

EPPC NEWS – APRIL 2017

Working on behalf of the community

Dear All,

A very warm welcome. This newsletter is just one way we communicate with residents and is a summary of our activities over the past month and news on items we hope you find interesting. If you'd like to receive the newsletter by email, you can register your interest at www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk/subscribe. If you read our newsletters and look at our website and twitter regularly, you'll know what's been happening. Please take a look at our newly improved website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk.

Our environmental enhancement projects have come to fruition, firstly by the completion of our new fingerposts which are a very welcome addition to the rural street scene and by our spring hanging baskets in the village centre which are looking stunning, when they have finished blooming the same company will be providing our summer hanging baskets. We have been delighted with the number of positive comments we have received about both the fingerposts and the hanging baskets. During 2017/2018 we will be installing hamlet signs, there are nine separate hamlets making up East Peckham and we wish to mark them out and keep their historical importance to the village past.

Each year we set a budget which reflects the services you want, while at the same time fulfilling our statutory obligations. Our 2017/2018 budget has been particularly challenging, while we've made some budgetary reductions, we were faced with a £20,000 cut in funding from TMBC and we wanted to include £15,000 towards surgery renovations. You can read more on our budget on later pages of this newsletter. Your Parish Councillors are all **VOLUNTEERS** and do not claim personal allowances, which saves in excess of £7,000 p.a.

We continue to strive to make East Peckham a desirable place to live. Please help all our community groups and continue to do your bit where you can. Don't forget that if you have any interesting photos from in and around the village we'd love to see them and if you'd like any information or advice on a Parish matter, please feel free to call into our Office during normal opening hours.

We are concerned with the amount of potholes and dangerous footways throughout the Parish and 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 using the pavement.

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.

By now you should have received our 2017 Annual Report, if you have not yet received yours please do let us know and we will get one delivered to you. We hope you will be able to come to the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting on 03 April 2017 and looking forward to seeing many of you. This is your meeting, not a Parish Council meeting and is a great opportunity for you to meet your local representatives and our guest speakers. The Annual Parish Meeting has evolved over the years and is now a social event with a buffet and refreshments. We look forward to seeing you in the Jubilee Sports Hall on 03 April 2017 from 6.30 p.m. Our guest speakers this year include Matt Boughton representing Tom Tugendhat MP, Andrea Griffiths (Medway Valley Countryside Partnership – Role of River Medway past and present to East Peckham) and Jon Lovett and Colin Dring from J Clubb Ltd who will talk about the History of Arnolds Lodge Farm and gravel removal, ecological work and future plans.

Kind regards
Chairman, Councillors and Clerk

2017/2018 BUDGET

Our 2017/2018 precept has been set at £139,950. This is the amount collected for us by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council as part of the Council Tax. Our 2017/2018 budget shows a fundamental change from previous years. The way in which the cost of providing local services has altered in that many of the costs now included within the Precept were previously covered by grants from Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council which have been withdrawn; these grants amounted to £20,000 or approximately £16.00 per annum on a Band D property. For this reason 2017/2018 cannot be directly compared to previous financial years. You can find full details of our 2017/2018 budget on our website.

How will the loss of these grants affect the Precept? As we want to provide the same level of service we have made budgetary provisions for the maintenance and energy of the footway lights, the maintenance of the churchyards at Holy Trinity and St Michaels and the upkeep of the village open spaces, items which were previously part funded by TMBC.

How will this affect the Council Tax Bills? The amount each household will be asked to pay for TMBC services is expected to decrease, however the amount each household will be asked to pay for EPPC services will increase. There should however not be much difference in the total amount each household is expected to pay for 2017/2018 when compared to 2016/2017.

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, 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

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. During 2016/2017 as well as making donations to the Royal British legion and Tonbridge Lions we helped East Peckham Scout Group, Homestart and the Salvation Army.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPONSOR A COMMUNITY PROJECT?

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

PROPOSED CLOSURE OF EAST PECKHAM BRANCH SURGERY

We're delighted the surgery remains open and that there is a genuine desire for it to remain open. We are receiving a steady stream of completed questionnaires for which we thank you. Please continue to let us have your views, it's important that as broad a cross section of the community responds and we are interested in your views whether you are a patient of Woodlands Health Centre or your GP is in a practice in a neighbouring village.

We heard on 23 March 2017 that the cost of work to the surgery is now upwards of £200,000, with no funds being made available from either the CCG or Woodlands Health Centre this means that if the costs were raised through our precept an additional £160.00 would be added to each council tax bill. Woodlands Health Centre has advised that they would be willing to enter into a new 10 year lease with the landlord but that there would be no change to the weekly services available at the surgery which are

60 GP appointments, 10 phlebotomist appointments and 10 – 14 Registrar appointments. Bearing in mind that the work to enable the surgery to continue to operate from its premises in Old Road would be on a private property for a private business we are considering whether this is the best use of public funds. It is worth noting that 32.8% of the East Peckham population is not registered at Woodlands Health Centre, 47.7% are registered at Woodlands Health Centre with a GP who attends the East Peckham surgery and 19.5% are registered at Woodlands Health Centre but with a GP who does not attend the branch surgery.

