

EPPC NEWS

Working on behalf of the community

November 2017

Dear All,

As we fast approach the cold wet winter months, we start this newsletter with a very important message **Your Village Needs You!!!** We would like to recruit more volunteer flood wardens to join our Community Emergency Planning Team. Full training and equipment will be provided and you would provide a vital service helping your community should the village experience another flooding situation. Tasks could include delivering sandbags, implementing road closures and identifying vulnerable people within your area of the community. We would also like to hear from you if are a first aider, or perhaps you have a chain saw and could help clear fallen trees or maybe you have a four wheel drive vehicle and could help evacuate people to safety or deliver sandbags. All offers of help will be gratefully received.

We spent much of October considering the future of the branch surgery, you will always find out the latest information on our website and within the pages of this newsletter. We have devoted a page at the end of this newsletter with the latest news. We are proud of the fact that two years after being notified of its pending closure the surgery has remained open. Whilst we appreciate that we all need some clarity on its future, please, rest assured that we will continue to assist where we can in retaining a surgery presence in East Peckham.

Have you ever wondered how you can get EPPC to look at a local issue or do you have an idea you think we should consider? We're keen to hear from anyone who lives or works in East Peckham about matters that concern them so that we can see if we can help. We realize that we can't address every problem and we're not able to decide planning or licensing matters but if you raise your concerns with us and if it's not within our remit we'll try to get them added to the agenda at TMBC and KCC. At EPPC we want to engage with as many residents, businesses, groups and organizations that we can and from as broad a cross section of our community as possible. Alongside this, we'd like to set up a Customer Panel to provide the opportunity for you to comment on our activities and budget proposals. If you'd like to participate, please let us know.

The Annual Remembrance Service takes place at 10.00 a.m. at Holy Trinity. Preceding the service will be the Annual Remembrance Parade which leaves The Pound at 9.30 a.m. Do please support our young people as they march to Holy Trinity. As the police do not marshal the event, it's down to us as a community to do so. If you'd like to volunteer to be one of the marshals, let us know and we'll pass your details to the Parade Organiser.

A huge thank you for supporting our Christmas Lights fundraising events, to those of you who entered the Pub Quiz or donated lots for the auction or bought lots at the auction or posted green tokens into the Christmas Lights box in Waitrose we thank you very much. So far fundraising has raised over £2,000. The Switch On of this year's Christmas Lights takes place on 01 December 2017 and we hope to see many of our friends and residents there on the night.

We love seeing you all in our office and look forward to your visits. If you've an important matter which you'd like to discuss, it's probably wise to make an appointment, so we can make sure we're available for you. Karen is sometimes at external meetings and not always available, so do ring or email first.

Kind regards
Chairman, Councillors & Clerk



FINANCE

Our draft budget for 2018-2019 has been published on our website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk. Included within our budget will be provisions for two new projects one will be the introduction of an East Peckham Parish Council funded Loyalty Scheme which we hope will encourage more residents to shop local and the other is the 125th Anniversary of the Parish Council which will be celebrated in 2019.

CUSTOMER PANEL

We'd like to set up a Customer Panel to provide an opportunity for residents to comment on EPPC activities and budget proposals. If you'd like to participate, please let us know.

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. The areas are:

Hale Street, Bardsley Close, Hale Court, Medway Meadows, Cates Court & Maidstone Road	Serina Page
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	David Roberts
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, Grove Close & Stanford Lane	Jenny Macdonald
Westwood Road, Drage Road, William Luck Close & Cotman Way	Heidi Harratt
Court Lodge, Roydon Hall & Bush Roads, Seven Mile, Martins & Church Lanes	Michael Ferguson

EAST PECKHAM BUSINESS COMMUNITY

We'd like to see East Peckham have a business forum and would be delighted to hear from you if you'd like to be involved.

PLEASE USE OUR LOCAL SHOPS – THEY NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Please support our local village shops and businesses – they do need our custom. If we don't use them we might lose them. The village shop, pub or post office is often the beating heart of a community so when one is threatened with closure, we will pull out all the stops to keep it going. This is not about propping up failing businesses; it's often about providing temporary financial assistance or putting new community-run facilities in place, so vital services that people rely on are maintained and every option explored to keep them running for the benefit of local people. An example of our work in this area is our campaign to keep the surgery open; you will find more on this issue later in this newsletter.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPONSOR A COMMUNITY PROJECT?

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

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. So far this year we have been able to help East Peckham United Youth Football Club and the Village Hall who both received grants of £500.00.

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.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLANNING

Would you like to help your community in the event of an emergency? We really would like to recruit more volunteer flood wardens. If you are interested or would like to find out more please let us know.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS



Plans are taking shape for the 2017 Christmas Light Switch On which takes place at 5.00 p.m. on 01 December. We're hoping it will be a fantastic village community event with many village groups and organisations having stalls. We will be providing FREE mulled wine (soft drinks and chocolate for the children), we'll also be organising for the event to be attended by Father Christmas and his elves and for there to be a snow machine and live entertainment.

The cost of the Christmas lights is not cheap but they do provide festive cheer and make our village look special, inviting and welcoming over the festive period. Although we make a budget of £5,000 available and we receive a grant from the borough council of £560, this does not meet the full costs and we raise more funds from fundraising. Fundraising so far this year has raised over £2,000.

EAST PECKHAM VILLAGE CENTRE

We are making enquiries with Kent County Council with the view to ascertaining the feasibility and costing implications of the land being transferred to us. We have also asked the County Council to carry out a risk assessment and to repair all identified risks such as trip hazards and decaying trees.

COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATOR

The defibrillator is housed in a secure box attached to the wall of the Jubilee Hall, it's an intelligent item of medical equipment which 'talks' to the operator and gives easy to follow instructions. 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 the caller, give them the access code and direct them to it.

FREE - First Aid Training

We are delighted to be able to offer residents and users of the Jubilee Hall FREE defibrillator training. Please contact the parish office to express an interest or find out more



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.

JUBILEE HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS

We own and run the Jubilee Hall complex comprising of the Playing Fields, Sports Hall and Meeting Room. The complex hosts many regular activities such as East Peckham United FC, pre-school music, table tennis, step and bodypump, boot camp, keep fit, badminton, bowls and Zumba, we're also the venue for a twice monthly carers group and regular first aid training. We hope to soon welcome a new gym club and a new kick boxing club. The facilities are perfect for any occasion be it a children's party, sports activity or business function. Our latest programme of activities and the contact details for the activity organisers can be found on our website. Our aim to widen the number of indoor and outdoor activities on offer and we would be pleased to hear from you if there are any outdoor activities you would like us to provide or 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 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.

The playing fields are a beautiful open space, available all year round and free to use by all residents. We want them to be a safe haven for you to enjoy the peace and quiet and for children to play safely, families to picnic, joggers to run securely, play rounder's, kick a football, fly a kite or just a place to sit and contemplate. We will continue to develop the facilities so that the village; is well equipped with leisure facilities for everyone.

FANTASTIC VENUE AVAILABLE IN EAST PECKHAM VILLAGE CENTRE?

The Jubilee Hall has two rooms available, a large sports hall and a small meeting room. It can cater for most activities such as sports activities, children's parties, book clubs, meetings, 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 enquires.
Please email admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk for more information

BLOOMING IN EAST PECKHAM

We'd like to form an East Peckham in Bloom group, it will have our endorsement and comprise of residents whose aim is to enhance the appearance of the village. The Group's first step would be to 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. If you're a local business and would like to sponsor this project or make a donation, please let us know. Similarly, we'd like to hear from you if you're interested in becoming part of East Peckham in Bloom. 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 Charter for Trees, Woods and People. We are registered as a Charter Branch which sets out how 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. We also have a special register which you can sign, for each signature we receive; the Woodland Trust will plant a tree.

