

EPPC NEWS – AUGUST 2018

Working on behalf of the community

Dear All,

Welcome to our latest newsletter. We hope you find the newsletter interesting and that we're providing information about issues of interest and concern to you and your life within our community. We welcome feedback so if you'd like us to include items on different topics do please tell us.

We hope you are enjoying our summer planting; this year in addition to our beautiful hanging baskets in the village centre we have planted tubs of summer bedding plants in the village centre and rose bushes by the village signs in Branbridges Road and Tonbridge Road.



During the growing season we'd appreciate your help. Please can you monitor your vegetation, hedges and trees and keep the roads and pavements outside your property clear and unobstructed for the benefit of pedestrians and other footway and highway users. Please also keep streetlights and road signs adjacent to your property clear and unobstructed. Also, if you notice any footway lights which aren't working properly, let us know. Please don't forget that if you notice any highways issues, to report anything you see requiring attention to KCC Highways at <http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>. The Highways team is prompt at dealing with any queries, but they do need to be made aware of them. Similarly, at this time of year we start noticing overgrown vegetation particularly affecting our Rights of Way, issues of this nature are the responsibility of KCC Public Rights of Way. To report a problem go to the website www.kent.gov.uk/report-a-problem-on-a-right-of-way.

There's been some low level crime in the village. We're aware many people think there's no point calling the police when the crime appears to be minor but we urge you to report all crime by telephoning 101 or contact the Community Warden on 07969 584183.

Our priority with regard to the Playing Fields is to maintain them to a high standard. The Playing Fields are a beautiful open space and available to use by anyone in the village 24 hours a day. They're also available for private hire and it would be wonderful if various village events took place there. The Playing Fields are kept as a haven for families and for children to run around safely. They're a wonderful village asset. If you've any thoughts on what you'd facilities you'd like, please do let us know.

Recently, we've been bothered by the threat of travellers entering the Playing Field Car Park. Three times in one week we responded to eyewitness reports of travellers nearby and immediately put the playing fields and car park into a lock down situation. We've put in a process of locking the car park barriers earlier each day, have reinforced our boundaries and will be installing high barriers. If you notice any unusual activity, please do let us, the PCSO or the Community Warden know.

We'll be on summer recess from 17 July - 02 September. This doesn't mean work stops and you can't contact us, on the contrary work continues as normal we just don't have any meetings and our office hours are reduced. You'll find details of our summer recess opening hours at the end of this newsletter.

Kind regards Chairman, Councillors and Clerk



Communications

One of our aims is to find new ways to keep local people informed. By issuing physical newsletters means we're not forgetting those who aren't digitally connected. And so, here we are – a dedicated printed and digital newsletter! In each newsletter we aim to turn our spotlight onto issues which we hope you find interesting. If there are other issues you'd like us to cover do let us know so that we can fully engage with all the people who make up East Peckham.

Take a moment to visit our website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk. It currently serves as a repository for agendas, minutes of council and committee meetings, standing orders, newsletters, annual reports, member's information etc. and is updated regularly with other matters that may be of interest. There are also links to Kent County Council and Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council. You can also follow us on twitter @EastPeckham PC and on Facebook.

Parish Paths

We'd like to appoint in a voluntary capacity a Parish Path Liaison Officer (PPLO), to keep an eye on the rights of ways within East Peckham. The purpose of a PPLO is to carry out minor clearance of the paths and signposts/stiles/gates and bridges by cutting back vegetation, regularly surveying the paths and to report any problems encountered, such as broken stiles or missing signs, to Kent County Councils Rights of Way Team. We'd be delighted to hear from you if you are interested in this role. Of course you can always contact us if you have encountered a rights of way issue.

East Peckham Parish Council Mission Statement

We seek to foster true community spirit. We aim to encourage full co-operation between councillors - parish, borough & county, and to residents & local businesses, thereby promoting a better quality of life for residents and visitors alike, whilst improving local relationships to the betterment of all in East Peckham Parish. Our Core Values are Open, Inclusive, Representative and Fiscally Sound.

DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES

Democratic processes runs both ways and is not only a channel of information from the Council to residents but can also be used for residents to communicate with the council or with other residents. Provided letters or copy sent to us are legal, they can, at our discretion be published on our website; we will however not publish names, addresses or any contact information. Whilst it is not our policy to edit written submissions from the public, we should point out that we are not responsible for any inaccuracies, errors or questionable implications in submissions from private correspondents.

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 councilmanager@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk.

Councillors Areas

Hale Street, Bardsley Close, Hale Court, Medway Meadows, Cates Court & Maidstone Rd	Serina Page
Smithers Lane, Pattenden Gardens, Hop Bine Close, Smithers Court, Beltring Road,)	James Hockey
Branbridges Road & Maidstone Road (A26))
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	John Page
Westwood Road, Drage Road, William Luck Close & Cotman Way	Heidi Harratt
Court Lodge, Roydon Hall & Bush Roads, Seven Mile, Martins & Church Lanes	Michael Ferguson

Parish Council Meetings

Parish Council Meetings are usually held at 7.00 p.m. on the first and third Monday of the month (except August) and always at the Jubilee Hall

Meetings are open to the public who are encouraged to attend

Agendas are published on the Parish Council Noticeboard at the Village Butcher and Store and on the website at www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk

The Parish Council wants to make the minutes of meetings available to the whole community, they can therefore be downloaded from our website (paper copies provided on request)

The next meetings will be on
Monday 03 September – Planning and Transportation Committee
Monday 17 September – Full Council

Community Grants

If your group or organisation would like to apply for a small grant please visit our website where you'll find details of our grants policy and an application form.

