

EPPC NEWS

Working on behalf of the community – March 2018

Dear All,

A warm welcome to all our readers, 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 read our newsletters, look at our website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk and follow us on twitter @EastPeckhamPC and Facebook regularly, you'll know what's been happening at EPPC.

This month we have a new parish councillor who we are delighted to introduce you to. John Page was co-opted at our February meeting; we look forward to working with John who is going to be a great asset to the village and your Parish Council team.

Each year we set a budget which reflects the services you want, while fulfilling our statutory obligations. Our 2018/2019 budget has been challenging, while we've made some budgetary reductions, we are still recovering from cuts in funding from TMBC. Your Parish Councillors are all **VOLUNTEERS** and do not claim personal allowances, which saves in excess of £7,500 p.a.

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.

Did you know that the Parish Councils looks after the Parish's planning interests? We deal 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.

Do look out for our 2018 Annual Report which will be published shortly. As we move towards becoming 'paperless' our Annual Report is no longer being hand delivered to all residential properties. The document will however be published on our website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk and some paper copies will be available to collect from the Parish Office, Library and Village Stores.

We must mention the Annual Meeting of the Parish which is taking place on Monday 23 April 2018. This Annual Meeting has evolved over the years and is now a social event. This year we have invited Tonbridge Brewery and there will be an opportunity for you to find out about Community Transport Schemes and becoming a Flood Warden. Matt Boughton will also be attending on behalf of Tom Tugendhat MP and you can meet the winners of this year's Community Awards and find out all about our new East Peckham 'Shop Local' Loyalty Scheme which we will be launching in April 2018. We look forward to seeing you in the Jubilee Sports Hall on 23 April 2018 from 6.30 p.m. Following the event there will be a cheese and wine reception and a chance for you to network and socialise.

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.

Kind regards
Chairman, Councillors and Clerk



2018/2019 BUDGET

Our 2018/2019 precept has been set at £140,000. This is the amount collected for us by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council as part of the Council Tax. Many of the costs now included within the Precept were previously part funded 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. 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. You can find full details of our 2018/2019 budget on our website.

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	Serina Page
Smithers Lane, Pattenden Gardens, Hop Bine Close, Smithers Court, Beltring Road, Branbridges Road & Maidstone Road (A26)	James Hockey
Old Road, Strettitt Gardens, Pinkham & Pinkham Gardens	Penny Graham
Addlestead Road, Chidley Cross Road, Caysers Croft & Tonbridge Road	Lynton Wright
Pound Road, The Old Dairy & Snoll Hatch Road	David Roberts
Orchard Road, The Freehold, Red Roses, Marvillion & Crown Acres (Odds)	Colin Silver
Whitebine, Golding & Henham Gardens & Crown Acres (evens)	Mick Barton
Fell Mead, Stockenbury, Bramley Road, Pippin Road & Russett Road	Steph Watson
Hatches Lane, Bullen Lane, Bells Farm Road, Grove Close & Stanford Lane	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

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 2017/2018 as well as making a donation to the Royal British legion, we have helped East Peckham United Football Club and the Table Tennis for Fun Club. East Peckham United Football Club, Apples Bowls Club and the Carers Group have also benefitted from subsidised hire of our facilities at the Jubilee Hall.

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. 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. 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. 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 and manage the Jubilee Hall complex which comprises of the Playing Fields, Sports Hall and Meeting Room. Following the relocation of the Gym Club whilst occupancy levels decreased, there's been an increase in bookings enquiries and we're confident that occupancy levels will be restored to previous levels. We're delighted in the number of new users we've recently welcomed 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

ALLOTMENTS

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

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.

Planning Applications

TM/18/00115/TNCA Fell row of conifers due to blocking out light and taking up garden space at Runnymede, 126 Addlestead Road, East Peckham **NO OBJECTION**

TM/18/00206/TNCA Cut back the many offspring branches from a Laurel leaving the main single tree in tact at 86 Snoll Hatch Road, East Peckham **NO OBJECTION**

Planning Decisions: TMBC has GRANTED PERMISSION for the following

TM/17/03096/FL Single storey rear extension at 26 Crown Acres, East Peckham

TM/17/03192/AGN Track improvements to facilitate forest management at Peckham Fields Wood, Old Church Road, East Peckham

TM/17/03308/CR3 Non-material amendment to approved aggregate bay walls (Bay 1) KCC reference TM/16/1563/R at East Peckham Pit, Hale Street, East Peckham

Planning Enforcement Investigations

Orchard End, 9 Chidley Cross Road: As the scale of business use at the property is minimal, it does not amount to a material change of use of the land and no breach of planning control has occurred.

72 Crown Acres: The works taking place are in accordance with planning permission TM/00/00523/FL (approved 07 June 2000) and implemented within 5 years from that date.

Former Speedy Hire Site, Branbridges Road: As the appearance of the site has improved no breach of planning control is occurring. The owner has been asked to continue to maintain the site until such time that an application is received for any future development.

East Acres, Branbridges Road: The Planning Inspectorate has upheld an appeal. Subject to conditions, permission has been granted for the existing occupier to occupy the site for a temporary period of 4 years.

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. If you've a dog fouling complaint obtain as much information as possible as it will assist the Dog Warden. Telephone 01732 876181 or 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.

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.

JUBILEE HALL SATURDAY FREIGHTER SERVICE SCHEDULE

This service is operated by TMBC. The dates and times can be found on TMBC's 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.

TWINNING

East Peckham is twinned with Chérenge 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.

MARCH 2018 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

05 March 2018	Planning & Transportation Committee, 7.00 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall
19 March 2018	Meeting of the full Parish Council, 7.00 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall

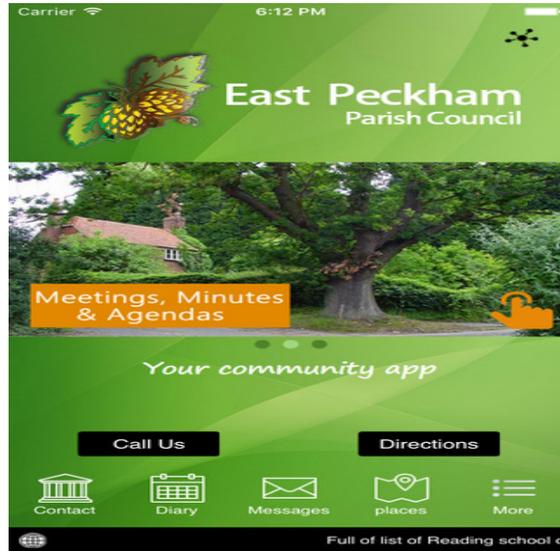
CONTACT DETAILS

Clerk to the Council, Karen Bell, The Parish Office, East Peckham Jubilee Hall, Pippin Road, East Peckham, TN12 5BT, Telephone/answerphone: 01622 871309, Email: councilmanager@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 fantastic 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

Community Warden:

Michael Head 07969 584183 Email: michael.head@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

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SCHEMES

IMAGO Dial-2-Drive

Dial 2 Drive (D2D) is a community transport scheme for people unable to access public transport due to older age, illness or disability living in Sevenoaks, Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells and the surrounding areas. Volunteer drivers use their own cars to take clients to medical and social appointments. This includes appointments at local surgeries, hospitals, day centres, hairdressers, opticians, lunch clubs and shopping.

The Dial 2 Drive office is open from 9.30am-3.30pm Monday to Friday
Telephone number: 0300 777 1200

There is an annual membership fee of £20.00

- The drives are charged at 65p per mile from the driver's home to completion of journey (driver returning home)
- They will always try to find a driver who lives closest to the client to keep the costs as low as possible
- Volunteer drivers are only expected to wait up to an hour. If your appointment is much longer, you will need to book two separate drives ("double journey")
- They endeavour to keep costs as low as possible and do not make a profit from the scheme.

Involve Kent

Involve's community transport service is a community based driving scheme for people living in the Maidstone and Malling area that helps people who cannot manage on public transport because of age, frailty, illness, disability or injury. Involve can provide trips to places like hospitals, foot clinics, day centres, shops, visits to friends or anywhere else you'd like to go. Drivers are volunteers and use their own cars. They provide assistance with shopping trips and outings, such as seaside trips and Christmas markets, and have a minibus which is available for hire to other community groups.

The Service

- A volunteer driver using his or her own car.
- Trips to places like hospitals, foot clinics, day centres, shops, visits to friends or anywhere else you'd like to go.
- Drivers will wait for you at your chosen destination for up to an hour or they will come back and collect you later.

The Costs

- For a journey within Kent, and under 75 miles, a charge of 45p per mile PLUS a £4 booking fee.
- For a journey in Kent or further which exceeds 75 miles, a charge of 45p per mile PLUS a £10 booking fee is applicable.

If you would like to use the service please call 01622 235833 between 10am-4pm Monday to Friday and a volunteer transport co-ordinator will take your booking. You can also email community.transport@involvekent.org.uk. Please note that they will do everything they can to fulfil all requests, but require as much time as possible, to allow them the best chance to find a driver; usually between 3 – 5 working days.

Compaid

Compaid provide a transport service to disabled and elderly people within Kent and the surrounding area each year. Journeys vary from hospital and clinic visits to shopping expeditions and larger outings to the coast, local attractions and theatre trips.

The Kent Karrier scheme is a fully accessible dial-a-ride service which takes disabled and elderly people directly from their door to the nearest town centre. This ensures that vulnerable people can do their weekly shopping, get the chemists or the bank, and socialise with friends on the trip. To access the Kent Karrier transport scheme you will need to apply for membership to KCC. Members are accepted if they have a disability or mobility impairment, or if they live more than 200m from the nearest bus stop or train station. The scheme is administered by Kent County Council, and Compaid delivers the service. There is a £5 annual administration fee (payable to KCC) and a small subsidised fare is charged for each journey. For membership enquiries, please call Kent County Council on 03000 413 567

Age Concern Malling

Age Concern Malling run a transport service for wheelchair users using a fully adapted vehicle. This vehicle can be booked for trips including: hospital, doctor and dentist appointments or shopping. The vehicle carries 1 wheelchair (electric or manual) or a small scooter plus up to two passengers.

Contact Rotary House, Norman Road, WEST MALLING, Kent, ME19 6RL
Telephone 01732 848008, 01732 871746, 01732 873977

AgeUK Sevenoaks and Tonbridge

Telephone: 01732 454108