

EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

..... MAKING A DIFFERENCE – AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2020

This newsletter is brought to you by East Peckham Parish Council



East Peckham Parish Council



@EastPeckhamPC

Hello Residents

As we write, there has been further easing of Covid-19 restrictions which we welcome. In East Peckham we enjoy a wonderful sense of community. 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. Looking forward, once this is over, the Parish Council will be planning 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.

On 04 July 2020, our outdoor equipment was reopened. 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. The Jubilee Hall reopened on 27 July 2020, initially the hall will only be open to regular bookings and we will not therefore be taking casual bookings for the time being. This will allow us to monitor capacity against demand and our increased cleaning regime. 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 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.

We would really appreciate your help during the growing season. Please can you monitor your vegetation, hedges and trees and keep the roads and pavements outside your property clear and unobstructed for the benefit of pedestrians and other footway and highway users. Please also keep streetlights and road signs adjacent to your property clear and unobstructed. Also, if you notice any footway lights which are not working properly, let us know. Please do not forget that if you notice any highways issues, when out and about to report anything you see requiring attention to KCC Highways at <http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>. The Highways team is pretty prompt at dealing with any queries, but obviously they need to be made aware of them. Similarly, if you notice any overgrown vegetation particularly affecting our Rights of Ways, then KCC Public Rights of Way who have the maintenance responsibility would really appreciate knowing about them. To report a problem, go to the website www.kent.gov.uk/report-a-problem-on-a-right-of-way.

We will be on summer recess from 21 July 2020 to 07 September 2020. This does not mean our work stops, and you cannot contact us, on the contrary work continues as normal we just do not have any meetings and our office are reduced. You will find details of our summer recess opening hours at the end of this newsletter.

Finally, this month, we would like to advise you that we currently have 3 Parish Councillor vacancies. We expect to hear shortly if we are required to have an election to fill two of the vacancies, the third we are able to fill by Co-option. 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.

We hope you all enjoy the summer
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.

07 September 2020	7.00 p.m.	Planning and Transportation Committee
21 September 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, 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	Published monthly on our website, also available from the Library, Village Stores and Post Office.

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, 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 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, 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 Chérenge 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 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 though how to use it.**

Christmas Lighting

We will be providing Christmas lights in the village centre again this year. If you would like to see bigger and brighter Christmas Lighting and, subject to Covid-19 restrictions, a fabulous Switch On event do please join us in fundraising and organising the event.



VJ Day 2020 (Victory over Japan)

15 August 2020 is the 75th anniversary of VJ Day, marking both the surrender of Japan and the end of the Second World War. The commemorations for VJ Day will be the central part of our national remembrance and will bring home the scale of the service and sacrifice made by the entire Second World War generation. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, it is expected that national commemorations will be scaled back but here in East Peckham we will be flying a flag from the village flagpole in the centre of the village.

Allotments

We have a small are 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.

East Peckham DFC

Thank you for supporting the recent cake sale, it raised an amazing £440.00 for the Alzheimer's Association.

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

The complex consists of the Playing Fields, Car Park, Sports Hall, and Meeting Room and plays host to 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. 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 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. In September we will be considering turning an unused part of the playing fields into a wild meadow and installing a petanque court.

Bike Track

The new bike track at the Playing Fields is taking shape and looking amazing. There is plenty 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. Just contact Craig Matthews by email to craig.matthews@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk.

New Outdoor Equipment

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

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.



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

Great British September 2020 Clean (11.09.20-27.09.20)

If you or a group or organisation you represent or belong to would like to organise an event please let us know and we will forward the details onto you.

Planning and Transportation Committee

Planning Applications: The Planning committee has recently considered the following:

- TM/20/01129/FL** Change of use from A1 (retail shop) to A4 (café / wine bar) and bifold doors to replace existing shop front at 1 Pound Road, East Peckham
NO OBJECTION
- TM/20/01134/FL** Change of use from redundant public house to single dwelling with car port at The Merry Boys, 2 Pound Road, East Peckham
NO OBJECTION
- TM/20/01178/FL** Proposed demolition of existing dwelling and replacement with pair of semi-detached dwellings at 7 Chidley Cross Road, East Peckham
OBJECTION
- TM20/01345/RD** Details of conditions pursuant to planning permission TM/20/00771/FL (single storey rear extension and internal alterations, pursuant to larger former proposal (application no: TM/18/01912/FL) where permission was granted on 30 August 2018).
NOTED

Planning Decisions

TMBC HAS APPROVED the following

- TM/20/00771/FL** Single storey rear extension and internal alterations pursuant to larger former proposal (TM/18/01912/FL) where permission was granted on 30 August 2018 at 95 Pound Road where permission was granted on 30 August 2020.
- TM/20/00836/FL** Single storey rear extension at 186 Tonbridge Road, East Peckham
- TM/20/00743/LRD** Details of conditions pursuant to Listed Building planning permission TM/19/02980/LB (Removal of paint surface to front elevation and repainting using a lime wash) at The Orchard, 186 Hale Street, East Peckham

TM/20/01039/TPOC	T1 in blue on map – sycamore on right boundary – remove epicormic growth; T2 on map – Mature Lime tree – remove major dead wood – reduce two laterals from upper to crown
TM/20/00942/TNCA	T1 Walnut – Reduce the crown of the tree by the selective removal of between 2-3 metres from the branch tips depending on the opportunities for cutting back to stable live growth in each instance. This is in practice a reduction of leaf mass of approx.. 25%, taking crown radial spread from 8-9 metres to approx. 6 metres. At Walnut cottage, 4 Bullen Lane, East Peckham

Planning Enforcement

Land at Branbridges Road, East Peckham (proposed fishing lake and café): TMBC has confirmed that works can commence as long as parking is provided prior to the new leisure facilities opening to the public. TMBC has imposed strict planning conditions regarding the fishing lakes which also have to be complied with prior to opening.

Land rear of 5 & 7 Old Road, East Peckham (alleged change of use from domestic garages to scrap metal business): TMBC has opened a planning enforcement investigation

Caravan at Branbridges Road: East Peckham (alleged unauthorised occupation of site). TMBC has opened a planning enforcement investigation

Bus Stop junction of Old Road and Crown Acres: On Thursday 25 June 2020, the bus stop and shelter were demolished by an Asda Delivery Truck. Whilst the incident was an accident the bus shelter was owned by the Parish Council and we are therefore seeking our costs from the third party through our insurers. KCC will be dealing with the damaged footway and bus stop sign.

Environmental Enhancements

Coming Soon – New Streetlights: As part of our village enhancement programme, during 2020 we are planning to install two new streetlights at Drage Road and at 80-82 Hale Street. We would be pleased to hear from you if you have any comments on the proposed new lighting installations.

Coming Soon – New Planter for Corner of Medway Meadows: subject to receiving approval from Kent Highways we are planning on installing a new heavy planter at the corner of Medway Meadows similar to the East Peckham DFC one in the village centre.. We hope the new planter will deter anti-social parking at this location.

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**, 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 FO TO OUR WEBSITE

www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk

Parish Councillors

Mick Barton (Deputy Chairman)

Jonathan Bates

Dale Fairless (Chairman & Planning & Transportation Committee Chair)

Michael Ferguson

Craig Matthews

Sophie North

Mark Williams

Emma Wilkinson

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

2020 SUMMER RECESS

Our 2020 summer recess will be from 21 July - 07 September, during this time there will be no meetings and our office open hours will be reduced. This does not mean we stop work; business continues as usual; please send emails to admin@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk, twitter messages to @EastPeckhamPC or you can contact us through our website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk.

If you would like to speak to someone, please contact:

Karen Bell Parish Clerk councilmanager@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk

Dale Fairless Deputy Chairman dale.fairless@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk

Mick Barton Parish Councillor Mick.barton@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk

Our office hours will be as follows

Week Commencing	20 July 2020	Mornings only – not Wednesday
	27 July 2020	Mornings only – not Wednesday
	03 August 2020	TBC
	10 August 2020	CLOSED
	17 August 2020	CLOSED
	24 August 2020	CLOSED
	31 August 2020	Mornings only – not Wednesday

Whilst we look forward to your visits, if you have an important matter which you wish to discuss, please make an appointment so that we can make sure we are available. Karen works part time and is sometimes at external meetings and therefore not always available. If you would like to speak to a Councillor please write, phone, or email and a Councillor will contact you; alternatively, you can contact a Councillor via our website www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk. Don't forget that our website is a useful tool too where you can find out more about East Peckham and your Parish Council, on the website you will find regular updates, details of all Parish Council meetings and links to agendas, consultations and other information relevant to the whole village.