

EPPC NEWS – MARCH 2019

Working on behalf of the community

This newsletter is brought to you by East Peckham Parish Council



East Peckham Parish Council



@EastPeckhamPC

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Celebrate Our Village!

East Peckham Annual Meeting of the Parish

Free event for local residents and businesses

Monday, 25 March 2019 @ 7.00 p.m.

The Sports Hall at the Jubilee Hall

Pippin Road, East Peckham, TN12 5BT

Doors Open at 6.30 p.m.

Come along & find out what EPPC has been up to over the past year, who has won the 2019 Community Champion Awards and meet your Parish Councillors and fellow Villagers. There will be presentations on TMBC New Waste Services Contract and on East Peckham becoming a Dementia Friendly Village and an opportunity to meet Matt Boughton who will be attending on behalf of Tom Tugendhat MP

Following the event there will be a cheese and wine reception

For more information contact the Parish Council Clerk Karen Bell

01622 871309 councilmanager@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk



Parish Council Meetings

Parish Council Meetings are 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 Stores and on the website at www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of meetings are available to the whole community, they can either be downloaded from our website, or you can request a paper copy, or you can visit our office and view the current years minutes and those which we have archived.

The next meetings will be on
Monday 04 March – Planning and Transportation Committee
Monday 18 March – Full Council
Monday 25 March – Annual Meeting of the Parish
Monday 01 April – Planning & Transportation Committee
Monday 16 April - Full Council

Budget

In January, we set our budget at £194,164 which requires a precept of £142,000 an increase of only 1.43% than it was in 2018/2019. Our precept will be collected on our behalf by the Borough Council as part of the Council Tax. Our budget hopefully reflects the services you want, whilst fulfilling our statutory obligations and will enable us to fund new projects, initiatives and services in our 125th Anniversary.

Annual Report

Our 2019 Annual Report has been published and is available on our website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk. Copies also available from the Parish Office, The Library or the Village Stores.

2019 Community Awards

It gives us great pleasure to announce that this year the awards will be presented to:
KALC Award Margaret Lawrence for being the village historian and for documenting the history of East Peckham in many publications the most notable being The Lives They Left Behind

EPPC Award Jointly to Michael. Barton, Gary Barton and Michael Ferguson for their volunteer work at St Michaels

Purdah 22 March – 02 May 2019

Purdah is the term used to describe the pre-election period, between the time an election is announced and the date the election is held. During that period central and local government are subject to certain restrictions. For local government, the restrictions relate to communications activity and are designed to ensure that councils cannot be accused of bias. The pre-election, or Purdah period, will run from Friday 22 March to 10pm on Thursday 2 May 2019. During Purdah we will:

- Give no publicity to matters which are politically controversial
- Make no reference to election candidates in our press releases or social media
- Not issue photographs of candidates or hold press photo opportunities or launch events featuring any candidates
- Not post on our social media platforms about any matters which are politically controversial
- Remove any visitor posts on our social media which are politically controversial

Elections

On **Thursday, 02 May 2019**, there is to be a Parish Election. For more information about standing as a Candidate please visit <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/local-elections-in-england>. You will also find information on our website.

Being a Councillor can be fulfilling. It requires dedication and hard work but in East Peckham it can be especially rewarding as it brings the opportunity to play a significant role in shaping our dynamic and ever-growing community. We work within a legal and regulatory framework which can sometimes make us appear slow and unresponsive, although this can be frustrating it provides essential protection for council tax-payers interests and provides vital safeguards for Councillors doing their job. If you would like to stand for election to the parish council please pop along to one of our information events being held between 6.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m. on 04 March, 18 March and 01 April. Nomination packs are available from the Parish Office.

125th Anniversary of the Parish Council

2019 is a special year for us as we turn 125. As you can imagine we have many ideas for new projects, events and services for the year ahead and will be focussing on as many of the following as we can.

- Making East Peckham a dementia friendly village
- East Peckham Red Box Project
- Photography Competition
- Revamp of our Grant Scheme to community groups and not for profit organisations. New grants for Sporting Endeavour and Education Support Fund
- Community Companion Scheme
- Playing Fields (More obstacle course equipment, New Tree Planting, Heavy duty outdoor umbrellas and New Picnic benches
- Summer Festival with live music, comedy, games, funfair and stalls

Red Box Project

The idea behind the Red Box Project is to quietly ensure that no young woman misses school or suffers embarrassment because she has her period. We know that schools already do what they can in this area.

The Red Box Project is all about giving young women in need - whether for financial or social reasons - the reassurance of enough sanitary pads for their entire period plus a couple left over for next time. This is what makes it special.

Currently we have three donation points, they are the Jubilee Hall, Touch of Perfection at The Hop Farm and the Library. We are asking for donations of sanitary items. This is a very simple, no frills project and is entirely funded by community kindness, woman to young woman. When the boxes are full we will take them into the local schools. We hope this project really makes a difference.



The Red Box Project

Christmas Lighting

We can reveal that the 2018 Christmas Lighting Scheme cost £9,535, and that we will be carrying forward to the 2019 Christmas Lights £2,272 this together with the Parish Councils grant of £5,000 and the Borough Council Grant of £560 give us a budget of £7,832 without additional fundraising. If you would like to see bigger and brighter Christmas Lighting in 2019 please join us in fundraising.

Communications

We like to keep residents informed and engaged with our work. By issuing physical newsletters means we're not forgetting those who aren't digitally connected. In each newsletter we highlight issues which we hope you find interesting. If there are other issues you'd like us to cover, let us know. Our website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk, amongst other things, serves as a repository for agendas, minutes of meetings, standing orders, newsletters, annual reports, member's information and is updated regularly with other matters that may be of interest. There are also links to the KCC and TMBC. You can also follow us on twitter @EastPeckham PC and on Facebook.

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. If you would like to find out more, please contact us. One activity of note is that on 11 May 2019 a large group from Chereng will be visiting Canterbury and then onto East Peckham where there will be a Pétanque tournament at the Bush, Blackbird and Thrush. They will appreciate local support. More details to follow.

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)	Vacant
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'll find details of our grants policy and an application form. We still have a little money which can be allocated towards a youth activity.

EAST PECKHAM 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, Field Pharmacy and County Fires. Look out for the leaflets at participating retailers and pick up your loyalty card. The next draw will take place in March.

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.

JUBILEE HALL - FANTASTIC VENUE AVAILABLE IN EAST PECKHAM

We have two rooms available (sports hall and a smaller meeting / committee 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

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, Gym Box, BodyPump, Keep fit, badminton, table tennis and Zumba; we're also the venue for the weekly Parent & Toddler Group and the monthly carers group. After Easter we will be welcoming the East Peckham Rainbows.

Other amenities include WIFI, 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. We're 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

'What's On' in the Jubilee Hall?

We have attached a list of regular activities and contact information at the end of this newsletter. This information is also on our website and on or the noticeboard in the Jubilee Hall foyer which is open during our office hours.

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.

Playing Fields

The playing fields are a beautiful open space and are open to all. We want them to be a 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. Our outdoor equipment consists of an obstacle course, outdoor gym, ball court, play areas, street snooker and a tennis court.

Textile Bank

Installed in the Jubilee Hall Car Park is a bright orange textile bank which is proving to be popular. We hope it will be a welcome addition in our campaign for a 'greener' village.



Emergency Planning

Flood Wardens: More flood wardens are needed in the village - if you are interested and would like to find out more, we would be delighted to hear from you.

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 Warden if we believe that residential areas are threatened with flooding. It is worth remembering that sandbags are not for the protection of outbuildings or garages and the first line of defence in any emergency is to be self-sufficient.

Community Emergency Plan: The latest version can be found on our website.

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

Drain Cleansing: Kent Highway Services has advised that gully cleansing is carried out on Strategic and Locally Important routes every 12 months and that each road's classification is determined by the maintenance hierarchy in the National Street Gazetteer. All other roads and drainage assets, including soakaways, highway ditches, highway ponds, culverts and grips, are maintained on a targeted basis which means that cleansing is arranged in response to enquiries and reports of flooding. Cleansing is prioritised at sites where there is a risk to road safety or homes.

Community Defibrillators

There are 2 publicly accessible defibrillators in the village. One is attached to the wall of the Merry Boys Public House and the other to the wall at the Jubilee Hall. The defibrillator is an intelligent item of medical equipment which 'talks' to the operator and gives easy instructions. Ambulance Control know the location of both defibrillators so when someone dials 999 about a possible heart attack, they can immediately give them the access code and direct them there.

