



EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

..... *MAKING A DIFFERENCE*

DECEMBER 2019



East Peckham Parish Council



@EastPeckhamPC

Dear All,

Welcome to our latest newsletter. This is just one of the ways we interact with you. We want you to know what we're up to and our current projects. We also welcome your involvement – be it with comments, ideas or suggestions for the things you'd like to see us tackle.

November 22 marked our Dementia Awareness Day; we were delighted to be joined by Jill Anderson the Mayor of Tonbridge and Malling and Harry Johnson from the Alzheimer's Association as we opened our new Information hub and sensory garden. If you managed to obtain a tour on the virtual dementia discovery bus, please let us know what you thought.

At the end of November, the East Peckham Christmas Lights were switched on. Unfortunately, we were unable to organise a Switch On event. The Switch On event takes at least 25 people to organise and fundraise and earlier this year with only 5 members and very few volunteers we had to make the unenviable decision that it would not be possible for us to organise and fundraise for the Switch On. We know you liked the event which had become one of the most popular in the East Peckham calendar, we did too and would like to bring it back for 2020 to do so though we require plenty of volunteers, if you'd like to join us in organising and fundraising for the 2020 Switch On, we'd be delighted to hear from you. But for now, we hope you enjoy the 2019 Christmas lights and that you're able to attend some of the many festive activities which are being organised by our wonderful village groups.

Our new bike track is taking shape. We know of several parishes in Kent who are watching the bike track develop and hope to create something similar in their own communities.

Onto Community Resilience, since the 2013 floods the Environment Agency has been investigating a options to reduce flood risk in East Peckham and Little Mill. Whilst there is a technical option to reduce risk to homes and businesses, the cost is substantial. Current estimates are between £3.8m - £8.4m depending on the size of the scheme and require over 50% in partnership contributions which the Environment Agencies has been unable to source.

On 11 November, the Parish Councils Flood Action Group met with representatives from the National Flood Forum and the Environment Agency and received information about the East Peckham Property Flood Resilience Scheme, PFR for short which will help minimise the impact of flooding to homes. PFR measures will include flood doors, flood barriers, and non-return valves on waste pipes and will be funded up to £7,500 per property. In order to progress the scheme, the Environment Agency will be carrying out threshold surveys of properties at high flood risk. This will confirm which properties are at risk of internal flooding and their eligibility for PFR measures. The Environment Agency is planning on carrying out these initial surveys in January and expect it to take 2-3 weeks, depending on weather conditions.

Once the Environment Agency has identified the eligible properties and secured the funding they will contact residents again setting out the next steps. The Environment Agency has identified approximately 120 properties in East Peckham who might be eligible for PFR and they will be contacted directly. **If you are not contacted by the Environment Agency and think your property should be considered please contact the Environment Agency for more information via email to EPFRS@environment-agency.gov.uk.**



The Parish Council is made up of a great group of people with a wide variety of talents and they have all been working hard to make East Peckham great. We all do our best for the community and East Peckham as a whole. At our November meeting we co-opted Craig Matthews onto the Parish Council. We look forward to working with Craig and know he will be a great asset to the village, Craig will be picking up the youth portfolio.

We thank our wonderful volunteers who have helped us this year and for the fabulous support we have received along the way. Your feedback is welcomed on all of our activities.

We close this month by wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Kind regards

From all at East Peckham Parish Council



Parish Meetings – Have Your Say!

Members of the public are welcome to attend Parish Council Meetings to raise issues of concern or to make comments regarding any relevant matters. There is a period of time at the start of each meeting when public participation is encouraged. If you'd like to come along, here are the dates of the next few

02 December – Planning & Transportation Committee

16 December – Full Parish Council

06 January – Planning & Transportation Committee

06 January – Finance Committee

20 January – Full Parish Council

We hope to see you there, remember this is your community

Meetings are held at 7.00 p.m. and always in the Jubilee Hall Meeting Room

Agendas are published on the Parish Council Noticeboards (Village Stores & Playing Fields)

and on our website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of meetings are available to everyone, they can either be downloaded from our website, you can request a paper copy, or you can visit our office where you can view them

The Parish Councils Commitment to You!..... We Will!

- Work in an accountable and transparent manner with the local community to improve the quality of life of all who live and work in East Peckham.
- Aim to protect and enhance the social and environmental well-being of the parish and its residents.
- Provide a number of services to the local population. We will seek to ensure that these services meet the needs of the local population and they represent value for money.
- Welcome the involvement of residents in our decision making process and will consult residents on issues of importance.

Finance

We're currently finalising our 2020/2021 budget; full details are on our website. We welcome your views. Do let us know what you think of our spending plans, do you agree or disagree with our proposals, or if you have suggestions for future projects please share them with us. We hope you think you get value for money from the Parish Council, and you feel supported by us. We're being asked to take on more services for little or no money and we're therefore adopting a more commercial approach to our activities which might include small scale projects run directly by us or by investment in support networks.

Welcome Handbook

If you're new to the village, a warm welcome. Our Welcome Handbook is available to download from our website, www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk, a copy can also be obtained from one of your parish councillors or from the Parish Office.

Allotments

Allotments are provided on land adjacent to the Playing Fields. The annual rents are very reasonable. Do please contact us if you are interested in having an allotment.

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. So far this year we've helped the following

- Scout Group - Funding towards new windows
- Summer Holiday Arts and Crafts Club - Craft materials
- East Peckham Primary School - Mini Medics First Aid Training to Year 6
- East Peckham Primary School PTA - Glow products for community fireworks event & Raffle Prize for Christmas Fayre
- Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal - Donation
- Singing for Memories - Song books
- East Peckham Baby and Toddler Group - Free Hall Hire until 31 December 2019
- Carers Group - Free Hall Hire until 31 December 2019
- Community Defibrillator at Little Mill - Donation

We have also helped the Junior Football Club with discounted facility hire.

Business Community

Would you like East Peckham to 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. 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.

Would You Like to Sponsor a Community Project?

There are many projects you could help. If you are interested please let us know.



We have installed 2 defibrillators in the village which are accessible 24/7, these are in secure boxes on the outside wall of the Parish Office at the Jubilee Hall and at the Merry Boys Public House. SECamb know their locations 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.



The Parish Council will be participating in the VE Day - 08 May 2020 commemorations. On the day, we will be lighting the beacon, reading The Tribute to the Millions followed by participation in The Nations Toast. We have registered our participation with the national event coordinators and have already had printed two commemorative certificates. Our commemorative project will be the installation of a specially commissioned plaque which will honour our fallen heroes from East Peckham who lost their lives in WW2.



Our application to the Alzheimer's Association for East Peckham to be recognised as a community working towards becoming dementia friendly has been approved. We have almost 100 'Dementia Friends' who can be identified by their special forget me knot badges. We hope you have noticed the stunning planter in the village centre which we have created into a sensory garden and the former BT kiosk which we have upcycled into an Information Hub. Do please take the opportunity to take a close up view of both of these new additions to our village centre.



Thank you to everyone who has shopped locally this year and entered the loyalty scheme draws. The final draw for 2019 will take place on 16 December, please look out for the leaflets at participating retailers and pick up your loyalty card. Retailers include Blossoming Nails and Beauty, Khan Spice, the Post Office, Village Butchers and Store, Pam's Pantry, Headlocks Hair Design, The Post Office, Heavenly Glaze, Irelands Bakery, Pound Fish Bar, Field Pharmacy and County Fires.

EAST PECKHAM RED BOX PROJECT – WINDING DOWN

In 2020, a scheme will be implemented which will provide schools and colleges with free menstrual products to those who need them. So that we can allow for this scheme to work effectively, the Red Box Project must stand aside. We have therefore made the decision to wind down the East Peckham Scheme and will not be accepting any more contributions. We have enough to sustain us in supporting our three schools which are East Peckham Primary, Mascalls Academy and Hadlow Community College. We have also provided a box to Marden Primary School. It now leaves us to say thank you, but it does not always feel like enough. Throughout 2019 we have received support from every part of the community for which we have been extremely grateful.

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.

POP UP CAFÉ – EAST PECKHAM

We have been delighted with the response to the Pop Up Café and looked forward to the monthly visits of the Coffee Caravan. Sadly the season has come to an end, however urged on by regular attendees, we have decided to keep the Café going. All welcome, come and get together with old friends and new.

Jubilee Hall 10.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

Monday 16 December

Monday 20 January

Monday 17 February



JUBILEE HALL - FANTASTIC VENUE AVAILABLE IN EAST PECKHAM

We have 2 rooms available (sports hall and a smaller meeting / committee room) and can accommodate most activities such as children's parties, book clubs, craft groups, meetings, group gatherings, business events, one-to-one consultations, a training venue and exhibitions.

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



'What's On' in the Jubilee Hall?

MONDAY	9.30 – 10.30	Aerobics
	10.30 – 12.30	Pop up Café 2 nd Monday (Meeting Room)
	1.30 – 2.30	40+ Shape Up and Fitness
	5.30 – 6.45	Rainbows (Term time only)
	7.00 – 8.00	Bootcamp
	8.00 – 10.00	Badminton
TUESDAY	9.30 – 10.30	Step / Circuits
	11.00 – 12.00	UBW
	7.00 – 9.00	Table Tennis
	10.30 – 12.00	Carers Support – 1 st Tuesday in each month (Meeting Room)

WEDNESDAY	6.00 – 7.00	UBW
	7.30 – 8.30	Zumba
	8.30 – 9.30	Badminton
THURSDAY	9.30 – 10.30	Step / Body Pump
	11.00 – 12.00	Totally Shredded
	7.30 – 8.30	Dance Fitta
FRIDAY	9.00 – 10.00	UBW
	10.00 – 12.00	Baby and Toddler Group (Term Time Only)
	7.00 – 9.00	Table Tennis

Contact details of bookings / opportunities

Should you wish to get in touch with us about room hire and costs, activities, clubs or classes please call 01622 871309 or email councilmanager@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk

YOUR JUBILEE HALL NEEDS YOU

Do you have a particular skill which you would like to pass onto others? We are looking for people who could facilitate sessions in a range of different craft, sport or art based activities who feel they would have the time, energy and enthusiasm to show others how they 'do it'. If this sounds like something you would like to get involved with, please do get in touch with us.

Playing Fields

The playing fields are a beautiful open space and 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, tennis court the new bike track.



We're aware of an increase in dog fouling. If you witness dog waste not being picked up, please report it to the Community Warden or Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council. 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 telephone 01732 876147 or email dog.warden@tmbc.gov.uk. If a person has been bitten report the incident to the Police on 101.

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 fly tipping, with fridges and freezers decorating our beautiful countryside. If you notice great amounts of litter or fly tipping that needs urgent attention report it to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council who have dedicated response teams 01732 844522.

Saturday Freighter Service Schedule – Jubilee Hall Car Park

At the time of preparing this newsletter, the December dates had not been published. As the service is operated by TMBC, you are advised to check the TMBC website before turning up. Please note that garden waste is no longer accepted.

TMBC Waste & Recycling Service – The latest news

The new service went live in September and there are some teething problems which are expected to be resolved over the next few weeks. At the time of writing the Christmas and New Year 'catch up' dates have not been finalised, but they're expected to follow a similar pattern to previous years and will be published as soon as possible. Please contact TMBC with any concerns you have about the new service.

Streetlamps

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

Planning Applications

We have recently considered and commented upon the following

TM/19/02223/FL First floor extension on top of an existing extension at 190 Bullen Lane **NO OBJECTION**

TM/19/02268/FL Extension & dropped kerb at the Bungalow, 153 Branbridges Rd **NO OBJECTION**

Planning Decisions

TMBC HAS CONFIRMED THAT PERMISSION is NOT REQUIRED for the following:

TM/19/02060/PDVAF Change of use of agricultural building to use for storage at Barn East of Yew Tree Cottage, Bells Farm Road, Hadlow.

TWBC Local Plan - Parish Councils Response to proposals for 'Garden Village' at Capel and Tudeley

We have chosen to be an active respondent to the Draft Local Plan published by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council. As a council, we are of the opinion that:

- There would be a detrimental impact on East Peckham if so many homes were built in the neighbouring parishes of Capel and Tudeley.
- It would be unfair that the Council Tax and Business Rates would be received by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and yet the Borough of Tonbridge and Malling would bear the brunt of any problems.
- Insufficient information has been provided regarding the 'exceptional circumstances' that were used to justify the proposal for building on green belt
- The negative impact a large scale development would have on the existing infrastructure, flood plains, transport, air, light and noise pollution.