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The Planning & Transportation 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 planning applications:

TM/17/02414/FL: Two storey side extension at 14 Henham Gardens, East Peckham **NO OBJECTION**

TM/17/02341/FL Erection of single storey front extension and rear infill extension at 2 Stone Pit Cottages, 368 Tonbridge Road, East Peckham **NO OBJECTION**

TM/17/02415/LB Replacement windows and door at Hale Place Farmhouse, 79 Old Road, East Peckham **NO OBJECTION**

TM/00/1599/R26c Request pursuant to extend the period for the cessation of operations until 30 October 2018 at Stonecastle Quarry, Whetsted Road **NO OBJECTION**

KCC/TW/0270/2017 Temporary storage of road planings arising from highways maintenance work for a period of six months between January 2018 and June 2018 at Stonecastle Quarry, Whetsted Road **NO OBJECTION**

EAST ACRES, BRANBRIDGES ROAD, EAST PECKHAM

On 02 November 2017, the Planning Inspectorate will be holding an informal appeal hearing. We hope to be able to let you have the verdict within the pages of our next newsletter.

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING PARKING PLAN – PHASE 9

The Borough Council has agreed to include Medway Meadows (Parking on the footway of the junction) and Pound Road (Introduction of limited waiting to deal with food van) within Phase 9 of their Parking Action Plan. Both locations will now be taken forward for investigation and informal consultation.

HALE STREET ROAD NARROWING AT THE FORMER HARP PUBLIC HOUSE

Kent Highways Services has advised that the traffic hump will remain in situ for the time being whilst they push for the speed limit along Hale Street to be reduced to 30mph. No indication has yet been given regarding timescales.

FLYTIPPING

The village has experienced many acts of flytipping and littering recently. Specific areas affected have included Bullen Lane and to the mess created by fly-tippers at Pinkham Lock, the adjoining land and the pillbox. We have asked the borough council to increase the emptying of all litterbins in the village and to take a more proactive approach in identifying those responsible for blighting our village. We have also asked that they liaise and support all the landowners in order to ensure that the problems do not recur. It is everyone's responsibility to report incidents of flytipping direct to TMBC. We are pleased that the borough council has a no tolerance policy with regard to fly-tippers and that those who are identified will be prosecuted.

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 - what caring citizens you are. If you would like to nominate a special village person, please let us know.

IMPROVEMENTS TO OUR HIGHWAYS – WE NEED YOUR HELP

We have recently asked Kent Highway Services to improve the junction at Bullen Lane with Bush Road and the exit on Branbridges Road near the Co-op and Petrol Station. Kent Highways responded by stating that current evidence did not justify any engineering measures and that they will continue to monitor the safety records at both locations. We don't think this response goes far enough and would like to create our own portfolio of evidence. This is where we need your help, if you are unfortunate to be involved in or witness an accident or a near miss incident we would like you to send details to us, data we would like includes photographs, dates, times and an explanation of what occurred.

SPEED REDUCTIONS

In response to our request for village wide speed reductions, KCC has advised that all requests are reviewed and prioritised using an evidence-based approach in order to ascertain if there are any patterns of personal injury crash records. Having reviewed East Peckham, KCC has concluded that it is difficult to prioritise East Peckham against a number of sites across the county, where a pattern of incidents is occurring and therefore at this stage, KCC has no plans to undertake any changes to the highway in East Peckham.

M20 JUNCTIONS 3 TO 5 – SMART MOTORING

In March 2018 work is due to start on the M20 between junction 3 near West Malling and junction 5, near Aylesford in order to convert this section into a smart motorway. The work will include converting the hard shoulder into a permanently running lane and introducing variable mandatory speed limits to help improve traffic flow. The M20 will be affected at various times during the works

DOG FOULING

We take the issue of dog fouling, particularly in the Playing Fields, very seriously. We can't overstress the dangers dog faeces poses – Toxocariasis is found in dog faeces and can cause partial blindness. 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 street amenity bin. Please ***don't*** use private household bins. If you see anyone failing to clear up after their dog contact the Community or Dog Wardens. 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 where there is public access. If you have 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, a dog on dog attack or anything else telephone 01732 876147 or Email: dog.warden@tmbc.gov.uk. If a person has been bitten then please 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. There are 18 dog waste bins around East Peckham, so specific locations for the ones that may have been missed would assist.

PARKING ON PAVEMENTS

With the problem in the village of inappropriately parked vehicles on pavements, we've joined Guide Dogs for the Blind who are campaigning against pavement parking. It's 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. This is a far too common problem across the county partly because many of our roads were built in the days before motor cars and partly because of inconsiderate drivers who wish to park as close as possible to where they live. In areas where there are no parking restrictions the borough councils Civil Enforcement Officers will not be able to help and the police can only enforce against dangerous parking. 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.

