

EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

..... *MAKING A DIFFERENCE – MAY 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 four of 'lockdown' and Easter has just passed us by. Usually a time when many of us would have been enjoying the bank holiday weekend in the company of family and friends, this year has forced us into finding new ways to communicate with those around us. Wherever you spent this time I hope you managed to get in touch with those that mean so much to you.

We at the Parish Council have put this bulletin together to try to help a little during this very difficult period when all our lives have been turned upside down. Here in East Peckham we enjoy a wonderful sense of community and there are many residents stepping up to the challenge. This is not exhaustive and will not include the acts of kindness that are going on all day, every day – but is intended to signpost those who need help to what we know is available.

We do not attempt to offer any additional **primary** guidance to that on the [Government](#) and [NHS websites](#).

NEED A LITTLE HELP? If you need help with shopping, collecting prescriptions, posting mail or just a friendly chat then you may be interested to know that the Parish Council and our Community Warden has organised a volunteering support scheme. We have a group of volunteer residents who are willing to help, 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.

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

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.

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

From us all at East Peckham Parish Council

MESSAGE FROM SANDRA EDMONDS, COMMUNITY WARDEN

Well who would have thought our lives could have changed so dramatically in such a short time!

Firstly, I would like to start by saying a very big THANK YOU to all our lovely residents who are listening to and following the Stay at Home Stay Safe guidance as set down by the government. I am working closely with the Police and we have only had to speak to one or two people about how they are conducting themselves during this very difficult time. For your information Kent Police have set up a Covid 19 report on line system so if you are aware of anyone not following the rules please do not hesitate to contact them, they will be happy to visit the people concerned to offer serious words of advice or fines where appropriate.

As the time goes on though make sure you do not become complacent with the Social distancing and time you are allowed out to exercise as it is more important than ever that we listen and use the guidance set to keep us and our loved ones safe.

I am so proud to be part of the East Peckham Community and just wanted to do a few Shout outs for the people who have all pulled together to make this situation manageable.

Our Volunteers – Thank you to all our amazing volunteers who have signed up to the Community Scheme, helping some of our elderly and more vulnerable people in the village with shopping, collecting medication, dog walking or the most important thing a regular phone call to keep in touch. This is an outstanding service which really does make a difference. Thank you to Emma and Sophie for co ordinating this and making the whole scheme work and the Parish Council for supporting it.

Our Local Shops -A Big Thank you to Steve in the Village Store, Pritesh in the Post Office, All the Staff working tirelessly in both of our Co-Op stores, Hazel and her team in the bakery for going above and beyond to ensure you still have what you need from local shops and do not have to venture into the big towns and supermarkets.

My hope is you will all continue to use them when this chapter of our lives is gone.

David and Suzanne – Thanks must go to the Salvation Army who have been supporting residents and busy preparing food parcels for people in need.

And finally, yourselves! – Thank you all for listening and taking heed if you have not thought it necessary previously please follow guidelines now and continue to do so over the coming weeks. We will be watching

Let us carry on trying to be as positive as we can and together, we will get to the end of this crisis. If anyone has any problems or just wants to touch base, please feel free to call me on 07969584183.

Kind regards,

Sandra Edmonds

LOCKDOWN – WEEKLY CHALLENGES

We have seen some amazing evidence of East Peckham coming together as one with people taking part in our weekly challenges. Below is the timetable of challenges and everyone can take part, this is not just for the children, feel free to all join in.

Week Beginning	Activity
20 th April	We are all going on a Bear Hunt, we are not afraid!!!! How many bears can you see around the village, remember they may not only be

	<p>peeking out from people's windows, they may be hiding in other places too?</p> <p>What was your favourite bear, was he big or small, what colour was he / she? If you had to give your favourite bear a name what would it be?</p>
27 th April	<p>As it would have been Dementia Awareness week in May, I would love to see this week's activity reflect this. Let us all make a Blue Wreath to hang on our front doors in support of our Dementia Friendly Village. It could be blue boats, blue teddies. Blue forget me nots, whatever you chose will show people living with Dementia that we are still thinking of them!</p> <p>Be as creative as you can with what you have indoors , cannot wait to see them.</p>
4 th May	<p>Stone Painting.</p> <p>Create a funny face design on a stone from your garden. Write a little message on the back. Pop it at the end of your garden for someone passing to find and collect.</p>
11 th May	<p>Great East Peckham Bake Off!</p> <p>Ok Adults and children alike, the theme for this Bake off is 'Under the Sea'</p> <p>Bake a cake or biscuits and photograph, send photos to Sandra.edmonds@kent.gov.uk</p> <p>There will be a prize for best design for both adults and children.</p>

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Parish Council meetings: Our next meetings take place on 18 May 2020, if we remain in lockdown we will be meeting remotely via Zoom, but you will still be able to join us.

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.

Parish Council Meetings

During the unusual times we are living in, the government has rushed through new legislation which allows us to meet remotely. If we are unable to meet in person then our first 'virtual' meetings will be held
at 7.00 p.m.

on

Monday 18 May 2020

We will be using Zoom to facilitate the meeting and you will be able to join us, further information will be made available by 08 May 2020

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.

CANCELLATION OF PARISH COUNCIL EVENTS

Sadly, the following events have been cancelled

2020 Annual Parish Meeting – 27 April 2020

VE Commemorative Events – 08-10 May 2020 (See below)

Family Fun Day in aid of Dementia Awareness – 16 May 2020

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 involvement of residents in our decision making process and will consult important issues

Sustainability Policy – East Peckham Parish Council

- Is committed to preserving and protecting the environment by adopting an environmental and sustainability policy.
- Is committed to protecting the environment and natural heritage of the Parish and recognises the importance and value of this environment and its contribution to quality of life for the village and wider community.
- When carrying out our own activities will strive to make a positive contribution to protecting the local and wider environment.
- In conjunction with businesses, community groups and the general public, will aim to help meet the needs of today's society without compromising future generations' ability to meet their own needs.

Community Matters to Us

There is so much going on of interest that it 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

We are delighted to confirm that work will recommence on the bike track as soon as we can. We have accepted an offer from Mark Edwards of 'clean' soil and equipment for the further construction of the bike track and cannot wait to see the next stage develop.

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.

Best Front Garden Competition

At the time of writing the Best Kept Front Garden competition is still going ahead although the judging may take place later than the usual. If you'd like to enter this year's competition, entry is free just fill in an entry form which can be found in the 2020 Annual Report or send an email saying that you would like to enter the competition, your name and address to councilmanager@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk. We expect many more entries to judge this year and may have to have more categories such as best container, best hanging basket as well as prizes for the best small, medium, and large front gardens.

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.





First the good news, we are delighted to share with your news that our War Memorial has been steam cleaned and looks fantastic. We are also delighted that our plaque which we commissioned specially to commemorate VE Day 2020 was installed just before lockdown.

Now the bad news, unfortunately our community events to celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE Day on Friday 8th May can no longer go ahead as originally planned. This will be a great disappointment to all of you. However, some aspects of this important anniversary can still take place in ways that will allow us to celebrate the VE Day anniversary while following the essential social distancing advice that ensures that everyone remains safe. If you would like to take part, listed below are the dates and times in which you are able to do so:

FRIDAY 8th MAY - VE DAY 75

2.55pm **the playing of the Last Post – Buglers:** Trumpeters and cornet players might like to consider playing the Last Post from the safety of their front or back garden, outside their front door or from their balcony or window. We would ask you not to play in an area that could attract a group of people.

3pm **The piping of Battle's O'er and VE 75 Years:** As with playing the Last Post, individual pipers could play these two stirring marches from their front or back garden, at their front door or from their balcony or window. It is extremely important to adhere to the Government's restrictions so bands will not be able to play together, and individual pipers should not perform in areas that might attract people.

3pm **The Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW II:** We would very much like to encourage you to take part in the Nation's Toast from the safety of your homes to pay tribute to the many millions in the UK and overseas who sacrificed so much to secure the freedom we have today. We would invite you stand at 3pm and raise a glass or cup of refreshment of your choice and undertake the following toast: **"For those that gave so much, we thank you."**

6.55pm **The Cry for Peace Around the World.** Those who wish to take part can perform the Cry for Peace from their front or back garden, at their front door or from their balcony or window. The words can be found on the Download page of the VE Day 75 website - www.veday75.org <<https://veday75events2020.cmail20.com/t/r-l-jhkkhhdd-opkjiuly-r/>> . Please do not perform it from a place that might encourage people to gather.

SUNDAY 10TH MAY – Tribute to the Millions: With the churches temporarily closed due to the national lockdown, the planned services of remembrance cannot now take place. However, we will be sharing with you on Facebook and on our website a posting of Steph Watson our Chairman who will be reading the Tribute.

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

We have recently considered the following planning applications:

TM/20/00499/FL & Ancillary residential accommodation in the rear garden OF 78 Pound
TM/20/00500/LB Road

OBJECTION

TMBC LOCAL PLAN EXAMINATION

The Stage 1 hearing sessions which had been scheduled to be held on 19 – 21 May have been cancelled. More information is available on TMBC’s website at <http://www.tmbc.gov.uk/lpexamcontents>.

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

Jonathan Bates

Michael Ferguson

Craig Matthews

Sophie North
Mark Williams

Steph Watson (Chairman
Emma Wilkinson

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