

EPPC NEWS – MARCH 2016

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

Dear All,

If you read the Parish Councils newsletters and look at our website and twitter account regularly, you will know what has been happening in our village over the past year.

The proposed closure of the surgery has dominated much of our time recently, please be assured that we are doing all we possibly can to resist the closure. As we battle to retain this essential front line service, we are enormously grateful to Tom Tugendhat MP and Baroness Emerton for their support and for raising the issue in the Houses of Commons and Lords, we are also grateful for the support of our Borough Councillors and County Councillor. The loss of the surgery to the village is unthinkable as is the negative and detrimental effect it would have on our community. We have been extremely frustrated at the sequence of events which led woodlands Health Centre to submit the surgery branch closure application to the NHS. We have started an online petition, if you have not yet seen it do please go onto our website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk and follow the link to add your signature. We have welcomed the media exposure which has included being featured on the BBC SE Politics Show which was broadcast on 07 February 2016. We took the lead in drawing up the Action Plan which if approved by NHS will keep the surgery open for six months whilst long term solutions were explored.

Whilst Woodlands Health Centre have confirmed that the closure had been bought about by regulatory challenge and that they have no desire to withdraw the service provided to EP patients, they have stated that they are not in a position to contribute funds now or in the future to the cost of the survey or renovations. Given that the Parish Council has offered to fund the survey they feel that they will be unable to project manage the survey or the works required and this would be our responsibility. It is disappointing to note the perceived lack of support and involvement from WHC which will undoubtedly place an unfair burden upon the Parish Council but for the benefit of the village we will rise to the challenge facing us over the coming months in this respect.

Crime figures have remained reasonably stable, but we would ask you to report any unusual behaviour or nuisance problems, by dialling 101, being the non-emergency Police line and not the next time you see our PCSO's or Community Warden,

We are concerned with the amount of potholes and dangerous footways throughout the Parish and we have urged Kent Highways to come into East Peckham and repair the numerous potholes on our rural roads. Cars parked on pavements are still a problem. We continue to monitor this antisocial practice, which causes problems to anyone in a wheelchair or pushing a pram.

With regard to the Playing Fields which we own, our main priority here is to maintain this important area of village open space to a high standard. The Playing Fields are a beautiful open space and they are open for the use of anyone in the village 24 hours a day. The playing fields are also available for hire by any organisation in the village and it would be wonderful if various village celebrations took place there such as fetes or musical picnics. The fields are kept as a haven for families and for children to run around safely, and there are benches to sit and have picnics. I am sure you will agree that they are a wonderful village asset. We are currently looking at installing a Play/Trim Trail on the playing fields and some additional tree planting will which will blend in with the environment, for both children and adults.

We look after the Parish's planning interests - dealing with fairly basic planning applications through to the far more complicated ones involving new housing and other development in the Parish. We are a statutory consultee, and unlike a lot of Parishes, we are extremely fortunate in having great technical expertise – so you can rest assured that we usually know what we are talking about, as well as being confident in our recommendations to the borough council.

We will shortly be delivering our Annual Report to all residential properties, as we move further towards becoming 'paperless' this will probably be the last report which will be hand delivered. Whilst we will continue to compile an Annual Report it will be published online with a limited print run for those of you who would prefer a hard copy, these will be issued upon request. One final thing to mention this month and that is the Annual Parish Meeting which is taking place on Monday 04 April 2016. Do please come along to meet your local representatives, over recent years we reviewed the format and it is now a less formal social event with a buffet and refreshments. We look forward to seeing many of you in the Jubilee Sports Hall on 04 April 2016 at 7.00 p.m.