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.

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.

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.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

KCC is responsible for maintaining public rights of way. Regardless of the growing season most 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/countrysideaccessscams/issues/default.aspx>

POLICE

In an emergency, if a crime is in progress or life is in danger, call 999 For non-urgent issues call 101 If deaf or speech impaired, text „Police „and your message to 60066 For news and advice visit www.kent.police.uk Follow on Twitter @kent_police or @kentpoliceton Find Kent Police on Facebook.

COMMUNITY WARDEN

Michael Head will be responding to East Peckham call outs however as he already covers many areas he will be prioritising issues. Michael can be contacted by email to michael.head@kent.gov.uk or telephone 07811271307.

SATURDAY BULKY REFUSE SERVICE

The Saturday bulky waste service provided by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council is for the disposal of household waste, including bulky items. The service can also collect electrical items and scrap metal for recycling. Please note that the schedule runs on a 4-week cycle. When a month has five Saturdays, the service is not normally run on the fifth Saturday.

Location: Pippin Road (*Jubilee Hall Car Park*)

Dates and Times: 11th November: 10:30 to 11:30
25th November: 08:00 to 09:00

NOVEMBER 2017 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

06 November 2017 Planning & Transportation Committee, 7.00 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall
20 November 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.

EAST PECKHAM BRANCH SURGERY – UPDATE

So that you are regularly informed of the latest developments regarding the future of the surgery we use our newsletter and website to print and post regular updates. Our newsletters have included our consultation material, some key statistics and some questions we have asked and considered. Whilst, this information is available on our website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk, we are aware that not all of our residents have internet access and are therefore will use pages of our newsletter to new information as and when it is available and we are pleased to provide the following update.

What is the Current Position?

The CCG has effectively ruled out either the refurbishment of the existing premises or the use of a portakabin which leaves only one viable option for consideration which is a new build annexed to the proposed redevelopment of the Methodist Buildings in the centre of the village. It has been estimated that the cost of the annexed development will be in the order of £200K+.

Has the Parish Council Made a Decision?

On 02 October 2017, we decided that we would make a conditional offer to Woodlands Health Centre of £100K net of VAT plus the use of East Peckham Parish Council owned land in the centre of the village subject to the following conditions:

- That there was a minimum 10 year commitment
- That the use of the surgery was maximised with consulting hours increased during the week
- That the land provided would be on a leasehold basis at market rental over 10 years
- That EPPC received rental income in proportion to its contribution versus the total cost
- That the new build was constructed in such a way that it could be easily adapted in the future should the need arise into either commercial or residential premises, thus 'future proofing' the parish councils investment.

Meeting with CCG and Woodlands Health Centre

On 03 October 2017, we met with the CCG and Woodlands Health Centre. It was an amicable meeting and the key areas of discussion included:

- Re-furbish – not viable
- Portakabin – not viable
- EP Surgery new-build – attached to Methodist build.
- EP Surgery new- build – attached to Jubilee Hall
- Use of another building
- Community Transport

Funding:

- The CCG and Woodlands Health Centre have been informed that EPPC is keen to keep the surgery in some form for the future and that EPPC has £100,000 to assist the project and can provide a venue for a Wellbeing Hub at the existing Jubilee Hall Complex.
- Woodlands Health Centre and the CCG have reiterated that no funding will be forthcoming from either organisation, the position being that if East Peckham wants to retain the surgery then East Peckham (residents and/or PC) will have to provide the money.

Methodist Rebuild: The timeframe is uncertain and outside the control of EPPC

Additional Services and/or extended opening hours: Given the number of registered patients and the population of East Peckham there is not sufficient demand to necessitate additional services/opening hours. Unless there is a significant growth in population (1000's rather than 100's) it is unlikely that East Peckham will be considered a suitable base/hub for community primary care services.

What Next: The CCG has acknowledged that the outlook seems pessimistic but has asked that a final decision on the way forward is delayed for 6 to 8 weeks and in that time to consider any other possible viable proposal for the EP Surgery.