EAST PECKHAM LOYALTY SCHEME

New this year is our Loyalty Scheme. Participating retailers include Khan Spice, the Post Office, Village Butchers and Store, Pam's Pantry, Headlocks Hair Design, Heavenly Glaze, Irelands Bakery, Pound Fish Bar, Bourne Produce, Field Pharmacy and County Fires. Do look out for the leaflets at participating retailers and pick up your loyalty card. All completed cards returned to us will be entered into a draw to win East Peckham Shopping Vouchers – our first draw takes place in August

100 Years Commemoration

The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month falls on a Sunday this year – and it also marks a century since the end of the Great War. That terrible conflict claimed over 20 million lives, both soldiers and civilians, including some from East Peckham. To note this milestone and give gratitude to the sacrifice made by many, there will be a day of commemorations on Sunday 11th November; starting with the Remembrance Parade and the Remembrance Service at Holy Trinity in the morning and ending with the lighting of the Beacon at 7.00 p.m. that evening.

As a secondary note, we have planted red and white rose bushes at the base of the Village Sign adjacent to Brandbridges Roundabout; the name of the roses we have used is REMEMBRANCE. We have also commissioned two commemorative benches which will be placed in the village centre and on the playing fields and two commemorative standalone soldier figures which will 'rove' around the village before resting at the War Memorial for the Remembrance commemorations.



Would you like to sponsor a Community Project?

There are many projects you could help such as Christmas lights or village planting. If you're interested let us know.

Emergency Planning

Flood Wardens: The extreme wet weather we experienced at the end of May demonstrated the need for more volunteer flood wardens in the village – if you are interested and would like to find out more, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Sandbag Containers: We have recently taken the opportunity to review our policy for opening the sandbag containers. The containers located in the Pound Road and Pippin Road (Jubilee Hall) car parks will be opened by any Parish Council Representative or Flood if we believe that residential areas are threatened with flooding. Sandbags are however not for the protection of outbuildings or garages and of course the first line of defence in any emergency situation is to be self-sufficient.

Revised Community Emergency Plan: We have recently updated our Community Emergency Plan. The latest version can be found on our website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk under strategic documents.

Flood Warnings: To receive flood warnings from the Environment Agency, register with Floodline Warnings Direct on the website www.environment-agency.gov.uk or telephone 0845 988 1188.

Community Defibrillator

The defibrillator is stored in a secure box attached to the wall of the Jubilee Hall. It is an intelligent item of medical equipment which 'talks' to the operator and gives easy instructions. SECAmb know its location 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 there.

Allotments

Allotments are provided on land adjacent to the Playing Fields. The annual rents are very reasonable. Whilst there are currently no vacant plots, we have opened a waiting list and welcome enquiries.

FANTASTIC VENUE AVAILABLE IN EAST PECKHAM VILLAGE CENTRE?

We have two rooms available, a larger sports hall and a smaller meeting room
We can accommodate most activities such as 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, WIFI, fully equipped kitchen, changing rooms, projector and screen

Please email councilmanager@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk for more information



Jubilee Hall and Playing Fields

We own and manage the Jubilee Hall complex consisting of the Playing Fields, Car Park, Sports Hall and Meeting Room. The complex hosts many regular activities such as Bootcamp, BodyPump, Keep fit, badminton, table tennis and Zumba; we're also the venue for the monthly carers group. Outside clubs include East Peckham United Football Club. Other amenities include WIFI, a well equipped kitchen, changing rooms, a projector and a screen. Our 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 for 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 and that our Playing Fields are in excellent condition. 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 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 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 rounder's, kick a football, fly a kite or just a place to sit and contemplate. Do please look out for our brand new trim trail (obstacle course); we've started with 5 items of equipment with a 6th item of equipment - a fabulous net climb to be installed shortly. We will continue to develop the facilities so that the village; is well equipped with leisure facilities for everyone.

Play Inspection

The play areas on the Jubilee Playing Fields are maintained by the Parish Council. We want all users - to be safe when using the equipment and enjoying this lovely space. This is why every year it has an independent and very detailed safety assessment. Last year's report identified that work was required to two items of equipment, so we immediately carried out repairs. Sadly, these things don't come cheap – over £1,000.00! We must take this moment to remind everyone that the children's play areas are out of bounds for all dogs (excepting assistance dogs) – whether they are on the lead or not. There is no excuse, none, to have a dog on the grass in the children's play areas. If you are caught by an enforcement officer you will be prosecuted and/or fined. If you see anyone with a dog in the play areas, please consider asking them to leave with the dog.

Planning & Transportation Committee

We aim 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 applications:

TM/18/01346/TPOC Reduce beech tree by 15% & lightly thin at 5 Russett Road **NO OBJECTION**

TM/18/01411/FL Demolition of boundary wall to front, creation of parking space & rebuilding of boundary wall in amended location at 128 Pound Road **NO OBJECTION**

Planning Decisions

TMBC has granted permission for the following

TM/18/00273/FL 8 two storey terraced dwellings and associated car parking and landscaping at the Former Rose & Crown, 2 Branbridges Road

TM/18/00732/FL Increase in roof slope of bungalow to provide additional living space, addition of side extension and change of use of existing garage into part of residential dwelling. New detached garage at 16 Pound Road

TM/18/00803/FL Provision of LAP style weatherboard cladding to elevations at first floor level at 185 Tonbridge Road, East Peckham

TM/18/00944/FL Rear single storey extension and garage conversion at 12 Strettitt Gardens

Planning Appeals

The following appeal had been made to the Planning Inspectorate:

TM/17/01577/FL Appeal against TMBC's refusal to grant permission for the change of use of land from agricultural to residential curtilage at Snoll Hatch Cottage, 41 Addlestead Road, East Peckham

Planning Enforcement

Auto Car Sales: Whilst TMBC and KCC have been made aware of the concerns of residents, we have been advised that the business is operating legitimately. Investigations are continuing however with regard to the obstruction of sightlines by the green fencing.

Burger/Kebab Van: We have advised TMBC that we have no objection to the catering vehicle trading from its current location in Branbridges Road but have asked that this matter be placed on a "holding list" for monitoring and review in case further action is required should trading recommence outside the Co-Op in Pound Road.

Local Plan

TMBC is in the process of completing the evidence base and preparing the detailed version of the Local Plan which should be put out to public consultation during the autumn 2018. We have noted that only two sites have been included for East Peckham, both of which are located in Church Lane.

Redevelopment of the former Rose and Crown Site

We have been contacted by many concerned residents wondering what is going on at the site of the former Rose and Crown at the corner of Branbridges Road with Old Road. Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council has granted planning permission for a crescent shaped development of eight houses with parking – a mixture of two and three bedroom houses.

Noise Disputes!

Neighbour noise such as barking dogs, DIY, music and parties can significantly impact on a person's daily life. And, although a noise may sometimes be annoying, it may not necessarily be a nuisance as far as the law is concerned. Many disputes are best settled by people talking about the problems and showing consideration for each other. For information on 'What you can do if you are suffering from noise nuisance' and 'What the Council can investigate' visit the East Peckham - Make it Better page on our website: www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk

Parking Disputes!

Many parking disputes arise over the failure to observe parking 'etiquette' and can be a source of tension between otherwise friendly neighbours. If you have a separate driveway then there isn't a problem, as long as you actually park on it, but issues do arise when people park their cars on the road upon which they live. Etiquette and the law are two totally different issues the websites below might suggest solutions or at least help sort things out: www.gov.uk www.problemneighbours.co.uk www.highwaycodeuk.co.uk

Roads and Potholes

Report a problem to www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem. This is a very easy to use website to report any issues on our roads from potholes, overhanging hedges, broken signs, blocked drains and flooding. Funding cuts have cut back on regular patrols to identify problems and KCC relies on us all to report them. If you have no internet access, contact the Parish Office and we'll do it for you

Dealing with litter

You may have noticed how much litter there is on our roads. Our village highways are often strewn with litter and there have been occasions when bags and larger items have been, it would seem, thrown one after another from a moving vehicle. We've also seen flytipping, with fridges and freezers decorating our beautiful countryside. If you notice great amounts of litter or flytipping that needs urgent attention report it to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council who have dedicated response teams **01732 844522**.

Street lamps

Please report any problems with East Peckham Street lights to the Parish Office

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>

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.

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.

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

Parking on Pavements

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

Saturday Freighter Service Schedule

TMBC's fortnightly bulky refuse service schedule and more information can be found on the website <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.

Anti-Social Behaviour

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

CONTACT DETAILS

Clerk to the Council, Karen Bell, Parish Office, East Peckham Jubilee Hall, Pippin Road, East Peckham, TN12 5BT, Telephone: 01622 871309, Email: admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk. Our office is open weekday mornings except Wednesdays. You can also contact us via Twitter @EastPeckhamPC, Facebook East Peckham Parish Council or via our App, details below. If you've an important matter which you wish to discuss, please make an appointment and we'll make sure we're available.

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.



2018 SUMMER RECESS

Our 2018 summer recess will be from 17 July - 02 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](https://twitter.com/EastPeckhamPC) or you can contact us through our website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk or via Facebook.

If you'd like to speak to someone, please contact:

Karen Bell	Council Manager	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 hours will be as follows

Week Commencing	23 July 2018	CLOSED
Week Commencing	30 July 2018	CLOSED
Week Commencing	06 August 2018	CLOSED
Week Commencing	13 August 2018	To be confirmed
Week Commencing	20 August 2018	To be confirmed
Week Commencing	27 August 2018	To be confirmed