

EPPC NEWS

Working on behalf of the community

August/September 2017

Dear All,

We start this month by introducing Pippin Road resident, David Roberts. David has become our newest Parish Councillor having been co-opted at our July meeting. We look forward to working with David and know he is going to be a real asset to the village and Parish Council.

The recent warm weather following the earlier wet weather has resulted in fast growing vegetation. We're working with our landscape maintenance providers to ensure that the Churchyards, village centre and playing fields are kept tidy. The hanging baskets in the village centre are providing a colourful visual display. We remain concerned with our overgrown village footpaths; however, it's not the Parish Council but Kent County Council who is responsible for maintaining the public rights of way. If you have any queries regarding the rights of way, please let Kent County Council know by telephoning 0845 345 0210 or report the fault online at <http://webapps.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccesscams/issues/default.aspx>

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.

Between 18 July - 04 September 2017, there'll be no council or committee meetings, our office hours will also be reduced. This doesn't mean we stop work, business continues as usual and we remain contactable by email to admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk or telephone 01622 871309/07376 377 687.

We had a steady stream of people through the door throughout the day for our surgery consultation event held on 10 July 2017. We hope everyone who came found the information available and EPPC representatives knowledgeable and helpful. It's not too late to let us know your views as our deadline for responses is 31 August. We've printed the consultation papers at the end of this newsletter together with some questions that we'll be considering when it comes to deciding EPPC's future involvement in September.

Please don't forget that if you notice any highways issues to report anything that requires attention to KCC Highways at <http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>.

We love seeing you all in our office and look forward to visits from residents. If you've an important matter which you'd like to discuss, it's probably wise to make an appointment with us in the first place, so that we can make sure that we're available for you. An email or a phone call will normally suffice. Karen is sometimes at external meetings and therefore not always available, so do ring or email first.

Our next newsletter will be available at the beginning of October. We wish you all a pleasant summer holiday, whether at home or away.

Kind regards
Chairman, Councillors & 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. 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)

Old Road, Strettitt Gardens, Pinkham & Pinkham Gardens

Addlestead Road, Chidley Cross Road, Caysers Croft & Tonbridge Road

Pound Road, The Old Dairy & Snoll Hatch Road

Orchard Road, The Freehold, Red Roses, Marvillion & Crown Acres (Odds)

Whitebine, Golding & Henham Gardens & Crown Acres (evens)

Fell Mead, Stockenbury, Bramley Road, Pippin Road & Russett Road

Hatches Lane, Bullen Lane, Bells Farm Road, Grove Close & Stanford Lane

Westwood Road, Drage Road, William Luck Close & Cotman Way

Court Lodge, Roydon Hall & Bush Roads, Seven Mile, Martins & Church Lanes

James Hockey

Penny Graham

Lynton Wright

David Roberts

Colin Silver

Mick Barton

Steph Watson

Jenny Macdonald

Heidi Harratt

Michael Ferguson

EAST PECKHAM BUSINESS COMMUNITY

We really 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. Our website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk has more information.

SUPPORT FOR LOCAL SHOPS

Please support our local village shops. Our village businesses really do need our custom. If we don't use them we might face losing them.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPONSOR A COMMUNITY PROJECT?

There are many projects you could help such as Christmas lights or the surgery. If you are 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.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS



Plans are already taking shape for the 2017 Christmas Light Switch on which will be happening on 01 December. We're hoping it will be a fantastic village community event with many village groups having stalls. We will be 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.

The cost of the Christmas lights is not cheap but they do provide some festive cheer and make our village centre look inviting and welcoming over the festive period. Although we make a budget of £5,000 available for the lights, this does not meet the full costs so we will be hosting some fundraising events. In addition to 2 Quiz Nights there will be a 50/50 Auction

50/50 AUCTION



The auction will be take place in the Jubilee Hall on Saturday 7th October. If you have an item you wish to sell, 50% of the proceeds will go towards the Christmas Lights fund and you will receive the remaining 50%. There are no auction costs.

East Peckham Parish Council is now accepting items for the auction, if you need to de-clutter or have items that you don't want any more please telephone us on 01622 871309/872015 or send an email to either admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk, serina.page@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk or mick.barton@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk

Everyone is invited to come along on the day to bid for any item you may wish to buy or just for the sheer fun of taking part in a live auction.

Viewing will be on the morning of the sale, it will be possible to leave a bid after you have viewed if you are unable to attend the auction which will start at 11.00 a.m.

Lots of fun is guaranteed and refreshments will be available

COMMUNITY DEFIBRILATOR

The defibrillator is housed in a secure box attached to the wall of 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 to it.

JUBILEE HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS

We own and manage the Jubilee Hall complex which comprises of the Playing Fields, Sports Hall and Meeting Room. The complex has many regular activities such as pre-school music group, table tennis, step and weights fitness class, boot camp, keep fit, badminton, bowls and Zumba, we are also the venue for a twice monthly carers group and regular first aid training. We hope to soon welcome a new gym club. 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.