Kind regards
Chairman, Councillors and Clerk

COMING SOON - NEW PARISH COUNCIL APP

It's a fact that more adults use mobile apps and access the internet from mobile devices; this inspired us to harness the power of mobile in providing information and services that are more accessible and convenient to all. The app will be interactive with key functions to allow access to information 'on demand', so residents can engage with parish representatives and the local community, whilst 'on the go' or in the comfort of their own home. In essence the Parish App is a great opportunity for residents to connect, be informed, book facilities, share news and promote local events. Features will include the ability to instantly submit a photo of local events or report issues in your community. Stay in the loop with instant notifications of local news and events. The app will also allow you to view council meetings, planning applications, village contracts and read copies our 'EPPC News' plus much more. Look out for more announcements. We hope you will download the app, spread the word and get connected. Better communication leads to better communities and engaging in local events, sharing news and ideas helps make a better neighbourhood.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLANNING

Would you be prepared to help your community? We have 3 ways you can help, first the East Peckham Flood Group which is independent of EPPC is looking for a new Chairman, we're also looking for someone to coordinate the village Flood Warden Scheme and finally we'd like to have more Flood Wardens. If you're interested and would like to find out more please let us know. Free training is available via TMBC and all Flood Wardens are given a flood preparedness kit.

To receive Flood Warnings: Visit the website www.environment-agency.gov.uk or telephone 0845 988 1188.

COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATOR AT THE JUBILEE HALL

The defibrillator is vital to the village. We offer **free training to anyone wanting to know how to use it.** SECamb know of the location of the defibrillator so 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 where many activities take place from the toddlers' groups including gym, parent and toddlers and Mini Music Makers to activities like Keep fit, badminton, bowls and Zumba, we are also the venue for a monthly carers group and an outdoor goal keeping school. We have hot drinks, cold drinks and snack machines too. Please consider our facilities for your events. Whilst most users of the Sports Hall are regular there is some weekday morning availability and we can currently offer evening and daytime availability in the Meeting Room. A programme of activities and the organisers contact details can be found on our website. In addition to regular activities which take place we'd like to widen the availability of sporting and other activities. We would be pleased to hear from you if there are any indoor or outdoor activities you would like provided such as archery, cycling and running clubs. We would also be pleased to hear from you if you would be interested in starting up a new activity.

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 lovely open space and are open to everyone all year round. We want them to be a haven for you to enjoy peace and quiet and for children to play safely, families to picnic and joggers to run securely. So that the playing fields are well equipped with leisure facilities for everyone, we'll continue to develop them.

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. We currently have two vacant plots.

EAST PECKHAM BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Are you a member of the Business Community? Would you like to see the village have a business forum? If so, we'd like to hear from you. Some of the things the forum could do are create a loyalty scheme, publish a business directory and produce a visitor's information leaflet. It would be fantastic if the East Peckham Business Community could come together for a 'Showcase Evening' where local businesses could display their 'commodities'. 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 available in the village. We would like to invite representatives from local businesses and community groups to a networking breakfast, please let us know if this is something that would be of interest to you.

ABANDONED VEHICLES

These can be reported at <http://www.tmbc.gov.uk/services/environment-and-planning/abandoned-vehicles>.

BLOOMING IN EAST PECKHAM

We'd like to form an East Peckham in Bloom group whose aim would be to enhance the appearance of the village. If you're a local business and would like to sponsor this project, let us know. We've many ideas for brightening up our village. If you're interested in becoming part of an East Peckham in Bloom group, let us know. Let's get our village of East Peckham looking beautiful in 2016 and be proud of where we live! 2016 will also see the return of the Garden Competition. Look out for the entry form in the Annual Report which will be delivered to you shortly.

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 the problem. Please be a considerate vehicle user. Pedestrians, wheelchairs, pushchairs, cyclists all need to use the full width of the footways. Private driveways, entrances and junctions need to be kept clear of obstruction for safety reasons. Please help us to help you.

LITTERING

Litter doesn't clear itself away. The cost of clearing 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 has the power to issue fixed penalty notices. If you'd like to do your bit to help keep East Peckham tidy, please clear up your frontages and collect rubbish along your roads. Our thanks go to the unsung heroes who regularly collect litter.

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 has recently considered the following:

TM/15/03952/FL Retrospective Application: Installation of a 1.8m high closed board fence to the boundary of Addlestead and Westwood Road at 28 Westwood Road, East Peckham

NEUTRAL

Note: TMBC have been asked to ensure that the development is compatible with the Bullen Corner Conservation Statement which they had commissioned and approved.

