

EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

MARCH 2015

Dear All,

It has been another busy month at the Parish Council.

We have a proper vision for our community which has been noted by many. 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. Add to that our development of current projects and we are really making progress as a local council. It can't be stressed enough that feedback is extremely important to organisations like us. It provides valuable opinion, both positive and negative, and enables us to tailor our services accordingly.

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 the Parish Council also runs the Jubilee Hall and Playing Fields, feel free to speak to us about anything to do with those facilities as well.

Unfortunately, we have to report that there have been some issues with anti-social behavior at the Jubilee Hall car park, notably, people dumping their rubbish in the car park rather than using the litter bins and playing music at unsocial hours of the day and night! Please, please do be considerate of nearby residents. We have considered locking the car park barriers but are unable to do so as we need to provide easy access to the defibrillator in the case of an emergency. If you witness any incidents do please report them to the PCSO's and the Community Warden and continue to report any crime by telephoning 101, no matter how trivial it may seem, as this will build an accurate picture for East Peckham and allow us continued access to the right support.

Kind regards
Chairman, Councillors and Clerk
East Peckham Parish Council

2015 ELECTIONS

The big issue for us all this year is of course, the elections on 7 May when Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council will be holding scheduled elections for all Borough and Parish/Town council seats alongside the UK Parliamentary General Election.

**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 can answer yes to all of the questions and you would like to make a difference and be involved in shaping the future of the local community, why not consider becoming a Parish Councillor. Reductions in Local Government funding may see services you take for granted reduced in the future. The Parish Council can step in and fill the void in the community – to do this we will need your skills & enthusiasm.

We are preparing as we speak and have lots of information available on our website. KALC our County Association has its own Election Blog site for the public to access as well as for Council use. There are downloadable resources for everyone's use. It could be an especially useful tool for prospective first time councillors. As well as their Awareness Events they will be running induction Dynamic Councillor events too! These will be held between May and July and will be aimed specifically at newly elected councillors. If you are interested visit the website www.kentalc.blogspot.co.uk.

Some key facts regarding the 2015 election arrangements which you may find of interest are as follows:

Nominations

- Every seat on the Parish Council is up for election, including those filled at the 2011 elections and any filled by co-option since then.
- There is no automatic carry-forward of councillors; anyone wishing to stand for re-election must submit their nomination paperwork.
- The deadline for withdrawing nomination is the same dates and time as the deadline to submit a nomination this is 09 April 2015.
- From 12 March 2015, nomination packs will be available from the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council. The Borough Council will handle all nominations; they do not expect the Parish Office to get involved at all.

Uncontested elections: If the number of candidates is the same or less than the number of available seats, the election will be uncontested – all those who submitted valid nominations will be declared as having won the seat. Even if the parish election is uncontested, there will still be an election on polling day for the borough and Parliamentary elections.

Contested elections: If the election is contested, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council will provide details of nominations to the Parish Office through formal notices.

Polling day: This is Thursday 7 May 2015 when all polling stations will be open from 7am to 10pm.

The counts

UK Parliamentary General election. After the close of poll on 07 May 2015

Borough Council Election: This will start at 4pm on Friday 8 May 2015

Contested Parish Council Election: This will be on Monday 11 May 2015

The Parish Council is hosting a number of events at the Jubilee Hall Meeting Room, Pippin Road, East Peckham, TN12 5BT where we invite you to join us for refreshments and meet the present councilors and our Parish Clerk, we look forward to meeting you and telling you more about the roles of the parish council, the parish councilors and the Parish Clerk, dates and times are as follows:

Monday 02 March 2015	10.30 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.
Monday 16 March 2015	6.15 p.m. – 7.15 p.m.
Monday 23 March 2015	10.30 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.
Monday 30 March 2015	10.30 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.

2015 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The 2015 Annual Parish Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, 28 April 2015 between 7.00 p.m. and 10.00 p.m.** at the Sports Hall within the Jubilee Hall complex, Pippin Road, East Peckham, TN12 5BT. The Annual Parish Meeting is not a Parish Council meeting but a village meeting which we are delighted to be hosting the meeting as we feel it is a vitally important opportunity for us to engage with the local community. It is an ideal opportunity for you to learn more about the role of the Parish Council and the work that has been undertaken over the past year. You will also be able to ask questions, meet your Parish Councillors and peruse the information stands that will be available. At the meeting there will be the annual presentations of the Billy Can and Community Engagement Awards, our warmest congratulations to this year's award winners who are as follows:

Billy Can Shields	Youth Award	Sharon Davies for her work with the Guide Group
	Senior Award	Sylvia Papworth and Marion Ridley for their work for the Evergreens Group
Community Awards		Peter Street and the Street Singers for their splendid fundraising over the years which has raised thousands of pounds for village organisations
		Philip and Jean Easom for over 30 years work for Scouting in East Peckham and for organising the annual Remembrance Parade

We would like to hear from any village group or organisation who would like to have an information stand at this years event. Information stands so far include those from the Environment Agency, East Peckham Pre-School, East Peckham Guide Group, Paddock Wood Community Advice Centre and East Peckham Flood Group. Refreshments consisting of a light buffet, wine and soft drinks will be available throughout the evening and we look forward to seeing many of you on the night.

2015/2016 BUDGET

At our meeting in January 2015 we agreed to set the precept (the proportion of Council Tax payable to the Parish Council) at a figure of £110,274. This means that the precept of a Band D property will be £88.74 per year, an increase of £0.31 per year. The need to increase the precept has come about as a result of changes in government funding, moreover, there are concerns that the ability of the parish council to raise monies through the precept will be capped in future years, which will place a strain on the ability of the Parish Council to operate effectively and provide the scope and level of services that it currently offers. The revised precept will enable the Parish Council to continue to position itself on a financially viable and sustainable footing that will ensure that it is able to operate effectively in the future. A full breakdown of our budget is available on our website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk.

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.

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.

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.

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. It is too late to apply for funding for the current financial year but after 01 April 2015 we will be pleased to consider grants for 2015/2016 and we have made a provision of £1,000 available specifically for grants to community groups and organisations.

ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENTS

At the time of writing this newsletter, we are eagerly anticipating the installation of the new fingerposts which following an unexpected delay are due to be installed shortly. Our enhancement projects for 2015/2016 include the renovation of the milestone currently located along the bypass and the installation of hamlet signs.

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 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

Children's Party Packages: We have some fantastic packages, offering hassle free solutions for events 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.

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 e-letter. To join the association please email your details to admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk.

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.

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Committee meetings are held at 9.30 a.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 application

TM/14/04293/FL Demolition of existing garage and replacement of proposed detached garage at Orchard End, 174 Hale Street, East Peckham **NO OBJECTION**

TM/15/00059/FL Conversion of commercial barn into 2 dwellings with alterations to the exterior of the building, provision of additional windows, new larch cladding and new slate roof at Barn Southwest of the Granary, Stilstead Farm, Tonbridge Road **NO OBJECTION**

TM/15/00168/TNCA Reduce lime tree by approx. 20% at 24 Old Road **NO OBJECTION**

PLANNING DECISIONS

The Borough Council has **GRANTED PERMISSION** for the following:

TM/14/02088/FL Single storey rear extensions at 117 Snoll Hatch Road, East Peckham

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

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 at 1 Bardsley Close, East Peckham

The Borough Council has **REFUSED to permit the following**

TM/14/02316/CAN Consultation by TWBC: Development of a 22.3 ha solar photovoltaic park on land 120m south of village with attendant equipment and infrastructure at Land at Five Oak Green Road, Capel

The Borough Council has **advised that the following has NOT BEEN PROCEEDED WITH**

TM/14/03793/LB Change to car barn roof and repositioning to garden wall to TM/12/02972/LB to demolish porch, kitchen and WCs on north side of public house and form pitched roof, internal alterations to public house to enable conversion to a dwelling, convert oast to dwelling including change of open car barn roof and repositioning of garden walls at Blue Bell Inn, 1 Beltring Road, Paddock Wood

AIRPORTS COMMISSIONS CONSULTATION

- **Courier Article:** The Courier has recently done a feature on plans for a second runway at Gatwick airport. All parishes in West Kent and East Sussex were surveyed, the Council responded as follows to the two questions asked:
 - How do you feel about the plans? **Undecided**
 - Have you submitted comments to the Airport Commission as part of the Gatwick consultation? **No, but we intend to submit a comment in the future**
- **Gatwick Airport Meetings:** Gatwick Airport was delighted to have received a large number of responses from the 244 parishes in Kent and it is now their intention to hold meetings where we will be invited to attend. In order that we can represent the village accurately at these meetings we would like to hear from you if there any issues that you would like us to specifically raise.

PUBIC 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>

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. During February we launched our We're Watching You Campaign which is being promoted by Keep Britain Tidy; do look out for the special glow in the dark posters.

- 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

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 – CHICANE IMPROVEMENTS

The Parish Council has been advised that the work has been postponed following the **discovery** of a pipeline that is not shown on any of the statutory undertaker drawings. The pipeline is connected to Gatwick and Heathrow Airports and is monitored by an overhead helicopter. The contractor is trying to find a way round the problem, and we will let you know of any developments as and when we hear about them.

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES

Beltring Road, East Peckham – from 23 March 2015 for up to 5 days. The road will be closed outside property number 1. The 7.5T environmental weight restriction will be suspended during the works to allow for the diversion. The alternative route is via Gravelly Ways, Lees Road, B2162 Hampstead Lane, B2015 Maidstone Road and A228 Boyle Way/Branbridges Road. The closure is necessary to replay the gas service from the main into property number 1 to be carried out by Southern Gas Networks.

Chidley Cross Road, East Peckham – from 23 March 2015 for up to 2 days. The whole length of the road will be closed. The alternative route is via Hatches Lane, Addlestead Road, Snoll Hatch Road and Pound Road. The closure is to enable drainage 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.

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

The Contact Point visits fortnightly and can be found at the Co-op, Branbridges Road, East Peckham, TN12 5WH. 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. At the time of preparing this newsletter we had not been notified of the dates and times for March 2015 but we believe that they will be 05 and 19 March between 4.30 p.m.–5.30 p.m. (To be confirmed). For Further information 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.

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.

MARCH 2015 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

02 March 2015	Planning & Transportation Committee. Proceedings commence at 9.30 a.m.
03 March 2015	Carers Support Group. 12.00 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall Meeting Room
14 March 2015	Bulky Freighter, Jubilee Hall Car Park, 8.00 a.m. – 9.00 a.m.
16 March 2015	Meeting of the full Parish Council. Proceedings commence at 7.15 p.m.
28 March 2015	Bulky Freighter, Jubilee Hall Car Park, 8.00 a.m. – 9.00 a.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.

Reluctantly we have cancelled our attendance at the monthly village surgery, we found that most months we only had one to two visitors at most, we will be happy to reconsider our participation in the future subject to sufficient demand and councilor availability. 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.

Bits and Pieces

Fundraising Opportunities - Resources for Accessing the Funds You Need for a Particular Project

The Kent Business Portal is a valuable resource that allows local entities to register their particulars for the good of those in Kent. Run by Kent County Council, it is good for publicity purposes and can reach a desired audience. Look at their dedicated website www.kentbusinessportal.org.uk and see if it might be of use to your organisation.

Health Help Now web app

The award-winning Health Help Now web app, to help people find the right care and treatment in Kent and Medway, is now available to download. One year after the web app launched at <http://www.healthhelpnow-nhs.net/>, the NHS has developed free downloadable versions for Apple and Android which have all the original health information and advice, along with new added features. Health Help Now lists common symptoms and helps you find the best place for treatment for them in Kent and Medway. It shows the nearest services, whether they are open or closed, and provides a map of their location and directions. New features available on the Apple and Android versions include a health wallet, where users can make notes about symptoms or questions they may need to ask a GP, keep a list of health appointments and contacts, save favourite pages from Health Help Now and view other useful apps. Do try to encourage the use of this new application as much as possible in your area!

Power to the Neighbourhood.

On 26 January 2015, government ministers announced changes in the Law that will provide greater protection for pubs that play a crucial role in communities. It is hoped this action will stop valued community pubs from being demolished or converted into different usage against the will of local people. The Department for Communities and Local Government plan to bring forward secondary legislation at the earliest opportunity so that in England the listing of a pub as an asset of community value will trigger a temporary removal of the national permitted development rights for the change of use or demolition of those pubs that communities have identified as providing the most community benefit. This will mean that in future where a pub is listed as an asset of community value, a planning application will be required for the change of use or demolition of a pub. This then provides an opportunity for local people to comment, and enables the local planning authority to determine the application in accordance with its local plan, any neighbourhood plan and national policy. The local planning authority may take the listing into account as material consideration when determining any planning application. People who list their public house are given six months with support so that they can come together with a community bid to buy the pub should it be up for sale.

MESSAGE FROM KENT COUNTY COUNCIL REGARDING THE CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE DELIVERY OF LIBRARY, REGISTRATION AND ARCHIVE SERVICES IN KENT

Kent County Council (KCC) is transforming the way it delivers its services as well as reducing costs. Library, Registration and Archive (LRA) services are valued by communities, which is why we have given a lot of consideration to how we deliver them for the future. From many options we have looked to find the most sustainable that will deliver customer-focused services and contribute to the savings KCC has to make. KCC's preferred option is that we set up a Charitable Trust to deliver the LRA service. KCC encourages you to consider the proposal and feedback your thoughts. No formal decision has been taken and they want to hear everyone's views. Responses to the consultation will be considered before a decision is made on the Library, Registration and Archive service.