Abandoned Vehicles: <http://www.tmbc.gov.uk/services/environment-and-planning/abandoned-vehicles>.

Public Rights of Way: KCC is responsible for maintenance. The majority are cut twice each year. Any problems should be reported by telephoning 03000 417171 or email westprow@kent.gov.uk.

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

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, not unreasonably, 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.

Potholes: Report a problem to www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem. This is an 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 to report them. If you've no internet access, contact the Parish Office and we'll do it for you

Parish Emergency Planning

What If? Most of us don't want to think about emergencies, but they happen. What if we're cut off because of snowfall or flooding? What if water, electricity or telephones are cut off for more than a few hours? How would you cope in these sort of emergencies? To help the community we have put together a Community Emergency Plan which is available from our website, www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk.

How Can I help? Do you know anyone who might need help in an emergency? If you're able and willing to offer that help, talk to them and plan the best way to do this? You could become a **Flood Warden**, over the summer 2 flood wardens resigned from this voluntary community role and the village now only has 11 flood wardens, if you're interested and want 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.

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

Community Emergency Plan: We have updated our plan; a copy can be found on our website. You will also find a link to the latest version of the Kent Fire and Rescue Resilience Toolkit.

East Peckham Flood Alleviation Scheme?: Since the 2013 floods the Environment Agency has been investigating a number of options to reduce flood risk in East Peckham and Little Mill. Whilst there is a technically viable option to reduce risk to homes and businesses in both communities, through the construction of walls and embankments, the cost is substantial. Current estimates are between £3.8m and £8.4m depending on the size of the scheme. Under current funding rules these options require over 50% in partnership contributions which the Environment Agencies has been unable to source. Whilst it is disappointing that partnership funding is not available, a technically viable option remains on the table for the future should the funding rules change, or partnership funding be identified.

East Peckham Property Flood Resilience (PFR) Scheme: There is a need for action in East Peckham and the Environment Agency has decided to proceed with a PFR scheme. PFR will help minimise the impact of flooding to homes. PFR measures will include flood doors, flood barriers, and non-return valves on waste pipes and will be funded up to the value of £7,500 per property. This option would only apply to residential dwellings and so the road network and commercial areas at Branbridges would remain at risk.

In order to progress the scheme, it is important that the Environment Agency carries out threshold surveys of properties at high flood risk. This will confirm which properties are at risk of internal flooding and so are eligible for PFR measures and will involve surveyors measuring the level of each property's front doorstep, damp proof course and any airbricks. The Environment Agency is planning on carrying out these initial surveys in January and expect it to take 2-3 weeks, depending on weather conditions. Once the Environment Agency has identified the eligible properties and secured the funding they will contact residents again setting out the next steps. This will include a more detailed survey to assess suitability and specific measures for each property.

The Environment Agency has identified approximately 120 properties in East Peckham who might be eligible for PFR and they will be contacted directly. **If you are not contacted by the Environment Agency and think that your property should be considered please contact the Environment Agency for more information via email to EPFRS@environment-agency.gov.uk.**

LOCAL WINTER MANAGEMENT POLICY

This plan has been created to clarify what can be expected from EPPC. EPPC has no statutory duties to prepare for and deal with snow and ice (except around our own property). EPPC does not have the resources to make a commitment to provide a snow clearing service but we will endeavour to assist where we can.

WHERE GRITTING WILL BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE PARISH COUNCIL:

During periods of severe/persistent frost, ice or snow EPPC will **ENDEAVOUR** to treat the following locations where the public have access;

- Entrances to the Parish Office and the Jubilee Hall, Pippin Road, East Peckham
- Jubilee Hall Car Park, Pippin Road, East Peckham (main walkway from car park)

Our janitor will endeavour to grit/clear snow on arrival on site. Priority will be given to the car park and entrances to the Jubilee Hall and parish office. Where possible gritting will be carried out on a daily priority basis. It should be noted that in extreme weather conditions where transport is difficult or dangerous it may not be possible to treat the locations mentioned above. It is also to be noted that in very low temperatures the effectiveness of salt is significantly reduced. To assist us in this we have asked Kent Highways Services to supply two salt bags, one for the village centre and the other for the Jubilee Hall Car Park.

