

# EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

..... MAKING A DIFFERENCE – MARCH 2021

This newsletter is brought to you by East Peckham Parish Council



East Peckham Parish Council



@EastPeckhamPC

Hello Residents

We hope this email finds you all well and coping well with the latest lockdown. The latest announcements by the Prime Minister provide us with a road map out of the restrictions which is very encouraging, and we can now start thinking that we are going to return to normal. For now, though, please let us help each other get through the next few weeks.

The vaccination programme is gaining momentum with more groups being called forward to receive their vaccinations. We have been working with Field Pharmacy, the NHS and our Community Warden and absolutely delighted to be able to announce that ***you can now book to have your vaccination in East Peckham at the Jubilee Hal, Pippin Road, TN12 5BT.*** Negotiations and preparations are in the final stages, but we are hopeful that the first vaccinations at the Jubilee Hall will take place from 04 March 2021. Vaccination Bookings will be made via the NHS Website and **NOT** direct with the Jubilee Hall, your GP, or Field Pharmacy.. A lot of hard work has gone in behind the scenes to have the Jubilee Hall classified as a Vaccination Centre and we thank everyone for making it happen, Volunteers will be needed to make the Vaccination Centre run smoothly so if you can and would like to volunteer your time, please contact Sandra our Community Warden who will be our volunteer coordinator. Volunteers will be needed to marshal the car park and inside the building.





We have reactivated the East Peckham Volunteer Support Scheme – help is ready and waiting if you find that you need someone to talk to, someone to post a letter or someone to do some shopping for you. Just let us know and we will do the rest.

On 15 February 2021, we declared a Climate Emergency and have embarked upon carrying out a carbon audit of our own activities. The full text of our Climate Emergency Declaration can be found [here](#). Once this step has been taken we will design a climate action plan to ensure that all our decisions are in line with tackling climate change. You will find more information within later pages of this newsletter, if you would like to find out more do please let us know via email to [councilmanager@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:councilmanager@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk).

Steph Watson made a very welcome return to the council in February when she was co-opted. We have missed her knowledge, expertise, and enthusiasm. Sadly, Emma Wilkinson resigned her role as a Parish Councillor, we thank Emma for her input and for helping to coordinate the East Peckham Covid Volunteer Support Scheme. We currently have two Parish Councillor vacancies. One of which we can fill by co-option and we will know shortly if we can also fill the other vacancy by co-option. If you are interested, please send us a brief CV and a covering letter to [councilmanager@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk](mailto: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.

Until this time next month – stay safe and well  
Kind regards  
Chairman, Councillors and Clerk

### **Rapid Test Covid Testing available at the Hop Farm**

Residents can book a symptom free Covid-19 test. Getting a test will help provide a more accurate picture of cases in Kent and will help reduce the spread of the virus locally. Key workers and residents living in areas that have a high number of cases, without Coronavirus symptoms. Follow this link to the <https://kcc.healthit.org.uk/covbook/home> website, read all the information and click to Begin Booking at the bottom of the page

### **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](http://www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk) for details on how to join our meetings using Zoom.

01 March 2021	7.00 p.m.	Planning and Transportation Committee
15 March 2021	7.00 p.m.	Full Parish Council

### Agendas and Minutes

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](http://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

The following are all excellent sources of information so please keep checking

Facebook	East Peckham Parish Council
Website	<a href="http://www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk">www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk</a>
Twitter	@EastPeckhamPC
Newsletter	Published monthly on our website, also available from the Village Stores and Post Office.
Annual Report	Published in early March of each year, available on our website and from the Village Stores and Post Office

During the Covid 19 pandemic, we have been 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](mailto:councilmanager@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk), or Parish Councillors Dale Fairless or Mick Barton by email to [mick.barton@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:mick.barton@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk) or [dale.fairless@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk](mailto: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 on 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. If you would like to know more about any item you can by following our Facebook, Twitter, and website. We aim to deliver a greater awareness in our community of local resources and social hubs which make a difference to our lives. Regular features of our newsletter include information regarding our work and local planning issues. Also, you will find information of our grant schemes for youth projects and to groups and organisations. We are particularly interested in receiving applications from groups that aim to improve health and wellbeing.

### Parish Council supporting local Groups and Organisations

During 2020/2021 we have given a **Loan to East Peckham Magazine** so that its publication costs could be paid until it was able to re-establish itself as a Charitable Organisation. This year, we have also contributed towards the publication costs of Lockdown Bear's Photo Magazine and we have made donations on behalf of the East Peckham community to the Salvation Army, the Royal British Legion, the Paddock Wood Community Advice Centre and to the Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance. We have made funds available to provide Year 6 children at the Primary School with first aid training. If there is a project that your group or organisation would like our help with, do please get in contact with us.



