



EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

..... MAKING A DIFFERENCE – OCTOBER 2020

This newsletter is brought to you by East Peckham Parish Council



East Peckham Parish Council



@EastPeckhamPC

Hello Residents

We would like to start by thanking all the unsung heroes within the village during the coronavirus pandemic. From keyworkers and carers on the frontline, to the bin crews, the shelf stackers, the delivery drivers or maybe just the person who has gone the extra mile to take care of the elderly and vulnerable people within our community. We write as new restrictions have come into force, do please follow the new guidance, and keep safe. In East Peckham we enjoy a wonderful sense of community. Once this pandemic is over we look forward to bringing the community together by holding a celebratory village party, if you have suggestions for a theme, please let us know, perhaps you would like an outdoor cinema, western, circus, funfair or music festival.

At our September meeting; Mick Barton was elected our new Chairman, he will be sharing the role with Dale Fairless our Deputy Chairman (and Chairman of our Planning and Transportation Committee) until May next year when it is likely that Dale will become our new Chairman. We have also welcomed David Seal and Tim Fryer who have both been co-opted onto the Parish Council. We currently have a vacancy for one more Parish Councillor. If you're interested in becoming a Parish Councillor and have the correct qualifying criteria, please send your CV and a covering letter to councilmanager@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk detailing why you think you are suitable. The role is unpaid and does not have any power. Decisions are made collectively at public meetings, but this is an ideal opportunity if you care about the community in which you live or work and would like to contribute towards making a difference.

You will be delighted to know that all our outdoor equipment is open 24/7, we do ask that you follow our guidance, the rules are posted near the equipment. As the equipment is not being sanitized daily, we recommend using hand sanitizer before and after using the equipment. As part of our Risk Assessment procedure, our equipment was recently subjected to a rigorous safety inspection. You will be pleased to know that all the equipment has been declared safe to use. We are in the process of enacting the inspector's recommendations which are mainly of a cosmetic nature which will improve the appearance of the equipment and its environs.

We have seen an increase in the number of people using the playing fields for recreational use, which we absolutely welcome, we will continue to work hard to make the facilities the very best they can be for everyone to enjoy. We have however seen an increase in the amount of litter being left behind. Please can we ask wherever possible that you take your litter home with you. Our litter clearing service is stretched to capacity. Litter bins are being emptied and the area checked for broken glass on a daily basis, sometimes twice daily but we are finding that as quickly as bins are emptied just as much litter is appearing especially if the weather was good.

The Jubilee Hall has reopened but currently only to regular users. All users are following the new Covid-19 restrictions for their group activities. The health and safety of our staff and customers must be our prime concern. Regular users will notice that we have introduced a one-way system, hand sanitizing stations, signage and a track and trace system. We have also signed up to the NHS Test and Trace Service and have created a QR code specifically for the Jubilee Hall, posters are displayed on the entrances to the building. NHS QR codes are a quick, simple, and secure way for visitors to register that they have been to the Jubilee Hall and allows them to receive important public health messages if needed. By supporting the official NHS QR code poster system, we are helping to protect our customers which will help to slow the spread of the virus, reduce the impact of any second wave, and help normal life to resume more quickly.

Until this time next month – take care

Kind regards
Chairman, Councillors and Clerk



COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Parish Council meetings: The dates and times of our next meetings are as follows. The meetings will be held using Zoom, but you will still be able to join us. Please see our website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk for details on how to join our meetings using Zoom.

05 October 2020	7.00 p.m.	Planning and Transportation Committee
19 October 2020	7.00 p.m.	Full Parish Council

Agendas are published on the Parish Council Noticeboards on the side of the Village Stores and opposite the Primary School 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, you can request a paper copy, or you can visit our office and view the current years minutes and those which we have archived.

Staying in Touch: These are excellent sources of information so please keep checking
Facebook East Peckham Parish Council
Website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk
Twitter @EastPeckhamPC
Newsletter Published monthly on our website, also available from the Library, Village Stores and Post Office.