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/18/02623/FL Change of use from seasonal to permanent residential at No 4 Caravan Site, Pinkham, East Peckham **NO OBJECTION**

Planning Decisions

TMBC HAS GRANTED PERMISSION for the following

TM/18/02160/FL Change of use of premises to class A5 Hot food takeaway at 9 Old Road, East Peckham

TM/18/02546/RD Details of conditions for redevelopment of site to provide 9 new units at Branbridges Road

TM/18/02729/FL Variation/removal of conditions for first floor extension and ground floor window openings) at 30 Snoll Hatch Road

TM/18/02882/FL Installation of a red-light safety camera at Beltring Level Crossing together with ancillary signage

TMBC HAS REFUSED TO PERMIT the following

TM/18/02999/FL Use of land as a residential caravan site with ancillary access, bases and services for 4 mobile homes at 76 Church Lane

Speeding

You may recall that we were looking at acquiring a Speed Indicator Device and starting a Speed Watch Scheme in East Peckham. Whilst we'd like to thank you for your interest, sadly, we only received 3 expressions of interest from outside the council. We've therefore decided to take no further action at this time. However, if there's renewed interest and more volunteer support, we'll revisit the issue.

Local Plan Update

The Local Plan has been delivered to the Planning Inspectorate who will now consider the submitted documents and set out the next steps in the process including arrangements for a Local Plan Examination. The Local Plan has become a material consideration in evaluating planning applications, albeit with little weight although this will increase as it progresses towards adoption. All representations received during the consultation will be published on TMBC's website.

Street lamps

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

Noise Disputes!

Neighbour noise such as barking dogs, DIY, music and parties can impact on daily life. And, although a noise may sometimes be annoying, it may not be a nuisance as far as the law is concerned. Many disputes are best settled by people talking 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, if you 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 www.gov.uk www.problemneighbours.co.uk www.highwaycodeuk.co.uk might suggest solutions or at least help sort things out:

Roads and Potholes

Report a problem to www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem. This is an easy way 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.

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 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**.

Public Rights of Way

KCC is responsible for maintaining public rights of way. Regardless of the growing season most will be cut twice each year. Problems can be reported to 0845 345 0210 or <http://webapps.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccesscams/issues/default.aspx>

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 and Litter Bins

Complaints regarding overfull dog/litter bins or related issues should be reported to waste.services@tmbc.gov.uk or using the online forms at www.tmbc.gov.uk.

Dog Fouling

It's a shame that a few uncaring dog owners spoil things. Dog deposits provided it's bagged up can be put into any amenity bin – not household bins. If you see anyone failing to clear up after their dog contact the Community or Dog Wardens. Please be aware that failing to clear up after your dog is an offence which TMBC enforces through the Dogs Fouling of Land Act 1996 which applies to all open land within the borough to which the public have access. If you've a dog fouling complaint obtain as much information as possible as it will assist the Dog Warden. For a found, lost or straying dog telephone 01732 876181, for fouling, dangerous dog, dog on dog attack or anything else telephone 01732 876147 or Email: dog.warden@tmbc.gov.uk. If a person has been bitten report the incident to the Police on 101

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 at <http://www.tmbc.gov.uk/services/environment-and-planning/recycling,-rubbish-and-waste/household-waste-special-collections-for-large-items/saturday-household-waste-service>.

Anti-Social Behaviour

If you witness any incidents of anti-social behaviour, please tell the community warden or the police.

Village Centre

We've asked KCC to undertake a risk assessment on their paved area of land in front of the parade of shops which is in places a trip hazard. It is unfair that the only maintenance work carried out on this land in recent years has been by the Parish Council at the expense of East Peckham Council Tax payers. We firmly believe that the landowners should take their responsibilities seriously and maintain this land. We have expressed an interest to KCC regarding the acquisition of their land which is from the highway to the steps in front of the business properties, which will then enable us to maintain and develop the village centre for the benefit of the village.

TMBC New Waste & Recycling Service

TMBC has awarded an eight-year contract for a new recycling and waste collection and street cleansing service to Urbaser Ltd. The new contract will commence on 01 March and will provide improved recycling and street cleansing services. Initially services will continue as before. Information on the new service is available on our website and there will be leaflet drops to residential properties. In the run up to the launch of the new service the Borough Council will be attending our Planning and Transportation Committee on 04 March 2018 when they will be explaining how the new recycling collections would operate. Do come along to the Jubilee Hall at 7.00 p.m. if you would like to find out more

CONTACT DETAILS

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



Coming to East Peckham

Pop-Up Café and Information Hub

Jubilee Hall Car Park

Monday 15th April

Monday 13th May

Monday 10th June

Monday 8th July

Monday 19th August

Monday 16th September

Monday 14th October

10.30 – 12.30

Come and get together with old friends and new. Have a cuppa and a delicious slice of cake. We'll have all sorts of local information available or you can just come for a chat.

Please help us to spread the word. Everyone welcome ... see you soon!

Can't get there under your own steam? Call us and we'll see if we can help.

Liza: 07771 661871

Kathy: 07341 737041



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