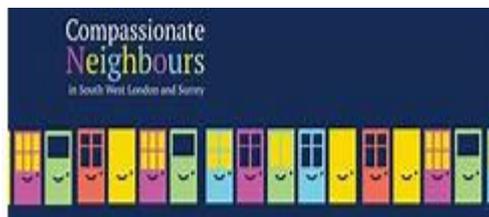
The village has 3 defibrillators; they are on the outside wall at the Parish Office at the Jubilee Hall, in the former BT kiosk in Little Mill and inside the information hub in the village centre.



Have you heard about the East Peckham Loyalty Scheme? Now, more than ever our small independent shops need our help. Participating shops include the Post Office, Village Butcher and Store, Pam's Pantry, Irelands Bakery, Pound Fish Bar, Headlocks Hair Design, Khan Spice and Field Pharmacy. 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 shops or to the Parish Office at the Jubilee Hall. All completed cards will 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](mailto:councilmanager@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk).



Compassionate Neighbours is a **social movement of local people** enabled and supported to be more compassionate in their local communities. To find out more, please contact the Kent Compassionate Neighbours team on 01622 792200 (ext. 240) or email [cn@hokh.co.uk](mailto:cn@hokh.co.uk).

### JUBILEE HALL - FANTASTIC VENUE AVAILABLE IN EAST PECKHAM

When Covid restrictions are eased and the hall is no longer being used as a Vaccination Centre, we look forward to reopening the hall and welcoming back our regular users.

We have two rooms available (sports hall and a smaller meeting / committee room) and can accommodate most activities.

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. The council has recently approved an exciting £25,000 upgrade to the changing rooms and work should be finished by the end of March 2021.

Please email [councilmanager@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:councilmanager@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk) for more information



### Jubilee Hall

The complex consists of the Playing Fields, Car Park, Sports Hall, and Meeting Room. When it is able to fully reopen it will play host to many regular activities such as Puppy and Young Dog Training, Tai Chi, various keep fit classes, Yoga, badminton, table tennis and Zumba; we are also the venue for the weekly Baby & Toddler Group.

### Playing Fields

The playing fields are a beautiful open space and are open to all. We are 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 is looking amazing. All manual help gratefully received. If you would like to donate soil for the construction work and plants for the landscaping we would be delighted to hear from you.

### New Outdoor Equipment

A new item of outdoor play equipment is due to be installed soon. Parish Councillor Mark Williams has suggested that the new item of equipment be accessible to all. We will also be jet washing and carrying out repairs to the play surfacing, not only will it look better but we will be prolonging its usefulness.

### 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](mailto: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 it is emptied on a regular basis. We hope it will help in our campaign for a 'greener' village. We would ask however that if the bin is full that you do not place bags of donated goods onto the ground. They become damp and it is a shame when they then have to be discarded. If the clothing bank is full you could instead put them into the one at the Salvation Army Hall in The Freehold.

## Climate Change – Time for a Better Environment



Had it not been for this terrible pandemic, which has dominated the news for the past year, probably the biggest topic would have been the environment. A massive conference scheduled to take place in Glasgow last year, now rescheduled for later in 2021, was set to make huge steps in countering global warming. But this is not just an issue that can be left to world leaders to resolve. In fact, not just the UK government has formulated a plan to achieve 'carbon neutrality' (not to release more climate warming gases than we absorb) by 2050, so too has KCC. And even closer to home, so too has TMBC (by 2030).

But it cannot stop there. Ultimately, tackling climate change is everyone's responsibility. If we want to leave a planet that our children and grandchildren can enjoy then we all need to play our part, including the people of East Peckham. Our village does not need to be reminded of the negative effects of climate change. A Met Office study has shown that an extended period of extreme winter rainfall in the UK, similar to that seen in winter 2013/14, is now about seven times more likely due to human-induced climate change. And despite the skill and bravery in times of need by those involved in the flood defences around the village, it cannot always prevent the devastation to certain parts of East Peckham when the floods are unstoppable.

So, what do we do? While East Peckham Parish Council has always strived to maintain and improve the local environment. Our first step has to been to declare a climate emergency, recognising the problem and our responsibility to do something about it. Next we will do a carbon audit of Parish Council activities and use that to create a plan to achieve carbon neutral by 2030. But there is more that can be done, particularly if the community works together on this including:

- Creating a task force to establish a green agenda that includes developing a resilience policy and engaging in flood defence measures
- Developing a tree maintenance programme
- Develop and promote green transport plans including safe routes to school
- Provide access to Electric Vehicle charging points
- Ensure the Jubilee Hall is as energy efficient as possible
- Use green energy sources and environmentally friendly products
- Plan for a green community in a Neighbourhood Development plan
- Limit the use of plastics, especially single use plastics within the council
- Reduce waste and recycle as much as possible
- Protect important open spaces and carbon sinks and consider creating a community orchard and / or wildflower meadow and more allotments
- Maximise the use of open spaces to provide recreational opportunities.

We are looking to get a task force together to formulate our Environment and Neighbourhood Development plans. Anyone in the village is invited to take part – there is no need for prior experience or planning knowledge, all that is needed is to have ideas on how to make East Peckham an even lovelier place! If you are interested in taking part in these task forces, or just have observations about how the environment can be improved in East Peckham, please send an email to [tim.fryer@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:tim.fryer@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk). We look forward to hearing from you.

Hopefully, together, we can use these new projects to preserve all the good things in our village, improve where we can, and ensure we are sustainable for the future.

## East Peckham Parish Council Climate Emergency Survey



East Peckham Parish Council has declared a Climate Emergency in the recognition that carbon emissions from industry, transport, our homes, and other sources will cause a disastrous increase in global temperatures unless drastic action is taken by us all. Our aim is to reduce to zero the Council's carbon emissions in its buildings and activities by 2030 and to achieve a significant reduction in emissions in East Peckham parish by the same date.

To help us do this we are inviting you in this survey to tell us what actions you are taking in the face of climate change and to give us your suggestions.

1. Are you male or female? M      F      Other
2. How old are you?              0-17    18-29   30-49   50-64   65+
3. How concerned are you about climate change? Please circle 1 2 3 4 5 ( 1 Not at all to 5 Very concerned)
4. What actions would you take at home? (Please circle actions you favour)
  - a) Switch to 100% renewable energy tariff for your fuel bills
  - b) Use a timer, thermostat & heating controls to set heating & hot water
  - c) Install renewable energy generation such as solar panels
  - d) Install a smart meter so you know how much energy or water you use
  - e) Step up insulation and draught-proof your home
  - f) Grow your own fruit and vegetables
  - g) Eat local, organic, seasonal produce
  - h) Eat more plant-based foods
5. What actions would you take to increase wildlife? (Please circle actions you favour)
  - a) Set aside space in your garden or balcony for wildlife
  - b) Garden organically using natural pest and weed controls
  - c) Keep your garden green e.g., avoid installing decking or artificial grass
  - d) Join a wildlife conservation group or organisation
  - e) Leave an opening in garden fence as a wildlife corridor
  - f) Create a pond and bug hotel
6. What are the four top actions you would like us to take on climate? (Please circle actions you favour)
  - a) Plant many more trees and hedges
  - b) Initiate a community energy scheme to power more local homes e.g., by waste heat
  - c) Install electric vehicle charging points
  - d) Provide bike racks

- e) Promote cycle/pedestrian routes
- f) Increase areas for wildlife in the Council's open spaces and on road verges
- g) Develop community gardens to provide fruit and vegetables
- h) Initiate/encourage local food market
- i) Provide grants to local schools for carbon reduction projects
- j) Start a community composting scheme
- k) Place recycle bins in Council's open spaces and parks

7. What actions would you take to reduce waste? (Please circle actions you favour)

- a) Reduce your purchases
- b) Buy from charity or reuse shops
- c) Repair, reuse, or restyle items such as clothes
- d) Recycle everything possible e.g., food, batteries, textiles
- e) Cut down food waste
- f) Compost leftovers in compost bins

8. Which of the following would you like to learn more about? (Please ring the actions you favour)

- a) Switching to renewable energy tariff
- b) Insulating your home
- c) Joining a car-share club
- d) Repairing your clothes
- e) Choosing environmentally-friendly products
- f) Finding out your local bus route and times
- g) Cooking healthy, sustainable food on a budget
- h) Cycling safely
- i) Making your garden more wildlife friendly
- j) Growing your own food
- k) Arts & crafts with recycled materials

8. Do you have any other comments or suggestions for responding to the climate emergency? (please use a separate sheet if necessary)

Thank you for responding. We need to ensure you live in the parish, so please include your details below. They will only be used for the purposes of this survey and in accordance with our Privacy Notice. They will not be used in any other capacity by East Peckham Parish Council or shared with other parties. Permission can be withdrawn at any time by contacting the Council.

Name -----

Email address -----

Home address -----

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Please email your response to [councilmanager@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:councilmanager@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk) or send to East Peckham Parish Council, The Jubilee Hall, Pippin Road, East Peckham, TN12 5BT.

The closing date for replies is 31 March 2021



### Planning and Transportation Committee

**Planning Applications:** We have commented as follows to TMBC who are the Local Planning Authority:

- TM/20/02941/FL** Conversion of outbuilding into a self-contained retirement home with off street parking for 2 cars, utility area and courtyard garden at Willow Cottage, 1 Church Lane **NO OBJECTION**
- TM/20/02976/FL** 2 windows at 5 Archers Park, Branbridges Road **NO OBJECTION**
- TM.20/02991/MIN** Approval of details of Landscaping Restoration & aftercare at Stonecastle Quarry, Hartlake Road, Golden Green **NOTED**
- TM/21/00070/FL** Extension over existing ground floor at Tudor Dene 36 Church Lane **NO OBJECTION**
- TM/21/00105/RD** Details of lighting layout plan, in respect of new pump canopy building, pipework and working platform at Nettlestead Green pump station **NOTED**
- TM/21/00115/LB** Removal of existing modern plasterboard ceiling due to water damage and new ceiling in-fill between joists at Crowhurst Farmhouse 39 Bells Farm Road **NO OBJECTION**
- TM/21/00116/LB** Replacement of beam at Crowhurst Farmhouse, 39 Bells Farm Road **NO OBJECTION**
- TM/21/00117/FL** Cafe to support fishing lakes at Recreation Land West of Branbridges Industrial Estate, Branbridges Road **NO OBJECTION**

#### **Planning Decisions**

**TMBC HAS APPROVED** the following

- TM/20/02545/RD** Floor levels, materials, landscaping, and boundary treatment, watching brief, refuse and desktop study submitted pursuant to planning permission TM/20/01512/FL (Demolition of 2 agricultural buildings and the erection of detached dwellings with associated parking, bin storage and access) at Crowhurst Coldstore, Bells Farm Road, East Peckham
- TM/20/02606/FL** Change of use from detached double garage and store with games room/studio and w.c to a detached dwelling at 15 The Freehold East Peckham Tonbridge Kent TN12 5AB

**TMBC** had advised that the following application **HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN**

- TM/20/02491/FL** New café to support previously approved fishing lakes at Recreation Land West of Branbridges Industrial Estate, Branbridges Road

#### **TMBC HAS CERTIFIED THE FOLLOWING**

- TM/20/02232/LDE** Storage of Cars for commercial purposes at Land Adjoining Pumping Station Medway Meadows, East Peckham
- TM/20/02702/LDP** Dropped kerb either side of driveway 3 Strettitt Gardens

**Planning Enforcement:** TMBC is investigating the following

- 21/00015/USEM** Alleged unauthorised use as a care facility at 75 Old Road

## Community Health and Wellbeing

Community Health and wellbeing is an important part of everyday life. It's integral to leading a happy and healthy lifestyle. The parish council plays 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, 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. We are already doing many things to help the health and wellbeing of the community such as providing allotments, outdoor gym, Jubilee Hall, Playing Fields, Planting Trees, Bike Park but there are other things we can consider doing. So; **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:** If you've any suggestions for where streetlighting can be improved please let us know. If you notice any problems with existing streetlights then let us know about those too.

**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 email to [westprow@kent.gov.uk](mailto: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.

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

**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 problems to [www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem](http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem). 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](http://www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk).

**How Can I help?** Do you know anyone who might need help in an emergency? If you're able and willing to offer that help, talk to them and plan the best way to do this? You could become a **Flood Warden**, the village is **only covered by 10 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 if we believe that residential areas are threatened with flooding.

**Flood Warnings:** To receive warnings register on the website [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk) or telephone 0845 988 1188.

**Community Emergency Plan:** We've 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 Resilience Scheme:** The EA has advised that they are proceeding with the East Peckham Flood Resilience Scheme and will be writing to the 270 properties at high flood risk in East Peckham advising that they will be going ahead with the scheme, confirm which properties are eligible and provide initial details such as how much the scheme will cover and examples of types of Property Flood Relief measures.

**Local Winter Management Policy:** We have updated our Local Winter Management Policy for 2020. You will be able to download a copy from our website. It provides information on what you can expect from us, TMBC and KCC.

### 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](mailto:councilmanager@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk)
- Your Councillors – through the website [www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk](http://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
- [www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk](http://www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk) for regular updates on all our activities

### **Parish Councillors**

Mick Barton (Chairman)

Dale Fairless (Deputy Chairman & Planning & Transportation Committee Chair)

Michael Ferguson

David Seal

Emma Wilkinson

Jonathan Bates

Tim Fryer

Sophie North

Mark Williams

2 vacancies

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