

EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

..... *MAKING A DIFFERENCE – JUNE 2020*

Working on behalf of the community

This newsletter is brought to you by East Peckham Parish Council



East Peckham Parish Council



@EastPeckhamPC

Hello Residents

As we write, we have just entered week nine of 'lockdown' and another bank holiday has passed by. We are encouraged that lockdown measures are gradually being eased and many of us are getting used to this new normal.

Here in East Peckham we enjoy a wonderful sense of community and there are many residents stepping up to the challenge. Thank you to you all for all your acts of kindness that are going on all day, every day to help us as a community get through this crisis. We do not attempt to offer any additional **primary** guidance to that on the [Government](#) and [NHS websites](#).

Our wonderful Community Support Volunteer Scheme is being coordinated by Parish Councillors Emma Wilkinson and Sophie North. Its purpose is to bring direct support to elderly and vulnerable residents across East Peckham Burnham through assistance with essential shopping and picking up prescriptions. Mental well-being is also a main focus which is why the scheme can provide anyone struggling with loneliness with regular phone calls. More information is on our website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk. We would like to hear from you if you need help or if you would like to offer to join the volunteer group. You can also email councilmanager@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk and we will be happy to get the information to you.

Looking forward, once this is over, and it will be, the Parish Council will be planning a mammoth celebratory village party for everyone, if you have any suggestions for a theme, please let us know, suggestions so far include, Cowboy and Western Theme, Circus, Funfair, Festival.

Finally, we close this newsletter by confirming that at our meeting held earlier this month that Steph Watson was re-elected our Chairman and Dale Fairless was elected Deputy Chairman. Congratulations to them both.

Stay safe, East Peckham. Our very best wishes to you and your families

From us all at East Peckham Parish Council



HM Government

Can I go out to help a vulnerable person?

You can go out to care for or help a vulnerable person, or to provide other voluntary or charitable services, following the advice set out on gov.uk. You should not do so if you have coronavirus symptoms, however mild.

Wherever possible, you should stay at least two metres away from others, and wash your hands for at least 20 seconds (or use hand sanitiser if soap and water are not available).

STAY ALERT > CONTROL THE VIRUS > SAVE LIVES

SAFE PRACTICES FOR SHOPPING (for yourself or others): Whether you are doing your shopping yourselves, or having things delivered, please make sure you are aware of all the latest guidance on ways to maximise the safety of yourselves, your family and those working in all the support networks. **We would particularly alert you to consider alternatives to cash, wherever possible.**

VOLUNTEERS and those providing food - please ensure that you have made yourself fully aware of everything you need to do to **keep yourself and others safe.**

BONFIRES: Please can we ask for your help in suspending bonfires during the Coronavirus lockdown in a bid to keep the air clear for people who are self-isolating. Can you compost rather than burn your garden vegetation during the lockdown period? People who are self-isolating rely on fresh air from open windows as they are unable to leave their homes. We can help them by not creating any pollution that could make their condition worse. Our allotment holders have been asked to suspend having bonfires for the time being.

LOCAL SHOPS AND BUSINESSES: Our thanks to all our local shops and businesses for keeping us going including the Village Butcher and Stores, East Peckham Post Office and Convenience Store, Co-op, Irelands Bakers and Field Pharmacy

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.

08 June 2020	7.00 p.m.	Planning and Transportation Committee
22 June 2020	7.00 p.m.	Full Parish Council

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.

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 We know a lot of you like to read our Parish Council newsletter, the next edition will be the June edition and will be published at the end of May.

Your Parish Council is still trying to carry on as normal and help our residents where we can. If you need our help you can either contact our Council Manager, Karen Bell by email at councilmanager@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk, our Chairman Steph Watson at stephanie.watson@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk, or you can contact any one of your parish councillors via our website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk

Bins, verges, green spaces: Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council is still working as normal and there is currently no change to bin collections, or green space maintenance, although this might change depending on future levels of staff absence. Unfortunately, however, both the green waste bin collection and the Saturday bulky refuse collection have been suspended for the time being.

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.

Welcome Handbook

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

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.



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. We realise that not all of the retailers are available too you right now but do please look out for the leaflets at participating retailers and pick up your loyalty card. The next draw will take place during the summer.



The village now has 3 public access defibrillator. 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 on the outside wall of the Merry Boys, please note however that this defibrillator will soon be relocated to the information hub in the village centre. **Anyone can use the defibrillators, no training is needed, the defibrillator will talk you though how to use it.**

We all need Something to Look Forward to – we have found a few things!

Bike Track

Work has commenced on the new bike track on the playing fields. It is looking amazing but there is still plenty more to do. All manual help gratefully received or if you would like to donate soil for the construction work and plants to the landscaping we would be delighted to hear from you.

New Outdoor Equipment

A new item of outdoor play equipment will be installed later this year. Parish Councillor Mark Williams suggested that the new item of equipment be an accessible item so we have chosen to install a swing basket which will be fully accessible to all. Whilst we have the contractors on site, they will be carrying out minor repairs to the play surfacing.

Village Planting

Our order has been placed with our supplier for the summer hanging baskets which will be installed on our posts in the village centre. The spring baskets are still looking fantastic and it is nice to know that as soon as they have passed their best that they will be replaced with the summer arrangements, we have chosen a mix of yellow, white and blue flowers this year which are our Dementia Friendly Community colours.

Memorial Bench

Thanks, must go to the 'friends' of the Merry Boys who have gifted to the village the memorial bench which we have installed on the public owned land in the village centre.

2020 Garden Competition

We are delighted to announce that the 2020 Garden Competition is going ahead this year. Despite the many Covid-19 restrictions still in place, but with more time on our hands hopefully we are all keeping our gardens up – to – scratch and that many more of you will want to enter this year's competition. This year there will be three categories for you to enter. Competition entry forms are available on our website or you can send us an email with your name, address, telephone number to councilmanager@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk. Also please tell us the category you would like to enter, this year there are three. Best Front Garden, Best Hanging basket and Best Free Standing Container.

Christmas Lighting

If you would like to see bigger and brighter Christmas Lighting in 2020 and the return of the fabulous Switch On event do please join us in fundraising and organising the Switch On event.



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, Body Pump, various Keep fit classes, badminton, table tennis and Zumba; we are also the venue for the weekly Parent & Toddler Group and the monthly carers group. Other amenities include WIFI, well-equipped kitchen, changing rooms, a projector, and a screen. Our facilities are perfect for most events. If you are looking for a venue, please contact us for details of availability and hire charges. Please note that at the present time all of our regular activities are currently suspended.

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 in the centre of the village 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 during the lockdown period. Whilst the Playing fields are currently open and accessible 24/7. We have however cordoned off the outdoor play equipment which should not be used during the current coronavirus pandemic emergency.

Textile Bank

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



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



How can I find out about Planning in my village?

The Parish Council is a statutory consultee on planning applications in the parish and has a separate planning committee which meets to discuss planning applications in the parish and agree their views and comments to be submitted to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council. These are public meetings which residents are more than welcome to attend. The Parish Council does not pass or refuse applications, these decisions are made by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council.

Councillors continue to work hard to ensure that our views are considered by the Borough Council when decisions on planning applications are made. However, people often say to us "I didn't know anything about the house being built near me! I did not see any yellow notices about this! How do I find out more about planning applications near where I live? We have put together the following guide about how you can keep yourself up to date.

- Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council will write to residential properties with an immediate boundary to the application site, but this does not necessarily include all neighbours who may be affected by the applications.
- Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council yellow site notices that are often seen on lamp posts are not displayed for all applications – generally only when the application affects a public right of way, listed building or is within a conservation area.
- Visit the Parish Councils website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk or phone the parish council office on 01622 871309 or call into the office at the Jubilee Hall.
- Visit the Parish Councils Facebook page
- Visit the Parish Councils Twitter Account @EastPeckhamPC
- Tonbridge and Malling Borough Councils website planning page
- You can comment on applications online on Tonbridge and Malling Borough Councils website or in writing to the planning officer

Planning Applications

On 08 June 2020, the Planning and Transportation Committee will be considering plans submitted by the Methodist Church for a new church and community hall, we would welcome your views.

We have recently considered the following planning applications:

TM/20/00499/FL Ancillary residential accommodation in rear garden at 78 Pound Road	OBJECTION
TM/20/00552/FL Demolition of existing agricultural buildings. Erection of 2 detached dwellings, with parking, bin storage and access at Crowhurst Cold store, Bells Farm Road	NO OBJECTION
TM/20/00574/FL Single storey side extension at 21 Russett Road	NO OBJECTION
TM/20/00576/RD Details of conditions 2, 3 and 4 of TM/19/00785/LB at Crowhurst Farmhouse, 39 Bells Farm Road	NOTED
TM/20/00743/RD Conditions of TM/19/02980/LB at The Orchard, 186 Hale Street	NOTED
TM/20/00771/FL Single storey rear extension & internal alterations. Pursuant to larger proposal (TM/18/01912/FL) where permission was granted on 30 August 2018 at 95 Pound Road	NO

OBJECTION

Planning Decisions

TMBC has APPROVED the following

- TM/20/00243//FL Removal of one chimney breast including exterior top; re-roof existing asbestos roof in dark grey slate tiles; new PVC soffits and fascia all round and dig out front lawn and convert into a driveway including adding retaining walls and low brick wall up front at 89 Pound Road
- TM/20/00283/FL Two new dormers in existing bedroom at Manna Court, 11 Hale Street
- TM/20/00450/FL Remove old pre-fabricated concrete garage and replace it by new single storey timber garage under a tiled roof at 21 Addlestead Road
- TM/20/00532/LRD Details pursuant to condition 2 of TM/19/03013/LB at The Orchard, 186 Hale Street
- TM/20/00576/LRD Details of conditions 2, 3 and 4 of TM/19/00785/LB at Crowhurst Farmhouse, 39 Bells Farm Road

TMBC has REFUSED TO PERMIT the following

- TM/20/00499/FL & Ancillary residential accommodation in rear garden at 78
TM/20/00500/LB Pound Road, East Peckham

Lower Hale Street Traffic Calming

Earlier this year Kent Highways asked for our reviews regarding the potential removal of the 'humps'. We have advised Kent Highways that we would not make a decision which could potentially have a detrimental impact upon highway safety and that until a solution could be found which would improve highway safety both the "humps" and "build outs" should remain in situ.

Highway Improvement Plan

Our Highway Improvement Plan has been submitted to Kent Highways. It details the priorities that we want taken forward during 2020. Given the finite budgetary resources not all priorities are likely to be funded however Kent Highways we look forward to discussion with Kent Highways who will provide technical advice for the best way to deliver improvements and then using this information, we will consider whether we are willing to provide funding and work with Kent Highways to deliver them. Our highway priorities for 2020 are as follows:

1. dropped kerbs along the entire length of Church Lane
2. A Highway Safety audit of the traffic calming measures in Hale Street..

The following issues will be placed on our holding list for possible inclusion in our Highway Improvement Plan for 2021

1. Additional Streetlighting – Hale Street, Medway Meadows
2. Zebra Crossing – Hale Street/Medway Meadows
3. Wider Footway – Hale Street

OTHER ISSUES YOU MIGHT FIND OF INTEREST

Streetlights: As part of our village enhancement programme, during 2020 we will be considering the installation of new streetlights. If you have any suggestions where streetlighting could be improved please let us know, similarly, 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 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: 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.

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.

Lower Hale Street Traffic Calming: We are being consulted by KCC on the removal of the lower Hale Street Traffic Calming hump by the former Harp Pub. If you have any thoughts on the matter, we would be delighted to hear from you.

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**, 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 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.

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 GO TO OUR WEBSITE www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk

Parish Councillors

Mick Barton (Deputy Chairman)

Dale Fairless (Planning & Transportation Committee Chair)

James Hockey

Sophie North

Mark Williams

Jonathan Bates

Michael Ferguson

Craig Matthews

Steph Watson (Chairman)

Emma Wilkinson

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