During the Covid 19 pandemic, the Parish Council is carrying on as normal and helping residents where we can. If you need our help you can either contact our Council Manager by email to councilmanager@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk, or Parish Councillors Dale Fairless or Mick Barton by email to mick.barton@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk or dale.fairless@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk. All of your parish councillors can be contacted via our website.

Welcome Handbook

If you are new to the village, a warm welcome. Our Welcome Handbook is available to download from our website, copies can also be obtained from your parish councillors or from our office.

Community Matters to Us

There is so much going on of interest that it is impossible to cover subjects in detail so if you want to know more about any item you can by following our Facebook, Twitter, and website. One of our aims is to deliver a greater awareness in our community of local resources and social hubs which can make a difference to all our lives. The regular features of our newsletter include information regarding the **WORK OF THE PARISH COUNCIL** and local **PLANNING** issues. Also, you will find more information of our **GRANT SCHEMES** which are available for youth projects and to groups and organisations. We are particularly interested in receiving applications from groups that aim to improve resident's health and wellbeing.

Finance

2019/2020 Conclusion of Audit

Our external audit for 2019/2020 has been concluded, our External Auditor, has confirmed that 'On the basis of our review of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 is in accordance with proper practices and no matters have come to attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regularity requirements have not been met.' In accordance with the legislation the Conclusion of Audit Notice and Section 1 to 3 of the 2019/2020 AGAR has been published on our website.

Donations to Groups and Organisations

At our September meeting we approved a **temporary Loan to East Peckham Magazine** so that its publication costs can be paid until the magazine is able to re-establish itself as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and set up new bank accounts and unfreeze its financial

assets following the sudden death of the treasurer. We would like to send our thoughts and best wishes to the family of Doug Edgar at this very sad time. Doug was a great friend to the village and to the Parish Council, we remember with great fondness the occasions when he helped us in putting on the Christmas Lights Switch on and for all his help at village fundraising events. A real unsung hero and we will miss him.

At our September meeting we also approved a donation of £180.00 towards the publication costs of **Lockdown Bear's Photo Magazine** we are delighted to have been able to help with the publication costs. All proceeds have been divided between East Peckham Primary School and the Alzheimer's Association. Thank you LDB for keeping us so brilliantly entertained during the lockdown.



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. Please look out for the leaflets at participating retailers and pick up your loyalty card. Once your card is full, please return it to one of the participating retailers. All completed cards will then be collected and entered into one of our regular draws where you have the opportunity to win our shop local vouchers.

Twinning

East Peckham is twinned with Chéreng in the Nord de Pas de Calais. Twinning activities are funded by those taking part with no use of parish funds. For information on Twinning and how to get involved please email councilmanager@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk.



The village has 3 defibrillators; they can be found on the outside wall at the Parish Office at the Jubilee Hall, in the former BT kiosk in Little Mill and in the village centre. **Anyone can use the defibrillators, no training is needed, the defibrillator will talk you through how to use it.**

Christmas Lighting

We will be providing Christmas lights in the village centre again this year. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions we are not able to confirm at this stage if it will be possible for us to organise a Switch On.



VJ Day 2020 (Victory over Japan)

15 August 2020 was the 75th anniversary of VJ Day, marking both the surrender of Japan and the end of the Second World War. We commemorated this occasion by flying a commemorative flag from the village flagpole in the centre of the village.



Compassionate Neighbours is a **social movement of local people** enabled and supported to be more compassionate in their local communities. They provide social and emotional support to people towards the end of life due to age or illness. For more information and to find out more, please contact the Heart of Kent Compassionate Neighbours team on 01622 792200 (ext. 240) or email cn@hokh.co.uk.

Environmental Enhancements Update

WINTER/SPRING HANGING BASKETS: The summer hanging baskets are still going strong however it will not be long before they are past their best and need to be replaced. Because of the delay earlier this year we are hoping to use a local contractor.

New streetlights at Drage Road and 80-82 Hale Street: An order has been passed to our contractor for the work to be carried out at the earliest opportunity.

Bus Shelter at the junction of Old Road and Crown Acres: The replacement shelter is due to be installed on 13 October 2020.

2020 Garden Competition: Judging took place during July. Prize winners have been contacted and the competition results are as follows:

Best Front Garden	1 st	25 Henham Gardens
	2 nd	42 Westwood Road
	3 rd	124 Addlestead Road
Patio Garden	1 st	102 Pound Road
Hanging Basket	1 st	24 Crown Acres
Highly Commended		5 Smithers Lane
		30 Henham Gardens
		1 The Old Dairy

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, please note however that due to Covid-19 we are currently not accepting bookings from casual users.

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

The complex consists of the Playing Fields, Car Park, Sports Hall, and Meeting Room and plays host to many regular activities such as Puppy and Young Dog Training, Tai Chi, various Keep fit classes, badminton, table tennis and Zumba; we are also the venue for the weekly Parent & Toddler Group. Coming soon we will have Yoga. Other amenities include WIFI, well-equipped kitchen, a projector, and a screen. You will find details of all of the regular events on our website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk.

Playing Fields

The playing fields are a beautiful open space and are open to all. We are very fortunate to have over 15 acres of land which is openly accessible to everyone. We are abiding by the new social distancing guidelines and our contractor is able to continue with our regular maintenance programme which ensures that the fields provide a wonderful place for you to exercise and enjoy the outdoors. The Playing fields are open and accessible 24/7, facilities include an outside gym, obstacle course, tennis court, play equipment for children of all ages, bike park, youth shelters, street snooker and a multi-purpose games area.

East Peckham Bike Park

The new bike park is taking shape and looking amazing. There is still more to do. All manual help gratefully received or if you would like to donate soil for the construction work and plants for the landscaping we would be delighted to hear from you. Your contact is Craig Matthews and you can send him an email to craig.matthews@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk.

New Outdoor Equipment

A new item of outdoor play equipment is due to be installed later this year. Parish Councillor Mark Williams has suggested that the new item of equipment be accessible to all. Whilst we have the contractors on site, they will carry out minor repairs to the play surfacing.

Allotments

We have a small area of allotments at the Playing Fields. While there are currently no vacant plots, we welcome enquiries and are happy to add you to the waiting list. The annual rents are very reasonable.



There has been a noticeable increase in dog fouling in the parish recently. If you witness dog waste not being picked up by the owner you can report this to the Community Warden or to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council. The maximum fine for dog fouling is £1,000. 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

Textile Bank

Installed in the Jubilee Hall Car Park is a purple textile bank which is proving to be popular and emptied on a regular basis. We hope it will help in our campaign for a 'greener' village.

Planning and Transportation Committee

Planning Applications: The Planning committee has recently considered the following:
TM/20/01473/LDE Storage of plant, machinery and building material and private storage of motor vehicle and tools at Land opposite September Cottage, Pinkham Lane **OBJECTION**

TM/20/01512/FL Demolition of agricultural buildings and erection of 2 detached dwellings with parking, bin storage and access at Crowhurst Coldstore, Bells Farm Road **NO OBJECTION**

TM/20/01525/FL Demolition of existing ancillary residential buildings and erection of single 1.5 storey dwelling and ancillary building (garage); associated hard and soft landscaping at Boroughs Oak Cottage, 231 Hale Street **NO OBJECTION**

TM/20/01559/FL Demolition of converted outhouse and construction of a single store side extension with pitched roof at 46 Westwood Road **NO OBJECTION**

TM/20/01639/LB Single storey rear extension to kitchen at Yew Tree Cottage, 437 Bells Farm Road, Hadlow **NO OBJECTION**

TM/20/01651/FL Extension at Merry Boys Cottages, 131 Snoll Hatch Road **NO OBJECTION**

TM/20/01674/FL Installation of new pump canopy building, pipework and working platform within Nettlestead Green pump station off Hale Street Bypass **NO OBJECTION**

Planning Decisions

TMBC HAS APPROVED the following

TM/20/00716/FL Demolition of existing building and erection of replacement buildings for East Peckham Church Community Centre with car parking, access, landscaping, and a wall for signage at East Peckham Methodist Church, Pound Road, East Peckham

TM/20/01178/FL Demolition of existing dwelling and replacement with pair of semi-detached dwellings at 7 Chidley Cross Road

TM/20/01345/RD Details of condition 4 (watching brief) pursuant to planning permission TM/20/00771/FL (single storey rear extension and internal alterations, pursuant to larger former proposal (application TM/18/01912/FL) where permission was granted on 30 August 2018) at 95 Pound Road.

TMBC HAS CERTIFIED THE FOLLOWING

TM/20/01324/LDP Siting of caravan for ancillary use at 78 Pound Road, East Peckham

Planning Enforcement Investigations

- 20/00009/USEH** **Alleged unauthorised storage of caravan and dismantling of vehicles at Branbridges Industrial Estate:** Unauthorised caravan removed from site and the land secured to prevent further unauthorised occupation.
- 20/00076/USE0** **Alleged unauthorised car wash at The Hop Farm:** TMBC has concluded that no action will be taken as the car wash has been operating for a number of years and is located on land within Maidstone Borough Council..
- 20/00101/LBH** **Alleged unauthorised works to a listed building at 14 Hale Street:** TMBC has concluded that there has been no breach of planning control had taken place.
- 20/00128/USEH** **Alleged change of use from domestic garage to scrap metal business at Rear of 5 and 7 Old Road:** TMBC will be carrying out a planning enforcement investigation.
- 20/00137/USEH** **Alleged unauthorised occupation of the site at Land Rear of Rose Mews, Branbridges Road:** TMBC will be carrying out a planning enforcement investigation.
- 20/00169/USEM** **Alleged unauthorised change in use from residential to class C2 residential institution at 75 Old Road:** TMBC has concluded that no evidence has been identified of an unauthorised change of use of the property..
- 20/00180/WORKM** **Alleged unauthorised works to form a new porch at 16 The Freehold:** TMBC has concluded that no breach of planning control has occurred.
- EP/08/002** **Works at 7 Old Road:** TMBC has confirmed work in accordance with approved plans.
- 20/00199/WORKH** **Alleged unauthorised development at Land Rear of Pumping Station, Medway Meadows:** TMBC will be carrying out an enforcement investigation.
- 20/00201/USEM** **Alleged unauthorised change in use to mixed residential business use (scrap metal business) at 370 Tonbridge Road.** TMBC will be investigating.
- EP/09/001** **Alleged unauthorised business activities taking place at 9 Chidley Cross Road, East Peckham:** TMBC is in the process of carrying out an enforcement investigation.
- 20/00207/WORKM** **Alleged unauthorised porch at 18 The Freehold.** TMBC to investigate.

Installation of Double Yellow Lines at Junction of Medway Meadows, Old Road and Branbridges Road

TMBC has advised that the lines will be installed during September. They have also advised that residents will be notified by letter and by signage erected on site. There will be a short period of time before enforcement action will commence against any disregard of the new parking restrictions.

TMBC LOCAL PLAN – THE LATEST

We have received information regarding the Local Plan Examination. Stage 1 Hearing Sessions are due to take place via Microsoft Teams on 06 – 08 October, 03 – 05 November and 10-11 November. It will be possible to watch the hearing sessions when they take place and details of how to do this will be posted on the Examinations pages closer to the start of the hearing sessions. For more information visit www.tmbc.gov.uk/lpexamcontents.

Those of you who have been following the progress of the Local Plan will be aware that land in Church Lane has been identified for a potential development of 68 homes. We have received information from Wealden Homes regarding their proposed scheme for Church Lane. Wealden Homes believes that their proposed 68 unit scheme encompasses the complete circle of life in one development. A complete mix of homes and incorporates the following:

- A scheme that will offer up 12% of the landholding as public open space
- Provisions made for the WWII Pillbox Heritage Area to be incorporated into the scheme
- A scheme that will make provisions for highways, surface water, foul water, drainage, ecology, and landscaping issues
- Community gains

The Parish Council will make no comment or judgement on the proposed scheme, until two things happen, the first is that the land is given formal approval within the Local Plan for development and the second is when we are formally been consulted by TMBC and have received approved plans for our consideration. The Plans would then be considered at one of our Planning and Transportation Committee meetings which are open to the public and you would be very welcome to attend.

Community Health and Wellbeing

Community Health and wellbeing is an important part of everyday life. It is integral to leading a happy and healthy lifestyle. As the first tier of local government and the closest port of call for residents' the parish council can play a huge role in ensuring that our community is a stronger, healthier, and thriving place to live. This can be things such as maintaining and having green spaces to walk and cycle in; community spaces to hold meetings in and being able to be social with neighbours. Parish Councils are becoming increasingly responsible for delivering services and running assets within the community. The majority of which, will directly affect the health and wellbeing of residents. By focussing on health and wellbeing, these services and assets can be run with residents at the heart. Examples of what the Parish Council is currently doing to help the health and wellbeing of the community can be seen below:

Allotments: Allotments promote a healthy lifestyle by promoting being outside, moving and being active and a healthy diet.

Gym: East Peckham has a council funded outdoor gym which promotes a healthy lifestyle for residents through keeping fit and being in green space.

Dementia Friendly Community: East Peckham is a DFC.

Carers Group: EPPC supports the carers group by providing a venue free of charge

Jubilee Hall: The use of the Jubilee Hall is a positive way to encourage a healthy lifestyle for residents. This venue allows activity organisers to organise groups and activities which allow residents to socialise as well as enjoy sports together. The Jubilee Hall brings people together of all ages and encourages a community spirit.

Playing Field: These encourage residents to walk and enjoy the green space which is essential for a healthy lifestyle. The green space is kept clean and tidy.

Planting Trees: The health and lifestyle benefits of having access to trees and green spaces are well written about. Trees are known for their calming benefits and their ability to improve air quality.

Bike Park: The bike park is a great initiative and encourages the younger generations to be outside partaking in social and healthy activity and is low in cost to the council.

Funding: We have a community grant scheme. We are happy to consider grant applications from local groups and organisations which are run to improve health and wellbeing of the community.

Over to you – What else would you like the Parish Council to do or see take place on a regular basis within East Peckham?

OTHER ISSUES YOU MIGHT FIND OF INTEREST

Streetlights: Similarly, if you have any other suggestions where streetlighting can be improved please let us know. If you notice any problems with the existing streetlights then let us know about those too.

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 annually. Problems can be reported by telephoning 03000 417171 or by sending an email to westprow@kent.gov.uk.

Anti-Social Behaviour: If you witness any incidents, 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: If you spot a vehicle wrongly parked, call 101 and our PCSO's will try and attend. Whilst the PCSO's cannot issue tickets they can issue advice notices.

Highways Repairs (including potholes): Report a problem to www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem. Funding cuts have reduced regular patrols to identify problems so KCC relies on us all to report them.

Parish Emergency Planning

What If? Most of us do not want to think about emergencies, but they happen. What if we are 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 are able and willing to offer that help, talk to them and plan the best way to do this? You could become a **Flood Warden**, we are concerned that the village is **only covered by 11 volunteer** flood wardens, if you are interested and want to find out more, we would be delighted to hear from you. We are also looking for a **Flood Warden Coordinator, someone who will liaise with our flood wardens, coordinate the opening of the sandbags and the distribution of sandbags.**

Sandbag Containers: The containers located in the Pound Road and Pippin Road car parks will be opened by any Parish Council Representative or Flood Warden if we believe that residential areas are threatened with flooding.

Flood Warnings: To receive warnings 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 Relief Scheme: The EA has submitted a funding application and will provide a further update when they are in receipt of a funding decision.

Get in touch

- Clerk to the Council, Karen Bell, Parish Office, 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 FO TO OUR WEBSITE

www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk

Parish Councillors

Mick Barton (Chairman)

Jonathan Bates

Dale Fairless (Chairman & Planning & Transportation Committee Chair)

Tim Fryer

Michael Ferguson

Craig Matthews

Sophie North

David Seal

Mark Williams

Emma Wilkinson

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