ROLE OF KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

1. To carry out such precautionary salting and snow clearing, as far as reasonably possible, to keep the precautionary salting network free from ice and snow, permit the safe movement of vehicular traffic and pedestrians and minimise delays and accidents directly attributable to the adverse weather conditions.
2. KCC takes its winter service responsibilities seriously and is proactive as well as reactive to winter weather conditions. Winter service costs KCC in the region of £3.3m every winter and needs careful management to achieve safety for the travelling public and to be efficient. KCC work to ensure that the winter service standards and decisions made are consistent across the whole county and its annual Winter Service policy and plan are used to determine actions that will be taken to manage its winter service operations.

ROLE OF TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

1. TMBC's Local Winter Service Plan complements the KCC Winter Service Policy.
2. Arrangements have been put in place whereby labour from TMBC can be used during snow days. Additionally, KCC will supply a quantity of a salt to TMBC for use on the highway network. TMBC's Local Winter Service Plan will come into effect when a snow emergency is declared that affects Tonbridge and Malling

Pavement clearance: Areas for clearing pavements have been identified in the Local Winter Service Plan. These are the areas where local knowledge has indicated that people are concerned and would most like to be kept clear when there is snow and ice.

Farmers: Contracted farmers make a difference in keeping rural areas clear on snow days. Farmers have predetermined local routes and will use their own tractor and KCC ploughs for clearing snow. When snow reaches a depth of 50mm on roads in their areas the farmers will commence ploughing notifying KCC as agreed in their contract.

PROPERTY OR LAND WHICH WILL NOT BE GRITTED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL

- Playing Field Allotment site – not a priority area
- Orchard Road Post Office – responsibility of landowner
- The Village Centre - responsibility of landowner/tenant

- Bus shelters – owned by EPPC at various locations in the Parish – access may be difficult in severe weather therefore gritting cannot be guaranteed

LEGAL ADVICE: People have been hesitant to clear snow because of fears of litigation if someone should slip on the treated area. The prospect of a person who volunteers to clear snow from a pavement being successfully sued for damages by a person who subsequently slips on the cleared area and is injured is very small.

The snow code – tips on clearing snow and ice from pavements or public spaces: Don't be put off clearing paths because you're afraid someone will get injured. Remember, people walking on snow and ice have a responsibility to be careful themselves.

Clear the snow and ice early in the day: It's easier to move fresh, loose snow rather than hard snow that's packed together. If you remove the top layer of snow in the morning, any sunshine during the day will help melt any ice beneath. You can then cover the path with salt before nightfall to stop it refreezing.

Preventing slips: Pay attention to clearing snow and ice from steps and steep pathways

Use salt or sand - not water: Don't make pathways more dangerous by causing them to refreeze. If you use water to melt snow, it may refreeze and turn to black ice which increases the risk of injuries as it's invisible and slippery. You can melt snow or prevent black ice by spreading salt on the area you have cleared. Don't use the salt found in salting bins – this will be needed to keep the roads clear. If you don't have enough salt, you can also use sand or ash. These won't stop the path icing over as effectively as salt but will provide good grip underfoot.

Take care where you move the snow: When shovelling snow, take care where you put it, so it doesn't block people's paths or drains. Make sure you make a path down the middle of the area to be cleared, so you have a clear surface to walk on. Then shovel the snow from the centre of the path to the sides.

Offer to clear your neighbours' paths: If your neighbour has difficulty getting in and out of their home, offer to clear snow and ice around their property. Check that any elderly or disabled neighbours are alright in the cold weather. If you're worried about them, try contacting their relatives or friends, or the community warden.

Get in touch

- Call into the office: 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
- Your Councillors – through the website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk
- Office hours for drop in enquiries – weekdays 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. (not Wednesdays)
- Twitter: @EastPeckhamPC
- Facebook East Peckham Parish Council

FOR REGULAR UPDATES ON ALL OUR ACTIVITIES GO TO OUR WEBSITE www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk

Parish Councillors

Mick Barton (Deputy Chairman)	Rob Harvey	Emma Wilkinson	Jonathan Bates
James Hockey (Planning Chairman)	Mark Williams	Dale Fairless	Sophie North
Craig Matthews	Michael Ferguson	Steph Watson (Chairman)	

This newsletter is available on the parish council's website. All enquiries to Karen Bell, Council Manager

Tel: 01622 871309

Email: councilmanager@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk