (the GP20 Project). They also run 'outreach' events during the year to promote astronomy and to give members of the public a chance to view the wonders of space.

They run social events and trips to AstroCamp and other interesting external events as the opportunity arises; please speak to the Events Secretary at any of their meetings if you would like to put your name down for future events.

Bought a telescope and don't know how to use it? Take it along to one of the telescope workshops, and they will be glad to share their experience as members have used most of the main brands. Want to buy a telescope but don't know which one or what it will do? Go along to an observing session and use theirs ' first! Bought an all singing and dancing GoTo telescope and now need to learn the night sky in order to set it up (we've all been there) – go along and learn with them.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION – ARE YOU ABLE TO HELP?

We have been contacted by Mr Peter Ellis who back in the 1960's started the East Peckham Photographic group. Mr Ellis writes "Mr Cherry was a member. I lived in the Freehold in Ashleigh I want to contact the present group members to discuss an idea. I have made films of the area including the Fet near Snoll Hatch. Due to ill heath I want to gain some access to any records they have, I made a CD for the Borough in 1999/2000 covering the whole area with some 250 stories or more. Help please". If anyone is able to help Mr Ellis, please contact the Parish Office.