At the time of preparing this report we can advise that on 09 May 2017 we are due to meet again with the landlord, Woodlands Health Centre and the CCG, based on the outcome of this meeting we will consider our future role at our meeting on 15 May 2017. If we decide to defer making a decision a public consultation event will take place on 10 July 2017 and then over the summer months we will analyse all feedback before making a final decision on our future role in September 2017.

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.

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.

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 and a new gym club is expected soon. 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 are proud of the fact that the Jubilee Hall continues to provide a wide range of classes and facilities for residents of East Peckham and that our Playing Fields are in excellent condition. Our aim to widen the number of indoor and outdoor activities on offer and would be pleased to hear from you if there are any 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, 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

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.

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.

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/17/00274/FL Two storey side extension at 458 Bells Farm Road, Hadlow **NO OBJECTION**

TM/17/00289/FL 2 storey side extension at Westview, 125 Bush Road **NO OBJECTION**

ARRIVA CHANGES ITS TIMETABLE

At the end of February we learnt that bus passengers face major upheaval in a shake-up of routes throughout the borough by Arriva. Changes which come into effect on 02 April will see a number of cutbacks, with some services withdrawn completely. Bus Route 6 and 6A Maidstone to Tunbridge Wells will curtail at East Peckham apart from school services which will continue to Maidstone. There will be a new Sunday service and the service will be withdrawn from Colts Hill and Five Oak Green. A service 6X, off-peak, will go to Maidstone Town Centre. We see these changes to the bus timetable as a further erosion of services to our rural community and have advised Arriva that there will be a negative impact for some passengers and the changes are likely to result in a negative reaction from the public. At the end of this newsletter you will find a full transcript of a letter from Tom Tugendhat MP to Arriva together with the comments of County Councillor Matthew Balfour.

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 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.

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

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.

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.

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 through to the end of March 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.

APRIL 2017 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

03 April 2017 Planning & Transportation Committee, 5.30 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall
03 April 2017 Annual Parish Meeting. Event Starts at 6.30 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall
24 April 2017 Meeting of the full Parish Council, 5.30 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall

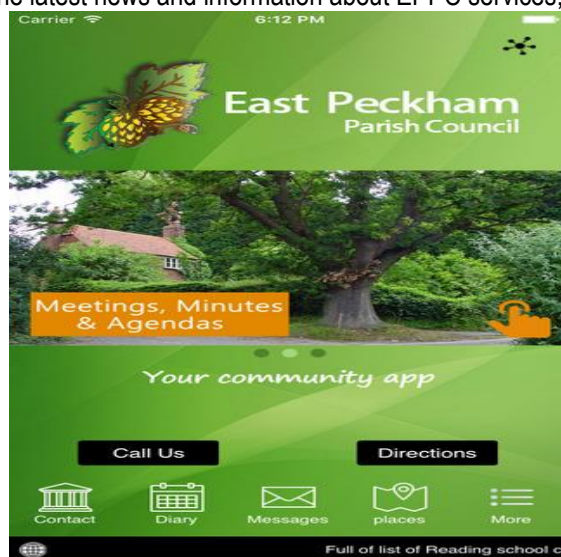
CONTACT DETAILS

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.



Useful Contact Information

Police Contact:

PCSO Toni Matthew 101 Email toni.matthew@kent.pnn.police.uk
PCSO Kim Hockey 101 Email: kimberley.hockey@kent.pnn.police.uk

Community Warden:

Lara Sams 07969 584183 Email: lara.sams@kent.gov.uk

Paddock Wood Community

Advice Centre: 01892 838619 Email: info@pwadvice.org

Your MP Tom Tugendhat Email tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk

TMBC (Flytipping, Abandoned Vehicles, Dog Fouling, Street Cleaning) 01732 844522 www.tmbc.gov.uk
KCC (Roads, drainage, potholes, vegetation & Street Lighting) 03000 418181 www.kent.gov.uk

[Sent on behalf of Matthew Balfour](#)

Dear Karen

I would first confirm that Arriva's changes are all on their commercial routes and KCC has no control over what they decide to do. I've met them and tried to persuade them to keep all the East Peckham services. However, further to your recent email, I asked my officers to clarify the upcoming changes to the Arriva services 6 and 6A.

From 3 April 2017, the half hourly service between East Peckham and Maidstone will be withdrawn with the only remaining direct bus service being the 07:25 and the 16:05 school day only journey from the Merry Boys. There are no direct bus services at the weekend.

East Peckham will continue to have a half hourly service to and from Tunbridge Wells from Mondays to Saturdays with a two hourly service on Sundays.

For those who need to travel from East Peckham to Maidstone by bus, the only workable suggestion is to use the 66 service which leaves the Merry Boys at 35 minutes past the hour and change at Maidstone hospital.

I appreciate that the loss of the service to Maidstone has come as disappointing news to East Peckham residents. I can assure you that my officers will be working with other bus operators to explore all opportunities to restore the bus link.

With best wishes

Matthew Balfour
Member for Malling Rural East
Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport
Kent County Council