

EPPC NEWS – JUNE 2017

Working on behalf of the community

Dear All,

We hope you are all enjoying the warmer weather we have been having. Summer is finally here and blossoms are in full flower! During the growing season we'd appreciate your help. Please can you monitor your vegetation, hedges and trees and keep the roads and pavements outside your property clear and unobstructed for the benefit of pedestrians and other footway and highway users. Please also keep streetlights and road signs adjacent to your property clear and unobstructed. Also, if you notice any footway lights which aren't working properly, let us know.

There's been some low level crime in the village. We're aware many people think there's no point calling the police when the crime appears to be minor i.e. youths causing disturbance or petty theft, but we'd urge you to report all crime, no matter how small by telephoning 101 or by contacting our Community Warden on 07969 584183. This way, the police can note patterns of crime and take suitable action.

If you read our newsletters and look at our website and twitter account regularly, you'll know what's been happening in our village recently. Following the arrival of the new fingerposts our next village enhancement projects will be the installation of hamlet signs and the summer hanging baskets and planters.

The future of the surgery continues to dominate much of our time. Thank you if you've completed one of the questionnaires and returned it to us. Whilst the deadline was 30 April, if you've not commented and would like to, it's not too late as we've extended the deadline until after the consultation event being held on 10 July.

Our priority with regard to the Playing Fields is to maintain them to a high standard. The Playing Fields are a beautiful open space and they're available to use by anyone in the village 24 hours a day. They're also available for private hire by any organisation in the village and it would be wonderful if various village events took place there. The Playing Fields are kept as a haven for families and for children to run around safely, and there are benches to sit and have picnics. They are a wonderful village asset. In addition to some new tree planting we're currently considering installing additional activities such as a Play/Trim Trail, outdoor table tennis table or a 'sunken' trampoline. If you've any thoughts on what you'd like to see please do let us know. We're delighted that the Playing Fields were chosen as the venue for the Jo Cox Memorial Get Together and Race for Life which is being held on 17 June 2017. Not only are we pleased that so many village organisations will be taking part and raising funds for their organisations but we think it will be a marvellous village community event. We hope you can come for all or some of the event and that everyone has a brilliant time. As the event takes shape do please look out for publicity material which will be distributed by the event organisers.

On 15 May, at our Annual Meeting, Stephanie Watson was re-elected Chairman, Penny Graham was elected Deputy Chairman and Michael Ferguson was elected Chairman of our Planning & Transportation Committee.

Our office is open weekday mornings during term times (except Wednesdays), do drop in and talk to us about any village issue you think we can help you with. The office will however be closed between 29 May 2017 and 02 June 2017.

Kind regards

Chairman, Councillors and Clerk



COUNCILLORS AREAS

Parish Councillors represent the village collectively but for administrative and Emergency Planning we have divided the village into areas and an area assigned to each councillor as follows:

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

COMMUNITY GRANTS

If your group or organisation would like to apply for a small grant please visit our website where you will find details of our grants policy and an application form. Funds are available specifically for grants to groups and organisations. Already during 2017/2018 we have made a grant available to the Table Tennis for Fun Club.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPONSOR A COMMUNITY PROJECT?

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

EAST PECKHAM BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Are you a member of the business community? Would you like to see East Peckham have a business forum, if so we'd like to hear from you. Some of the things the forum could do include publishing a business directory and a visitor's information leaflet. It would be fantastic if the business community came together for a 'Showcase Evening' where a local businesses displayed their 'commodities' to help make residents more aware of what happens on the commercial side of the village. So many products are made locally and it would be wonderful to showcase them to the community, for everyone to see what is produced, meet the business owners and find out about local services and trades available right on our doorsteps. 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 interest you.

COMMUNITY DEFIBRILATOR

The defibrillator is housed in a secure box attached to the wall of the Parish Office at the Jubilee Hall. The defibrillator is an intelligent 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.

FINANCE

Our accounts for the financial year 2016/2017 have been finalised and verified by our Independent Internal Auditor. You can find our Receipts and Payments account for the year ended 31 March 2017 together with the supporting notes on our website. The Receipts and Payments Account is also printed at the end of this newsletter. Our balance carried forward from 2016/2017 to 2017/2018 is £269,143 consisting of earmarked reserves (£116,525) and net reserves (£152,618).

EAST PECKHAM SURGERY

On 09 May 2017 Parish Councillors Penny Graham and Heidi Harratt met with representatives from the CCG and Woodlands Health Centre. It was a constructive meeting where it was concluded that moving forward there are 3 options:

- **Refurbish and build extension on the existing site.** However there is a general concern over the viability and shrewdness of spending so much money on the existing site given its various limitations.

- **Build new** by incorporating a new Surgery into the proposed redevelopment of the Methodist Church and Community Centre in the centre of the village.
- **Do nothing** in which case the surgery could close as soon as September.

It is extremely pleasing to note that the CGG has confirmed that they will carry on paying the rent of East Peckham Surgery provided there is a long-term scenario being investigated or in place.

We are currently preparing some consultation material for the Public Open Consultation event being held on 10 July 2017 and will be making a decision at our September meeting.

2017 SPRING GARDEN COMPETITION

We have been delighted with the number of entries into this year's Spring Garden Competition, a 100% increase on the number of entries received in 2016. As the closing date is 01 June 2017, it may be too late by the time you read this newsletter to enter but there is always another opportunity in 2018. Between 02 June 2017 and 09 June 2017, the judges will be out judging the gardens and the winners will be announced at the Annual Church Fete on 10 June 2017.

ABANDONED VEHICLES

These can be reported via <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.

ALLOTMENTS

Allotments are provided on land adjacent to the Playing Fields. The annual rents are very reasonable and we currently have a few vacant plots.

ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

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

BLOOMING IN EAST PECKHAM

We'd like to form an East Peckham in Bloom group, it will have our endorsement and comprise of residents who would like 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. We'd also like to encourage residents and retailers to keep their frontages clean and tidy. We're looking for garden enthusiasts, carpenters/DIY'ers, artists or just residents who want to be involved.

LOCAL COUNCIL CHARTER BRANCH

NALC our national association has partnered with more than 60 organisations including the Woodland Trust to help launch a new Charter for Trees, Woods and People. We have registered as a Charter Branch and this sets out how local communities and trees can best benefit one another and will serve as a resource which we can use in support of our efforts to look after the trees in East Peckham. Copies of the Charters newspaper "Leaf" are available from the office free of charge. We also have a special register which you can sign, for each signature we receive; the Woodland Trust will plant a tree.

TEMPORARY VACANCY

In order to cover a period of short term sick leave, we have a vacancy for a temporary litter warden. The position is for 4 hours a week. Ideally we would like you to be available from 30 May 2017 for 6 weeks possibly longer. We provide flexible hours, all equipment and offer good rates of pay. If you are interested and would like to know more, please contact us on 01622 871309 or email at admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk.

JUBILEE HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS

We own the Jubilee Hall complex which comprises of the Playing Fields, Sports Hall and Meeting Room. There has been an increase in bookings enquiries and we've been delighted to be able to welcome new users to our facilities.

The complex hosts many regular activities such as Bootcamp, Keep fit, mini music makers, goal keeping school, badminton, bowls, table tennis and Zumba. We're also the venue for the monthly

carers group. As well as a large car park and free WIFI, the Jubilee Hall has a well equipped kitchen. The facilities are perfect for most events. If you're looking for a venue, 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.

We're proud of the fact that the Jubilee Hall continues to provide a wide range of activities for residents of East Peckham and that our Playing Fields are in excellent condition. There is however room for more activities and our aim to widen the number of indoor and outdoor activities on offer. We would be pleased to hear from you if there are any indoor or outdoor activities you would like us to provide such as archery, cycling and running clubs. We would also be pleased to hear from you if you would be interested in starting up a new activity.

Children's Party Packages: We have some fantastic packages, offering hassle free solutions to make your life easier and your event a great success.

Business Events: 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.

The playing fields are a beautiful open space in the centre of the village and are open to all. 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 rounders, 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.

FANTASTIC VENUE AVAILABLE IN EAST PECKHAM VILLAGE CENTRE?

We have two rooms available, a larger sports hall and a smaller meeting room and can cater for most activities such as sports activities, children's parties, book clubs, craft groups, meetings, dance clubs, group gatherings.

Surrounded by 15 acres of playing fields we offer very competitive hire rates, a large car park, FREE WIFI, kitchen, projector and screen

Whatever your activity we look forward to receiving your enquiries.
Please email admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk for more information

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Our aim is to represent the views of the community when consulted on planning applications and to improve transportation issues. The Committee has recently considered the following applications:

TM/17/01050/FL Retrospective: Erection of detached outbuilding/garage at Hale Place Cottage, 43 Hale Place, East Peckham **NO OBJECTION**

FORMER ROSE & CROWN PUBLIC HOUSE

We are concerned at the continued dilapidation of site of the former Rose & Crown Public House but unfortunately we have no remit to take any action. However, the Borough Council can take action; they have been made aware of the further dilapidation of the hoarding and asked to instruct the landowner to make the area safe. The Borough Council has also been asked to provide an immediate update on the situation regarding the outstanding planning application for the site and in respect of the illegal caravan on the land to the rear of the site.

LITTERING

Litter doesn't clear itself away. The cost of clearing up litter runs into hundreds of pounds. It's 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. TMBC will respond to complaints and have the power to demand a person's name and address in order to issue fixed penalty notices. It's such a shame that an uncaring few spoil it for the rest of us. Remember if you want to report a litter issue or fly-tipping, go to TMBC's website. To help keep East Peckham beautiful, can we please encourage residents and businesses to regularly clear up their frontages and collect rubbish along their roads. Let's keep our village tidy. We're aware of a number of residents who regularly collect litter and our thanks go to these unsung heroes.

DOG FOULING

It's a shame that a few uncaring dog owners spoil things. Dog deposits provided it's bagged up can be put into any amenity bin – not household bins. If you see anyone failing to clear up after their dog contact the Community or Dog Wardens. Please be aware that failing to clear up after your dog is an offence which TMBC enforces through the Dogs Fouling of Land Act 1996 which applies to all open land within the borough 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, for fouling, dangerous dog, dog on dog attack or anything else telephone 01732 876147 or Email: dog.warden@tmbc.gov.uk. If a person has been bitten report the incident to the Police on 101

DOG AND LITTER BINS

Complaints regarding overfull dog/litter bins or related issues should be reported to waste.services@tmbc.gov.uk or using the online forms at www.tmbc.gov.uk.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

KCC is responsible for maintaining 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 KCC by telephoning 0845 345 0210, or online at <http://webapps.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccesscams/issues/default.aspx>

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 pinpointed on a map. In the event of an emergency you should call 03000 41 81 81. You might be interested in the roadworks.org website which gives details of all planned works for the village.

PARKING ON PAVEMENTS

This is a far too common problem in our village partly because many of our roads were built in the days before cars and because drivers wish to park as close as possible to where they live. If you spot a vehicle wrongly parked, please call 101 and our PCSO's will try and attend. Whilst the PCSO's cannot issue tickets they can issue advice notices.

SATURDAY FREIGHTER SERVICE SCHEDULE

TMBC's fortnightly bulky service now has separate collections of Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment and scrap metal. Items collected will be stripped down into their component materials and recycled. The dates and times can be found on TMBC's website which is updated regularly <http://www.tmbc.gov.uk/services/environment-and-planning/recycling,-rubbish-and-waste/household-waste-special-collections-for-large-items/saturday-household-waste-service>. To save wasted journeys do please check the schedule beforehand.

TWINNING

East Peckham is twinned with Chéreng in the Nord de Pas de Calais. Twinning activities are funded by those taking part and fund-raising with no use of parish funds. For more information on Twinning please contact Karen Bell by email to admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk.

CCTV

We are in the process of removing the CCTV system in the centre of the village and will in future only operate one CCTV system which is the one installed at the Jubilee Hall. If viable we would consider deploying the equipment elsewhere and would be interested to hear from you if you have any suggestions or would be interested in the equipment.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

We know it is far too early to talk about Christmas but already plans are taking shape for the 2017 Christmas Light Switch on. Here follows some information which you might find of interest:

- 01 December 2017 at 6.00 p.m.
- Road Closure in place in the village centre

- East Peckham churches, WI and village businesses, groups and organisations will be invited to have stalls selling festive refreshments.
- The Parish Council will provide mulled wine for the adults, soft drinks and chocolate for the children 'FREE OF CHARGE'
- Father Christmas and his Elves
- Snow Machine
- Fundraising – there will be 2 Quiz Nights and 1 50:50 Auction do please look out for further information. The donation of raffle prizes for the Quiz Nights would be much appreciated and we are starting to collect items for the 50:50 Auction. If you would like to donate items for the raffle or lots for the auction please let us know.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – JUNE 2017

05 June 2017	Planning & Transportation Committee, 7.00 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall
17 June 2017	Jo Cox Memorial Get Together on the Playing Fields
19 June 2017	Meeting of the Full Parish Council, 7.00 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall

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. Our office is open weekday mornings during term time except Wednesdays. We love seeing you and look forward to your visits. If you've 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 not always available, so do please ring or email first. 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.

EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL App

Our app is a new way for us to be able to engage with you and for you to find out what is happening in the parish and discover the latest news and information about EPPC services, events and meetings.



FLOOD WARNING SERVICE

The Environment Agency has made some changes to its Flood Warning service. Residents are encouraged to register for the service via their website (<https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>) or the Floodline (0345 988 11 88).

New quickdial code for our Area/Parish:

Our Flood Alert Area is called: *The Middle River Medway Area*

You will need quickdial number 217035 to access these messages when you call the Floodline and select option 1.

Our Flood Alert Area is called: *The River Bourne Area*

You will need quickdial number 217032 to access these messages when you call the Floodline and select option 1.

Our Flood Warning Area is called: *East Peckham*

You will need quickdial number 317040 to access these messages when you call the Floodline and select option 1.

If you have any questions please contact the Floodline on 0345 988 11 88 or the local Flood Resilience Team on ksl_frt.kentslondonandesussex@environment-agency.gov.uk

East Peckham Parish Council
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

	RECEIPTS	PAYMENTS
Balance at Bank	255,934.89	
Audit Fees		810.00
Chairmans Allowance		271.06
Members Expenses		587.87
Office & IT Equipment		2,078.47
Misc Admin Expenses	149.89	1,318.42
Reference Books		277.57
Newsletters & Annual Report		1,183.44
Subscriptions	280.00	1,703.62
Website & App		2,060.50
Training		925.70
Insurance		603.80
Staff Costs (PC)		22,542.85
NNDR (JH)		4,162.40
Community Emergency Planning		425.45
Village Planting		2,454.82
Garden Competition		100.00
Phase 4 JH Upgrade		3,000.00
Phase 4 Environmental		3,380.00
Minor Village Maintenance Fund		530.00
Churchyard Maintenance (HT & St M)		3,299.96
Village Grasscutting		1,135.04
Garden of Remembrance		200.00
War Memorial (Cleaning)		300.00
Allotments	1,368.67	199.96
Footway Lighting		9,613.90
CCTV		512.66
Christmas Lighting	3,242.71	7,139.35
JH Running Costs (offset by income)	28,181.94	16,005.33
JH Building & Asset Maintenance		13,091.74
PWLB Loan Repayments		5,860.42
Playing Fields & Outdoor Equipment		11,312.39
Litter Clearing		1,865.00
Village Youth Projects	166.10	816.20
Community Grants		640.00
Miscellaneous Provision		2,360.00
TMBC CTSG Grant	8,669.00	
TMBC S136 Grant	9,513.00	
Precept	112,951.00	
Misc Income	144.43	
Expenditure from Earmarked		17,089.45
Refund of VAT	12,219.71	
JH Staff Costs		10,688.04
VAT	26.09	13,159.36
	176,912.54	163,704.77
Closing Balances:		
Balances in Bank Account		269,142.66
TOTAL	432,847.43	432,847.43

The above statement represents fairly the financial position of the council as at 31 Mar 2017

Signed _____
Responsible Financial Officer

Date _____