

EPPC NEWS – MAY 2017

Working on behalf of the community

Dear All,

It didn't take long, did it? Christmas and the mildest of winters seemed to come and go very quickly with very little evidence of the usual rotten weather that besets our area of the country. April seems to have been one of the most glorious months and as this newsletter is being written the temperatures haven't gone below 16 degrees. It's all added up to a fairly good start to the spring.

Council work, however, doesn't stop for anyone and there has been a flurry of activity at EPPC. In addition to our twice monthly meetings, we have been busy resisting the closure of the surgery, liaising with Arriva over changes to the bus time table, preparing the 2017/2018 Budget, writing our annual report, hosting the Annual Parish Meeting and finalising our 2016/2017 accounts.

We would like to thank everyone who came to one of the biggest annual events in East Peckham, which was the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting held on 03 April 2017. This was not a Parish Council meeting but a village meeting which we are delighted to host as it gives you the opportunity to ask us questions and find out more about we do. It was a great privilege to us to host this annual event and feedback from those who attended was extremely positive.

If you read the Parish Councils newsletters and look at our website (www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk) and twitter account (@EastPeckhamPC) regularly, you will know what has been happening in our village over the past year. We're often asked what the Parish Council does; we hope our annual report has given you a flavour of what we do on behalf of the village.

Work continues on village enhancements projects and in 2017 we will make a start on our next project which is to install some hamlet signs. We have received some lovely comments about the new fingerposts for which we thank you. While they were a long time coming, the fingerposts are certainly a positive new feature in our village.

The proposed closure of the surgery continues to take up much of our time and we continue to do all we can to resist its closure. Latest estimates from the CCG indicate that the cost of refurbishing the existing premises is now upwards of £200,000 and on 09 May 2017 we shall be meeting again with Woodlands Health Centre, the landlord and the CCG. Without any funding from either Woodlands Health Centre or the CCG it would appear that costs upwards of £200,000 will be too much for our community to find for a service which the Parish Council has no obligation to provide, for a private business and for a private property. We do however pledge to find £100,000 to assist Woodlands Health Centre and the CCG in keeping the surgery in the village

whether that is in the existing premises or at another village location and we are happy to consider all reasonable and viable options.

We look after the village planning interests which involves dealing with basic applications through to complicated ones involving new housing and other development. In the past year we've made recommendations to TMBC on over 100 applications and we've ensured that we make our representations heard. We're a Consultee, and quite often TMBC takes our recommendations on board. We're fortunate in having great technical expertise, so you can rest assured that we usually know what we're talking about, as well as being confident in our recommendations to TMBC.

Crime figures remain stable, but we ask you to report any unusual behaviour or nuisance problems, by dialling 101 and not the next time you see one of your Parish Councillors, PCSO's or Community Warden.

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

Our office is open weekday mornings during term times (except Wednesdays), do feel free to drop in and talk to us about any village issue you think that we can help you with.

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, 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.

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 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.

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.

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 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

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/16/03380/FL	Demolition of existing buildings and residential development comprising 10 no. houses at Development Site at Brunswick Yard, Pound Road, East Peckham	NO OBJECTION IN PRINCIPAL
TM/17/00432/FL	Pitched roof and weather-boarded first floor rear addition over existing first floor balcony area at 7 Old Road, East Peckham	NO OBJECTION
TM/17/00535/FL	Proposed barn redevelopment to create single dwelling at The Corner House, 321 Bush Road, East Peckham	NO OBJECTION

TM/16/03569/FL	3 detached two storey dwellings with associated parking, running areas and landscaping and alterations to access to Tonbridge Road and new private access Road at 5 Caysers Croft, East Peckham	OBJECTION
TM/17/00656/FL	Proposed conversion of existing dwelling into two individual residential units at The Harp, 218 Hale Street, East Peckham	NO OBJECTION
TM/17/00694/FL	Rear extension at 27 Golding Gardens, East Peckham	NO OBJECTION
TM/17/00671/FL	Partial demolition and construction of new single storey rear extension at 89 Pound Road, East Peckham	NO OBJECTION
TM/17/00739/FL	Alterations and extension to porch to form front extension with pitched roof at 26 Crown Acres, East Peckham	NO OBJECTION
TM/17/00778/FL	Replacement garages alongside existing house at Elm Cottage, 478 Bells Farm Road, Hadlow	NO OBJECTION
TM/17/00820/LDE	Use of land as a residential caravan site at Caravan, 76 Church Lane, East Peckham	NO OBJECTION IN PRINCIPAL

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.

EPPC MEETING DATES – MAY 2017

08 May 2017	Planning & Transportation Committee, 7.00 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall
08 May 2017	Finance Committee follows the Planning & Transportation Committee in the Jubilee Hall
15 May 2017	Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, 7.00 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall

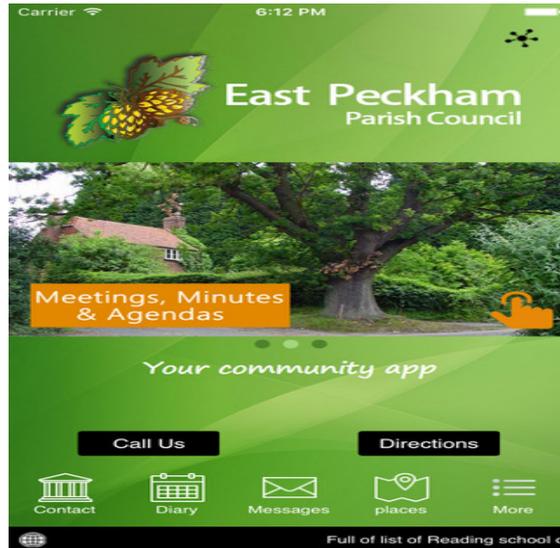
CONTACT DETAILS

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.



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



Pothole Blitz Launch 2017

Kent County Council launched its 2017 pothole blitz on 3 April. We are spending an extra £2.4million to repair local roads in Kent throughout spring and summer.

We used a team of local contractors for last year's pothole blitz and they successfully delivered more than 1,300 individual pothole repairs and 56,510 square meters of larger road repairs. We have made an early start on this year's pothole blitz by using the same contractors to repair potholes in April.

We would really value your local knowledge and support to help us make sure that we target roads that are important to your community. The quickest way to do this is to use our new online fault reporting tool available on our website www.kent.gov.uk/highways. We've made the form simpler and quicker to use, especially from mobile phones and tablets.

You can keep in touch with us and find out what repairs are being carried out by following our new KCC Highways Facebook page (www.facebook.com/KentHighways) and on Twitter (@KentHighways - we'll be tagging all our pothole posts with the hashtag #Kentpotholes).

We will be publishing updates throughout the campaign, including 'before and after' photographs (taken as proof of quality workmanship), films of the crews showing how they repair both individual potholes and larger road repairs as well as live information about the whereabouts of crews so that you can spot our crews in your area.

The pothole blitz work is being carried out in addition to our normal maintenance work, and we are still continuing with our Keep Kent Clean campaign, which has seen our crews out across the county cleaning signs, repainting white lines and maintaining shrubs.

You can find out all about our Keep Kent Clean campaign on Facebook www.facebook.com/KeepKentClean or using searching #keepkentclean on Twitter.