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 in the centre of the village and are open to 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 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?

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

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 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 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.

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.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Committee has recently considered the following planning application

TM/17/01459/FL Extension to increase retail & storage areas of existing newsagents and convenience store to accommodate post office with residential accommodation over at first floor level to provide two separate flats at 1 – 3 Orchard Road **NO OBJECTION**

TM/17/01568/FL Two storey extension to side and part of rear, together with single storey extensions to part of front and rear at 36 Old Road, East Peckham **NO OBJECTION**

TM/17/01577/FL Change of use of land from agricultural to residential curtilage at Snoll Hatch Cottage, 41 Addlestead Road, East Peckham **OBJECTION**

TM/17/01580/FL Single Storey extension at The Long Arm, 440 Bullen Lane **NO OBJECTION**

TM/17/01510/FL Single storey rear extension at 7 Hale Court, East Peckham **NO OBJECTION**

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.

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>

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.

DOG FOULING

We take the issue of dog fouling, particularly in the Playing Fields, very seriously. We cannot overstate 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 do not use private household bins. If you see anyone failing to clear up after their dog please contact the Community or Dog Wardens. We've a supply of dog bags which subject to availability are available 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 obtain as much information as possible as it will assist the Dog Warden. For a found, lost or straying dog telephone 01732 876181 (also out of hour's service), 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.

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

Lara Sams will soon be leaving her role as Community Warden; we wish Lara all the very best for her future. In the interim period her colleague 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.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLANNING

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

EAST PECKHAM LIBRARY

The library is challenging young people to take part in the 2017 summer reading challenge. The free challenge for 4-11 year olds across Kent is to read 6 books. Children who complete the challenge will receive a certificate and medal. There's also a host of fun online activities to accompany the challenge where participants can find new books to read, take part in a story writing competition and play online games. There is also a Summer Reading Challenge app, for extra fun and games.

BULKY REFUSE

The fortnightly bulky service now has separate collections of Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment and scrap metal. The timetable for August is as follows:

12 August 10.30 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.
26 August 8.00 a.m. – 9.00 a.m.

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.

SEPTEMBER 2017 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

04 September 2017 Planning & Transportation Committee, 7.00 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall
18 September 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 in our office 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 therefore 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. Don't forget that our website is a useful tool too where you can find out more about East Peckham and your Parish Council, on the website you'll find regular updates, details of our meetings and links to agendas, consultations and other information relevant to the village. Our Welcome Pack is also available on our website but we do have hard copies available if you'd like one. If you're organising an event that benefits the community and would like it included on the online calendar, email us the details.

2017 SUMMER RECESS

Our 2017 summer recess will be from 18 July - 03 September, during this time there'll be no meetings and our office open hours will be reduced. This doesn't mean we stop work, business continues as usual; please send emails to admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk, twitter messages to @EastPeckhamPC or you can contact us through our website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk. If you'd like to speak to someone, please contact:

Karen Bell	Parish Clerk	01622 871309 / 07376377687
Steph Watson	Chairman	01622 870154 / 07944212262
Penny Graham	Deputy Chairman	01622 871494 / 07515143198
Michael Ferguson	Chairman, Planning	01622 872478 / 07526574227

Our office will be closed as follows

Week Commencing	24 July 2017	CLOSED
Week Commencing	31 July 2017	CLOSED
Week Commencing	07 August 2017	CLOSED
Week Commencing	14 August 2017	To be confirmed
Week Commencing	21 August 2017	To be confirmed
Week Commencing	28 August 2017	To be confirmed

EAST PECKHAM BRANCH SURGERY PUBLIC CONSULTATION



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

East Peckham Parish Council has run a very successful campaign which has kept the surgery open for almost a year after it was destined to close. We are pleased that whilst talks continue with all key parties which include us, the landlord, CCG and Woodlands Health Centre that it will not close; however this situation is not going to continue indefinitely and its future will shortly be expected to be determined.

REFURBISHMENT OF EXISTING PREMISES

The existing premises cannot stay open as they are as they do not meet current standards. The NHS, CCG and Woodlands Health Centre have stated that they have no money to put towards any refurbishment works which in effect means that if we want the surgery to remain open in its existing premises that we as a community must fund all of the work ourselves. The estimated costs keep spiralling and we have now been advised that refurbishment work will cost upwards of £200,000.

WHAT ARE OUR IMMEDIATE OPTIONS

- **Refurbish and extend the existing premises.** Concern has been expressed over the viability and shrewdness of spending so much public money on the existing premises given its various limitations. It is worthy of note that the Parish Councils Auditor has advised that as the existing premises are privately owned the Parish Council could be challenged should it use public funds in order to assist a private business.
- **Build new:** Talks are currently taking place with an architect who has been asked to prepare plans which would incorporate two consulting rooms and another room that could be used by multi-agencies who will be working in Health and Social Care as part of the proposed new Methodist Church and Community Centre in the centre of the village. The Parish Council owns some land in the village centre so expenditure would be regarded as spending to enhance our own assets, the community infrastructure and village facilities. We would also be able to recover some of the costs by charging rent.
- **Do nothing.** If we do nothing it is inevitable that the surgery will close.