TM/15/04060/FL Two storey side and rear extension at Westview, 125 Bush Road, East Peckham **NO OBJECTION**

TM/15/03932/FL Conversion of garage into habitable accommodation & extension, 20 Crown Acres, E. Peckham **NO OBJECTION**

TM/16/00059/FL Erection of a timber clad carport with store associated with residential plot 1 at Barn Southwest of The Granary, Stilstead Farm, Tonbridge Road, East Peckham **NO OBJECTION**

TM/16/00198/FL Demolition of existing detached garage and construction of a 2 storey side/rear extension and enlarge access to Old Road at The Laurels, 47 Old Road, East Peckham **NO OBJECTION**

TM/16/00212/FL Demolition of detached garage and erection of two storey side with integral garage and single storey rear extension at 5 Golding Gardens, East Peckham **NO OBJECTION**

TMBC – PARKING ACTION PLAN

TMBC has consulted on proposals for Chidley Cross Road, Church Lane and Pound road which consist of new double yellow lines to prevent obstructive parking around junctions, driveways and the primary school and new bus stop clearway. We should know the outcome shortly. The Parish Council is in favour of the new parking restrictions.

OVERGROWN PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

KCC is responsible for maintaining public rights of way. Report problems by telephoning 03000 414145 or online at <http://webapps.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccesscams/issues/default.aspx>.

HIGHWAYS

The preferred and quickest way to let highways know about faults such as potholes or overgrown vegetation is through the website www.kent.gov.uk/highwayfaults. In an emergency you should call 03000 41 81 81. There's no need for EPPC to refer issues direct 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.

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

Speedwatch is where 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 and want to do something about it, now's your chance. We have agreed in principal to fund the cost of equipment if we have at least 12 volunteers. We need about six more volunteers in order to progress this project.

DOG FOULING

We take dog fouling seriously and over-stress the dangers dog faeces poses. It's illegal not to clear up the mess left by your dog and dog mess in public places is offensive to see, smell or tread in. It's a shame that just a few uncaring dog owners spoil things for others. Dog deposits provided it's bagged up can be put into any bin. If you see anyone failing to clear up after their dog please contact the Community or Dog Wardens. 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.

- 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

MARCH 2016 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

07 March 2016	Planning & Transportation Committee, 7.00 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall Meeting Room
21 March 2016	Full Parish Council, 7.15 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall Meeting Room

EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

Some exciting forthcoming events which we want you to know about

Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth on 14 March 2016



At 10.30 a.m., on 14 March 2016 along with hundreds of other Commonwealth Communities we will be flying the Commonwealth Flag. We hope you will join us and children from East Peckham Primary School as we raise the Commonwealth Flag. The event will take place on the Parish Council owned land in the centre of the village opposite the Methodist Church. Following the event we would be delighted to loan the flag pole to any village group or organisation who would like to raise their own flag to commemorate a special occasion. Just contact the Parish Office for more information.

The Queen's Birthday Beacons (21.04.2016)



We have registered our interest with the pageant organisers to light a beacon to honour the Queens 90th Birthday. We have a gas powered beacon which we would be pleased to loan to any village group or organisation who would like to organise an event. Just contact the Parish Office for more information

Future Heritage Tree



On 21 April 2016 we shall be planting a new Maple Tree on the Playing Fields. We hope this fine tree will become over time a heritage tree. We have been working with the Tree Conservation Volunteers and the tree will be planted to celebrate and honour the service of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to her people on her 90th birthday. More details to follow.

POP UP SKATEPARK



On 14 May 2016 we are arranging for a pop up Skate Park to come to the village for kids (young and old) to try their skills. It will be installed on or around the Jubilee hall / playing field area subject to weather, there will be a couple of ramps and jumps, it is expected to last for around 4 hours and hopefully subject to cost (will be self-funded) there will be a burger / ice cream van in attendance. If there is enough interest we will start the fund raising as soon as possible after the event for a permanent skate park.