HOW WOULD A NEW BUILD BE FUNDED?

Without there being any impact on Council Tax Bills, the Parish Council has made a commitment to contributing up to £100,000 from reserves. If more funds are required then we will look at a one off charge on the precept, grants, loans, legacies, donations etc.

ARE THERE ANY OTHER OPTIONS?

Nothing has been ruled out. For instance, if the redevelopment of the Methodist Building into a new church and community centre in the village centre where we own some land is postponed, then subject to obtaining the necessary planning consents from Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council the Parish Council could consider building on the Parish Council owned land or at the Jubilee Hall and Playing Fields. If as landowner, the Parish Council is able to provide alternative land or premises then some costs could be covered by rent.

COULD A PORTAKABIN BE THE SOLUTION?

The Parish Council is happy to consider all options including a portakabin and this has been discussed informally with our surveyor. A basic unit has been costed at approximately £130,000 plus groundworks, planning fees etc. Our surveyor is of the opinion that it is a non-starter as it is unlikely that either the CCG or Woodlands Health Centre will agree to operate from a Portakabin on a permanent basis but this is something that we would be happy to discuss with the Health Centre and the CCG.

WHAT CAN WE, THE COMMUNITY DO?

There are two things you can do if you are a registered patient at Woodlands Health Centre;

1. Always ask for an appointment in East Peckham
2. Register with a GP who is working in East Peckham

THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE

- The CCG have said that they will carry on paying the rent of the East Peckham Surgery provided there is a long-term scenario being investigated or in place.
- The Parish Council will be considering its future involvement in September and invites comments from members of the East Peckham community

EAST PECKHAM SURGERY

SOME KEY STATISTICS

- East Peckham has a population of approx. 3,500 people
- There are 2,222 patients who live in East Peckham and are registered with Woodlands. Of these 1,576 are registered with a GP who holds a surgery in East Peckham.
- 646 EP residents registered with Woodlands are on a GP's list who does not attend EP
- There are approx. 1,278 EP residents who attend surrounding surgeries (Yalding, Hadlow, Wateringbury).
- Currently about 55% of the EP population do not/will not use the branch surgery
- Between 1 Jan 2016 and 31 Dec 2016 19% of EP residents had an appointment at the branch surgery (19% of the 2,222 = 422 patients). During the same period 45% of EP residents had an appointment in PW (approx. 1000 patients)
- East Peckham Surgery is only open limited hours, reflecting the limited number of registered patients using the surgery. Is the surgery only open limited hours because only a limited number of people use it? Or do only a limited number of people use it because it is only open a limited number of hours?
- For the 422 residents that used the surgery in 2016 a £100k investment would work out at £237 per head but if we look at it as a minimum of a 10 year investment (i.e. the surgery would stay open for at least 10 years) with the same rate of usage then that is £24 per head per year. This assumes that it is the same 422 residents who use the surgery every year, which is unlikely. A larger than £100K investment would alter the figures proportionately.
- £100k is £63 per head for the 1,576 residents who are eligible to use the branch surgery (over the course of 10 years could we assume that each of these residents would use the surgery at least once?)

SOME QUESTIONS EPPC WILL BE ASKING

- How much should we spend on this project, remembering that only around 10% of residents are registered to attend the surgery in the village? 45% of residents are registered with a GP who offers appointments in EP and will potentially use the surgery (12% of EP population actually used the surgery in 2016)
- How should we raise further funding? Precept?
- We need to make a decision that benefits the whole of village, reflecting needs in both the short and long term.
- Will the Methodist Community Hall materialise? If so, when?
- What about the Portakabin suggestion? A basic unit is likely to cost approximately £130,000 plus groundworks, planning fees etc.

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK

Thank you for your interest in the consultation into the future of East Peckham surgery, we would like to know your views.

1. **From the options currently available please let us know your preference**
 - a. **Refurbish Existing Premises**, costly and as the Parish Council will not be the property owner it will not be able to recoup costs by charging rent **YES/NO**
 - b. **Build New** by incorporating a provision for a surgery in the redevelopment of the Methodist Building and surrounding land where the Parish Council is a landowner. Costly but as EPPC will have a vested interest it will be able to charge rent **YES/NO**
 - c. **Do nothing** in which case the surgery will close **YES/NO**
2. **We are interested in any other comments and views you might have. If you would like to tell us more, please do so here or email admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk.**

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All responses to be received by **31 August 2017**

Post or by hand to East Peckham Parish Council, Jubilee Hall, Pippin Road, East Peckham,
Tonbridge, Kent

Email to admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk