

## DRIVING IN FLOODWATER \*

- Only drive through water if you know how deep it is.
- Drive slowly and steadily to avoid creating a bow wave, and allow on-coming traffic to pass first.
- Keep the engine revving by slipping the clutch otherwise water in the exhaust could stall the engine.
- Test your brakes as soon as you can after driving through water.
- If you break down in heavy rain, don't leave the bonnet open. The engine will be hard to start if the electrics are soaked.
- Driving through water at speeds above a slow crawl can result in water being thrown onto pavements, soaking pedestrians or cyclists (*and our homes - EPFG*). You could face a fine of £2,500, with the extra punishment of between three and nine penalty points if the police believe you were driving without reasonable consideration to other road users.
- The air intake on many modern cars is located low down at the front of the engine bay and it only takes a small quantity of water sucked into the engine to cause serious damage. All engines are affected but turbo-charged and diesel engines are most vulnerable.

## CONTACTS

**Sue Chalkley (Chairperson)**

---

\* from AA website: [ww.theaa.com](http://ww.theaa.com)

[/allaboutcars/winter/motoring2](http://allaboutcars/winter/motoring2).

117 Snoll Hatch Road  
East Peckham  
TN12 5EA  
(01622) 871926

### Clare Hawkins (Treasurer)

Cornerways'  
138 Hale Street  
East Peckham  
(07899) 661947

### Sarah Newall (Secretary/Newsletter)

17 Old Road  
East Peckham  
TN12 5AS  
01622) 872518

## USEFUL NUMBERS

Floodline 0845 988 1188  
(When you get through, the quick code for our area is 0126414)

Tonbridge and Malling BC 01732 844522

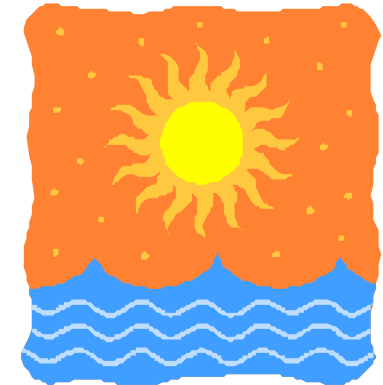
Police 01732 771055

Fire brigade HQ 01622 692121

## PLEASE NOTE

These notes are based on the experience of EPFG members. If in doubt at any time, do not attempt any act which may put you in danger, and rely on the emergency services.

# EAST PECKHAM FLOOD GROUP



## ADVICE LEAFLET FOR VILLAGERS

## ABOUT US

EPFG is a formally constituted group.

Our objects are:

" to represent the common interests of the residents of, and businesses located in, East Peckham to make national and local government, government agencies, utilities, landowners and other persons or bodies aware of the causes and consequences of flooding in the village and to press for a concerted approach to future flood prevention"

We see communication as a vital role that we can perform and do our best to share whatever information there is about latest events/decisions. We hold monthly meetings, which are open to all and distribute a monthly newsletter to a growing mailing list, currently standing at 350.

We are also part of East Peckham Flood Relief Partnership. This group has been set up by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council to bring together all the various agencies to address our flooding problem. The Council and the Partnership have endorsed this leaflet.

## PREPARING FOR A FLOOD

We all hope and pray that the Village will never again have to cope with flooding to the extent that has been experienced over the past few years.

However it has to be sensible to be prepared and so we have drawn up some notes that we hope you will find useful.

## HELPING YOUR NEIGHBOURS

Often, in a flooding situation, the emergency services are very stretched and it is unrealistic to expect them to

cope with every individual's special circumstances. This is when a Village like ours can show the strength of our community spirit.

Please be aware of elderly and frail people who live near you and, if there is a risk of flooding either to their home, or to, for example, routes to the shops or doctors, offer whatever help you can.

If the area is flooded, even if it is just in the road, please avoid flushing toilets, using washing machines, dishwashers, baths or anything that creates more wastewater.

Let others at risk of flooding know if you become aware that flooding is imminent.

## OUTSIDE YOUR HOME

✓ Nominate a neighbour, whose own home will not be flooding, to contact the police about closing the road.

✓ Try to keep any road closure safe with lighting, reflective material etc, so it can be visible in the dark.

✓ Park your car well away from the water. You will not want to go back out in the flood water to move it if the flood rises.

✓ Nominate a neighbour to keep drains clear outside, so the water can get away as quickly as possible. It is helpful to mark the positions of drains on nearby walls (with the permission of the owner), so they can be located under the water.

✓ Be very careful walking in flood water. There is often a current that can sweep you away, and drain or manhole covers may have lifted.

## PROTECTING YOUR HOME

✓ Sandbags are now stored at the

playing fields and behind the Curran Hall. The Parish Council holds keys to the containers. Please use them only if your home is under a **real** risk of flooding.

✓ Mark the position of airbricks etc in advance as these can easily be forgotten when they disappear under dirty floodwater

✓ Make or buy flood barriers for doors, these can be more effective at keeping water out than sand bags

✓ When putting down sandbags remember to cover airbricks and other areas where water could gain access into your home.

✓ Wash clothes and skin after contact with flood water

✓ Watch animals that have come into contact with floodwater, as it is contaminated.

✓ Bolt down any man hole covers, within the boundaries of your property, that might flood into your property.

✓ Keep children out of the floodwater, as in the past it has been contaminated with sewerage.

✓ Be aware that running flood water of even modest depth can easily knock you off your feet.

✓ Take care with electrics - water conducts electricity. If in doubt turn off the supply at the mains.

✓ Keep the following easily accessible in the dark:- torch, candles and first aid kit, some clean water and wellington boots.

# East Peckham Flood Group

## NEWSLETTER

August 2003

Residents will be aware that a Multi-Agency Steering Group has been set up, which brings together considerable expertise from a wide range of agencies in an effort to reduce the flooding problems in East Peckham

The aim of this newsletter is to keep residents and businesses, from East Peckham, informed on matters relating to flooding. It also provides information on the East Peckham Flood Group meeting dates and contact information.

### Last meeting and apologies

Apologies to anyone who missed the recent meeting; the previous newsletter incorrectly stated that the meeting would be held on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2003 – it was in fact held on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2003 at the Man of Kent Pub at Little Mill.

To clarify, meetings are always on the last Tuesday of every month, at the Man of Kent pub. If anyone who missed the meeting would like to receive a copy of the minutes, please contact Sarah Newall on 01622 872518.

Ian Walton (a consultant engineer and hydrologist for Weeks engineers) and Stuart McLeod (Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council Engineer) attended the last meeting to answer resident's queries. The main issues that were discussed are shown in this newsletter:

### Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at the MAN OF KENT PUB at Little Mill on Tuesday 26 August 2003 at 8pm.

We hope that a representative from the Environment Agency will be able to attend - this is an opportunity for residents (particularly those from Little Mill) to ask any questions they may have about the flooding and the EA's role.

### Contact Details

<b>Sue Chalkley</b> (Chairperson) 117 Snoll Hatch Road East Peckham TN12 5EA (01622) 871926	<b>Clare Hawkins</b> (Treasurer) Cornerways' 138 Hale Street East Peckham TN12 5JB (07899) 661947	<b>Peter Clymer</b> (Tech/Research) Walnut Tree Cottage 50 Addlestead Road East Peckham TN12 5DJ
<b>Sarah Newall</b> (Secretary/Newsletter) 17 Old Road East Peckham TN12 5AS (01622) 872518	<b>Julia Winn</b> (Press Secretary) 30 Snoll Hatch Road East Peckham TN12 5ED (01622) 873142	<b>David Poole</b> (Chair of EPPC Emergency Planning Group) 9 Orchard Road East Peckham TN12 5AN (01622) 872023

## What happens now?

Of the 13 'proposed' schemes devised by the technical sub-group of the Multi-Agency Steering Group, 2 or 3 are not now likely to go ahead as evaluation has not indicated sufficient benefits. But this does still leave 10 proposed schemes that are still being considered.

**The most likely scheme to proceed**, which the technical sub-group, believes is the main solution to the problem, is to construct a dam on the Coult Stream upstream of the village. At times of flooding, this would reduce the flow into the stream, allowing the Coult Stream to be used for draining the highways and land runoff within the village.

The aim is that the dam will be constructed to cope with a 1 in 100 year flooding occurrence (there is a 1% chance of this occurring each year). DEFRA (Department of Environment, Fisheries and Rural Affairs) spending rules require a 3:1 ratio of benefits to cost. Therefore, it should be noted that information provided by residents as to when they flooded and what they lost will be very helpful in justifying any scheme.

At present construction is planned to begin and be completed in summer 2004.

The Technical sub-group is now working on a funding bid to DEFRA. It is hoped that the funding application will be submitted by DEFRA by December 2003/January 2004 as funding is allocated on a 'points' system to ensure that it is given to the most viable flood prevention schemes. East Peckham has potentially a high 'points' score.

Margaret Beckett MP (head of DEFRA) has turned down the request (put forward by John Stanley MP) to visit East Peckham to witness the after effects of the flooding. The reason cited was heavy ministerial engagements at present. We felt that the publicity that would have been generated would have been beneficial. A visit may also have added support for the bid to secure DEFRA funding for the proposed flood prevention schemes.

### **Another approach**

Another approach will be to offer farmers free advice on how agricultural practices may affect flooding and pollution. Advice where needed will be given by FWAG (Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group) in confidence without reference to T&MBC (Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council) or the E A.

T&MBC and the EA have both allocated funds that will be matched by EU funding. The FWAG, who are already running a similar scheme in Somerset, have agreed to make a presentation to local farmers, which the E A will also attend. T&MBC have arranged the evening.

## Little Mill

The current proposals for flood prevention only cover the Coult Stream catchment area – they do not cover the River Bourne, which was the source of flooding for many properties in Little Mill in the New Year.

Because the River Bourne is classed as a main river, only the EA has authority to consider flood prevention schemes. A representative from the EA will attend the next meeting on 26 August 2003 – this is an opportunity for Little Mill residents to put forward queries/questions they may have about what the EA plans to do.

DEFRA will scrutinise any proposed flood prevention methods for the Coult Stream to ensure that any 'knock on effect' would not be to the detriment of any other area.

**There are various reasons why East Peckham Floods, once excess rain has fallen. The following ideas have been put forward and investigated:**

- ❑ Excessive land runoff onto the highway
- ❑ Insufficient highway drainage capacity (Highway drainage is not designed to deal with excessive land runoff)
- ❑ High water levels in the Coult Stream which then can not accept other water i.e. from the highway and land

### Highway drainage capacity

The highway drainage system was not designed as a flood prevention system. Although any 'inefficiencies' in the system could be improved (as has already happened with the improvements along Old Road and Pound Road), Kent County Council Highways unit can not permit the highway drainage system to be used as a major flood prevention scheme. Money allocated for highway drainage can not be spent on flood defence.

### Ditches

Many residents felt that loss or poor maintenance of ditches was partly to blame for the recent flooding. However, Ian Walton pointed out that the presence of long, straight ditches might actually be counter-productive in terms of flood prevention as it could speed up the flow of water into the village.

The Coult Stream, due to its small size and clay soil, already has a very short 'lag time' (the time taken for water within the catchment to arrive at the stream).

Meandering ditches may be more suitable.

## **Transco Gas Pipeline**

The effect of the gas pipeline on the flooding problem within the village (particularly within Little Mill) was discussed at length. Many residents suspected that the construction of the pipeline was a major cause of the recent flooding problem, possibly due to changes in the strata of the land.

Neither Ian Walton nor Stuart McLeod believed that the construction of the pipeline had had any significant impact on the flooding problem. They did not believe that it was capable of carrying large volumes of water, or had altered the strata to a great degree. In their view, the flooding incidents in both 2000 and 2001 were the result of significant rainfall and circumstances at the time.

<p>The Transco gas pipeline is laid on a gravel bed. However, clay collars are laid at intervals along its length to prevent it becoming a conduit for ground water flow. In some place where groundwater conditions dictate that more collars are required, for example, near or under a watercourse, the collars may be as little as 8 meters apart</p>
---

Ian Walton stressed that, although it was understandable to do so, residents should avoid blaming the flooding on changes that had taken place in the village recently such as the pipeline and the bypass. As this means that they avoid focusing their efforts on those particular issues to the detriment of other, far more probable causes.

## **REMINDER**

The next meeting will be held at the MAN OF KENT PUB at Little Mill on Tuesday 26 August 2003 at 8pm.

**East Peckham Flood Group**

# East Peckham Flood Group

## NEWSLETTER

September 2003

Since August 2003, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council (TMBC) have been assisting with the composition and production of this newsletter at no charge. We are very grateful for their help in producing the newsletter, not least because it enables us to give more detailed and up-to-date information to residents of East Peckham.

### Last Meeting - 26 August 2003

Neil Gunn, Strategic Planning Engineer, and Ian Nunn, Operations Engineer, both from the Environment Agency, both attended the last meeting to answer resident's queries and give information about the Environment Agency's work in the area.

### Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at the MAN OF KENT PUB at Little Mill on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2003 at 8pm.

Meetings are always held on the last Tuesday of every month at the Man of Kent pub at Little Mill.

### Contact Details

<b>Sue Chalkley</b> (Chairperson) 117 Snoll Hatch Road East Peckham TN12 5EA (01622) 871926	<b>Clare Hawkins</b> (Treasurer) Cornerways' 138 Hale Street East Peckham TN12 5JB (07899) 661947	<b>Peter Clymer</b> (Tech/Research) Walnut Tree Cottage 50 Addlestead Road East Peckham TN12 5DJ
<b>Sarah Newall</b> (Secretary/Newsletter) 17 Old Road East Peckham TN12 5AS (01622) 872518	<b>Julia Winn</b> (Press Secretary) 30 Snoll Hatch Road East Peckham TN12 5ED (01622) 873142	<b>David Poole</b> (Chair of EPPC Emergency Planning Group) 9 Orchard Road East Peckham TN12 5AN (01622) 872023

## **The Catchment Flood Management Plan ('CFMP')**

The Environment Agency is currently creating a CFMP for the River Medway catchment. It is a 'broad brush' approach that will identify how the catchment will respond to all possible hypothetical eventualities. It aims to look forward to the next 50 years, and will also consider the possible effect that any flood prevention schemes will have on the catchment as a whole.

The CFMP for the River Medway has experienced delays due to technical problems with the construction of a digital terrain model (DTM) of the catchment (a DTM is a software contour map). The Environment Agency expects it to be completed by Christmas 2003.

The CFMP will then go through a public consultation stage. Councils, experts and local interest groups – such as East Peckham Flood Group – will have the opportunity to comment.

The Environment Agency will then develop a strategic framework based on the CFMP. Possible schemes will be assessed and approved or eliminated. However, the Environment Agency is aware of the urgent flooding problems within East Peckham. If there is a flood prevention scheme which fits with the approach of the CFMP, it may be possible to work outside the strategic framework within government spending rules.

### **Little Mill Area**

The August 2003 newsletter explained that current flood prevention schemes only covered the Coult Stream and not the River Bourne, which was the source of flooding for many properties in Little Mill in the New Year.

Residents of Little Mill requested further clarification from the Environment Agency as to why this distinction was made and the Environment Agency's plans for the Little Mill area. They expressed concern that flood prevention in the Little Mill area was being overlooked in favour of flood prevention in the centre of East Peckham.

The Environment Agency responded as follows:

- The Environment Agency is responsible for the River Bourne; the IDB (Medway Internal Drainage Board) and Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council are responsible for the Coult Stream.
- DEFRA views the Coult Stream separately to the River Bourne – therefore in terms of funding a flood prevention scheme a distinction would also be made.
- In addition, it is unlikely that that engineering on the River Bourne will affect the Coult Stream – it therefore makes sense to look at the two areas as separate entities.

The possibility was raised as to whether the Environment Agency should have a separate 'point of contact' with Little Mill residents.

The Environment Agency is currently in the process of modelling the River Bourne and obtaining information about flooding patterns. Therefore, many of the questions raised by Little Mill residents about the causes and possible solutions to the flooding problem could not be accurately answered – only estimated answers could be given.



## Little Mill Area - continued

The Environment Agency has stressed that obtaining further information about the flooding is key, and also that it is critical to get the facts correct. By collating all of the observations given by residents a picture can be pieced together of what happened.

The Environment Agency would like to send a questionnaire to all properties within Little Mill to obtain more information on flooding patterns and effects. They plan to meet with Peter Clymer and David Poole (Chairman of the Parish Council Emergency Planning Group) to draw up a suitable questionnaire.

The earliest possible date at which a flood prevention scheme could begin to be constructed within Little Mill is summer 2004. Regrettably, the Environment Agency is unable to deliver a project between now and winter 2003/04. Construction during periods of when heavy rainfall may occur runs the risk of worsening flood risk for residents.

### Specific issues covered at the meeting were:

**The road bridge** (next to the Man of Kent pub): Ian Nunn felt that this was more than likely a main factor in the flooding problem, in that the small size of the bridge may cause the water to 'back up' during peak flow. However, the bridge is the responsibility of the TMBC Highways Agency so any alteration to the structure would need their approval.

**Weeds:** Residents suggested dredging of the weeds on the River Bourne between Hadlow and East Peckham prior to the flood season. However, if this were done now, there would be immense regrowth of the weeds within 6 weeks. This will be carried out, but not until regrowth of the weeds will be minimal.

**Dredging** – The River Bourne was last dredged 7/8 years ago, therefore it is in fairly good condition – not much can be done to improve it further. Too much dredging between East Peckham and Hadlow could cause flooding to be worse as water might arrive very quickly at the Man of Kent.

### Emergency Plan

Sue Chalkley will write to the Parish Council for an update on the local element of the Emergency Plan – as the 'flood season' gets closer it's important to be sure that there is an up to date plan in place, particularly for older/more vulnerable residents.

## Flood Warning systems

Residents expressed concern that the flood warnings issued by the Environment Agency during the New Year flooding were not received until the flooding had occurred.

The Environment Agency is only able to give warnings about river flooding. It is unfortunately not able to warn about flooding caused by runoff from land or via small streams. This is because it is not possible to have a rain gauge installed within every field and in the case of very small streams, the 'lead time' is too short for a warning to be produced.

The flooding within East Peckham over the New Year was caused by a very heavy rainfall on the North Downs. The primary cause of flooding within the village was due to runoff from surrounding land. This is why the Environment Agency warnings were inconsistent with the flooding event.

The Environment Agency aims to improve its flood warning systems for this winter via the information it receives via a telemetry system (Kent radar station at Detling) into the flood warning centre. It hopes that this will provide a much-improved flood warning system for the area during winter 2003/04.

The Environment Agency urged East Peckham residents to subscribe to its automated voice/fax message flood warning system, and avoids having to call the 'Floodline' number, which is often busy during such times.

**To subscribe to the automatic flood warning system, call the Kent Flood Warning Team on 01732 875587. Explain that you live within Little Mill/East Peckham and ask to be put on the AVM.** You will be talked through the process, and they will also explain the benefits and limits of the system to you.

Residents can also obtain advice on protecting their properties from flooding via this number. They can also visit the website for the Flood Protection Association:

[www.floodprotectionassociation.org.uk](http://www.floodprotectionassociation.org.uk)

The FPA is a trade organisation of companies which provide 'standalone' defences for properties. Some of these companies have a kitemark from the Environment Agency and HR Wallingford.

### REMINDER

The next meeting will be held at the MAN OF KENT PUB at Little Mill on Tuesday 30 September 2003 at 8pm.

# East Peckham Flood Group

# East Peckham Flood Group

## NEWSLETTER

October 2003

Residents will be aware that a Multi-Agency Steering Group has been set up, which brings together considerable expertise from a wide range of agencies in an effort to reduce the flooding problems in East Peckham.

The aim of this newsletter is to keep residents and businesses, from East Peckham, informed on matters relating to flooding. It also provides information on the East Peckham Flood Group meeting dates and contact information.

Meetings are always held on the last Tuesday of every month, at the Man of Kent pub at Little Mill.

**Next Meeting – Tuesday 28 October 2003 at 8pm**

### Last Meeting – 30 September 2003 UPDATE

No 'guest speakers' attended the last meeting. As the Multi-Agency Steering Group was to be held on 20 September 2003, it was felt that the best option would be for Stuart McLeod (Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council Engineer) to attend the next meeting to be held on 28 October 2003 to update residents.

### Contact Details

<b>Sue Chalkley</b> (Chairperson) 117 Snoll Hatch Road East Peckham TN12 5EA (01622) 871926	<b>Clare Hawkins</b> (Treasurer) Cornerways' 138 Hale Street East Peckham TN12 5JB (01622) 873371	<b>Peter Clymer</b> (Tech/Research) Walnut Tree Cottage 50 Addlestead Road East Peckham TN12 5DJ
<b>Sarah Newall</b> (Secretary/Newsletter) 17 Old Road East Peckham TN12 5AS (01622) 872518	<b>Julia Winn</b> (Press Secretary) 30 Snoll Hatch Road East Peckham TN12 5ED (01622) 873142	<b>David Poole</b> (Chair of EPPC Emergency Planning Group) 9 Orchard Road East Peckham TN12 5AN (01622) 872023

## Questions raised with the Parish Council

Bearing in mind the possibility of future flooding within the village this autumn/winter, Sue Chalkley wrote to the Parish Council to enquire about the current status of the Emergency Plan. We were particularly interested in the following:

- **Elderly and ‘vulnerable’ people**  
How does the plan provide for elderly or vulnerable people within the parish, many of which received very little assistance during the last flood.
- Parish Council response was - It does not feel it is possible to create a list of elderly or ‘vulnerable’ people within our village who may need help during a flood. This is mainly because such a list will require constant updating to ensure that it does not become out of date.
- ✓ This group feels that it would be possible to create its own list of elderly or ‘vulnerable’ people who might need assistance in a flood. Please let Sarah Newall or Sue Chalkley know if you feel you will need to receive help during a flood – for example, with moving belongings/furniture/sandbags, and with evacuation of your property if necessary. If possible, we may try to assign a fellow resident who lives nearby to offer help if flooding does occur. We will also pass on any information of this nature to the Parish Council to include in the Emergency Plan.
- **Sandbags**  
Details of how residents can access the sandbags stored within the village if necessary.
- Parish Council response was - There are three keys to the sandbag containers, each of which is held by a parish councillor
- ✓ There is currently no plan in place that allows residents to obtain the keys to the sandbag containers if those councillors that hold the keys can not be contacted during flooding. One possible solution was that residents could obtain their own sandbags. Sandbags can rot if not stored in a well ventilated, dry place, therefore it may be more practicable to obtain a separate supply of bags and sand which can be assembled if necessary. Another possible solution would be to approach the Borough Council about possible bulk buying of sandbags at a discount.
- **Flood Wardens**  
There is currently a network of flood wardens who act as a ‘flood warning tree’, however, there are vacancies. How and when are flood wardens going to be trained in their role?
- The Parish Council did not respond to this question
- ✓ If you are interested in becoming a flood warden within the village, please contact Sue Chalkley for further information on the description of the role.

It was agreed that we would ask David Poole (Chairman of the Parish Council Emergency Planning Committee) to talk through the Emergency Plan at the next meeting and answer residents queries if necessary.

### **Advice Leaflet**

A leaflet offering practical advice and tips about what and what not to do in the event of another flood has now been produced and endorsed by Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council. Volunteers will distribute this to every house within the village in the near future.

If you are able to help with distribution of the advice leaflet, please let Sue Chalkely know – all help will be very much appreciated as there are approximately 1,700 leaflets to deliver!

### **Other News/Update**

- ❖ Sue Chalkley has contacted the National Flood Forum, and they would like to have a summary of what East Peckham Flood Group is doing.
- ❖ Although there are still outstanding legal issues with one of the affected households regarding maintenance, the Borough Council has confirmed that the cleaning of the Fell Mead culvert (which runs underneath several properties) will go ahead. Before the new custom made linings can be installed, there must be a 24hr 'dry' period. This work will ensure that the Coult stream will be improved.
- ❖ Planned reservoir/dam project near Bullen Lane – soil surveys have now been completed and the preliminary Environmental Impact Assessment work has been done. The next step is to agree on a valuation of the land with the current landowner. A meeting has been set up with the panel engineer, which is necessary because the reservoir is planning to hold over a certain volume of water at full capacity. As previously reported, the Multi-Agency Steering Group is currently working on an economic appraisal for DEFRA funding for the project.
- ❖ The Environment Agency has sent out another, more detailed postal questionnaire to residents to try and obtain further information about previous flooding incidents, only a few of which are now outstanding.

## **Flood Prevention Work**

Some residents are interested in having flood prevention work carried out on their properties, but are keen to ensure that companies are reputable. It is not possible for the East Peckham Flood Group to endorse a particular firm or firms. But if any residents have had work completed and are willing to provide details of the firm which carried out the work or would be happy for other residents to view the work which has been done, please let Sue Chalkley know.

The National Flood Forum ([www.floodforum.org.uk](http://www.floodforum.org.uk) 01299 403055) also provides details of the type of products available and a list of firms which carry out flood prevention work or supply flood prevention systems.

## **Photographs**

Both the Environment Agency and the Parish Council are keen to obtain photographs of previous flooding within East Peckham. If you have any photos of previous flooding events within the village – either inside or outside a property, please could you send them to either David Poole or Peter Clymer at the contact addresses listed? They will only 'borrow' the photos for 48 hours and promise that all photos they received will be returned

## **REMINDER**

The next meeting will be held at the MAN OF KENT PUB at Little Mill on Tuesday 28 October 2003 at 8pm.

**East Peckham Flood Group**

# East Peckham Flood Group

## NEWSLETTER

November 2003

Residents will be aware that a Multi-Agency Steering Group has been set up, which brings together considerable expertise from a wide range of agencies in an effort to reduce the flooding problems in East Peckham

The aim of this newsletter is to keep residents and businesses, from East Peckham, informed on matters relating to flooding. It also provides information on the East Peckham Flood Group meeting dates and contact information.

Meetings are always on the last Tuesday of every month, at the Man of Kent pub at Little Mill.

**Next Meeting Tuesday 25 November 2003 at 8pm**

### Last Meeting - 28 October 2003 UPDATE

Neither Stewart McLeod or Rob Wetherill of Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council were able to attend the meeting as planned as they were both on leave. They both sent their apologies. Both plan to attend the next meeting.

### Contact Details

<b>Sue Chalkley</b> (Chairperson) 117 Snoll Hatch Road East Peckham TN12 5EA (01622) 871926	<b>Claire Hawkins</b> (Treasurer) Cornerways' 138 Hale Street East Peckham TN12 5JB 01622 873371	<b>Peter Clymer</b> (Tech/Research) Walnut Tree Cottage 50 Addlestead Road East Peckham TN12 5DJ
<b>Sarah Newall</b> (Secretary/Newsletter) 17 Old Road East Peckham TN12 5AS (01622) 872518	<b>Julia Winn</b> (Press Secretary) 30 Snoll Hatch Road East Peckham TN12 5ED (01622) 873142	<b>David Poole</b> (Chair of EPPC Emergency Planning Group) 9 Orchard Road East Peckham TN12 5AN (01622) 872023

## Multi-Agency Steering Group meeting on 2 October 2003 – UPDATE

- The Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group - FWAG - (which has received EU funding to carry out projects with local farmers to improve land use practices) held a meeting recently at Leavers Manor Hotel near Hadlow. This was well attended, with 16 local farmers, the majority of whom signed up for the project. Arrangements were made for FWAG to visit local farms throughout October/November. The aim is that improved land use practice will reduce runoff from surrounding farmland, thus reducing the risk of flooding within the village.
- TMBC and the Medway IDB (Internal Drainage Board) plan to clear out the watercourse under Bells Farm Lane.
- The Technical sub-group of the Multi-Agency Steering Group has carried out a full topographical survey of the Coult Stream catchment as part of the bid to DEFRA for funding the proposed 'dam' on the Coult Stream. They now need to model the stream in detail to demonstrate to DEFRA the benefit that the proposed scheme will have. They must also 'model' how the road to/from the scheme acts as a 'watercourse' during flooding.
- The engineering consultants Weekes are carrying out the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed dam scheme. Babbie, a large, experienced engineering firm, has been engaged to advise on the scheme. It will also act as the panel engineer to 'sign off' the dam project.
- Following information received from residents of Pinkham Lane, the Environment Agency is to inspect the Mill Stream.
- Southern Water has completed a CCTV survey of the entire sewerage system within the village – news of the results is expected in a few weeks.



## Other News

- **Insurance** – if any residents are experiencing difficulty obtaining home/contents insurance, they should contact the Environment Agency on the local contact number (West Malling office 01732 875587).
- **Recent Environment Agency leaflet** – the EA recently distributed an informative and helpful leaflet to all households in East Peckham with details on what they can do to protect their property from flooding, plus information on the Floodline number. As stated in previous newsletters, the EA does operate an automatic telephone/fax warning system in East Peckham which is an alternative to the Floodline number, which is often extremely busy. If residents not already part of this system wish to be placed on the list, please contact the EA on the local number (01732 875587) and request to be added to the AVM warning system. Similarly, if you did not receive a copy of the leaflet, it may be best to contact the EA on this number.
- **Sandbags** – we incorrectly stated in the last newsletter that there were 3 keys to the sandbags currently stored within the village, each held by a different member of the Parish Council. This is actually incorrect (apologies). There is 1 key at the Parish Council office and two at the Borough Council offices.
- **Vulnerable residents** – in the last newsletter we requested that any residents who felt that they would require some form of assistance during a flood should get in touch with Sue Chalkley. We aim to try and ‘match up’ those residents with neighbours who feel they will be able to help! So far we have received one response – a resident in Addlestead Road, who, because of current restricted mobility, would require some help with moving possessions and/or sandbags. If anyone would be kind enough to offer assistance in the event of future flooding, please contact Sue Chalkley.
- **Questionnaires** – the EA is still collecting questionnaires distributed to all households in the village last month. The importance of these questionnaires cannot be stressed enough – the more factual information the EA obtain about flooding within the area, the more effective a bid they will be able to make to DEFRA for funding the proposed Coult Stream dam (and possibly future schemes). Therefore, if you have not completed and/or returned the questionnaire, please try to do so as soon as possible.
- **Practical advice leaflets** – offering ‘do and don’ts’ to residents – approximately 1,700 copies have been kindly produced free of charge by the Borough Council and will be distributed by volunteers from the flood group during the next few weeks. Spare copies will be left in local shops.
- **Stilstead House road culvert** – it was pointed out that this culvert has collapsed and has been blocked for approximately the last 4/5 years. Residents do not believe that any work yet carried any work to unblock it. It was agreed that the issue will be raised with Stewart McLeod at TMBC, who is the point of contact for this type of information.

## **\*\*Petrol Station/services development – Important! Please Read\*\***

As residents may know, planning permission for this development has been approved. However, the developer has now applied to change the terms of the planning permission approval – they would like a particular condition of the approval removed.

### **Background/details:**

- The reference number for the original planning application was TN/02/00626/FL (construction of roadside services).
- There are two culverts which run underneath Branbridges Road. The Tudeley Brook runs through one of the culverts; the other contains an 'earth bridge'.
- Condition 10 of the planning permission approval was that the developer would remove the earth bridge from the ditch/culvert so the Tudeley Brook is able to flow through both culverts, taking floodwater away from the area.
- The developer has now stated that they are unable to find anyone to carry out this work. As such, they want a variation of the condition/the condition to be removed from the planning permission approval, so that the development can go ahead without it.

The flood group is very concerned that the removal of this condition would lead to an increased risk of flooding and we believe that as many people as possible should raise an objection to the variation or removal of the planning condition in question. However, objections must be raised by 12 November 2003.

**To raise an objection, you simply need to contact Kevin Wise at TMBC Planning Department to let him know, by phone, email or fax, as below:**

Phone: 01732 876303 (direct line)  
Fax: 01732 876363  
Email: kevin.wise@tmbc.gov.uk

The reference number for the new application by the developer to have the condition removed is **TN/03/03252/FL** – you will need to quote this.

**Mr Wise has said that he will welcome any objections raised by local residents.**

**PLEASE NOTE - Any objections must be raised by 12 November 2003.**

# East Peckham Flood Group

## NEWSLETTER

November 2003

Residents will be aware that a Multi-Agency Steering Group has been set up, which brings together considerable expertise from a wide range of agencies in an effort to reduce the flooding problems in East Peckham

The aim of this newsletter is to keep residents and businesses, from East Peckham, informed on matters relating to flooding. It also provides information on the East Peckham Flood Group meeting dates and contact information.

Meetings are always on the last Tuesday of every month, at the Man of Kent pub at Little Mill.

**Next Meeting Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2004 at 8pm**

(Please note: no December meeting)

### Last Meeting - 25<sup>th</sup> November 2003 UPDATE

Discussions centred on the emergency plan in place for the village in the event of another flood. Mike Ingram, Chief Building Control Officer TMBC, and Rob Wyles, Emergency Planning Officer KCC, attended to explain the plans and David Poole from the Parish Council (who attends most meetings anyway) was able to brief us on the position regarding the Parish Council's emergency plan.

### Contact Details

<b>Sue Chalkley</b> (Chairperson) 117 Snoll Hatch Road East Peckham TN12 5EA (01622) 871926	<b>Claire Hawkins</b> (Treasurer) Cornerways 138 Hale Street East Peckham TN12 5JB 01622 873371	<b>Peter Clymer</b> (Tech/Research) Walnut Tree Cottage 50 Addlestead Road East Peckham TN12 5DJ
<b>(Secretary/Newsletter)</b>  Vacant position	<b>Julia Winn</b> (Press Secretary) 30 Snoll Hatch Road East Peckham TN12 5ED (01622) 873142	<b>David Poole</b> (Chair of EPPC Emergency Planning Group) 9 Orchard Road East Peckham TN12 5AN (01622) 872023

## Emergency Plan

Mike Ingram explained that overall responsibility for emergency planning rests with the County Council but KCC works closely with the borough council and parish councils in dealing with an emergency. The KCC's plan is complemented by local borough and parish council plans that can be adapted to meet more local circumstances. KCC are developing a one stop contact centre to deal with calls passed on from other agencies.

TMBC would be the lead agency for managing an emergency in East Peckham. TMBC's emergency plan has just been revised. The version now in place has taken into account lessons learnt from the flooding over last New Year and is more comprehensive than before. TMBC are now confident that there are sufficient staff, from both the Council and Ringways contractors, on standby over the Christmas and New Year holiday period.

There is also a parish emergency plan that is under revision. For the time being the Parish Council have adopted the model emergency plan recommended by TMBC, this can be adapted to meet the particular needs of East Peckham, and any revisions to the model will be discussed by the Parish Council before further liaison with our group.

The above applies if there is one flooding incident but if there were multiple incidents, the lead agency would then be the Police.

**From our point of view, if there is an emergency:**

**Ring Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council 01732 844522.** This number is open **24 hours a day**. This is the only number we need to know about. The operators will take any queries connected with the emergency situation and make sure that they are dealt with, even if they are not the Borough Council's direct responsibility.

The Council, on being notified of an emergency, will then open up an Emergency Centre at Kings Hill to control and co-ordinate the plan in action.

Residents are encouraged to ring **01732 844522** if they are vulnerable in any way or know of someone else who is in trouble. The Emergency Centre can then make sure that help is directed first to people who need it most. The Centre will also work closely with KCC who have Social Services records and, if necessary, can access information for instance about where there are elderly or disabled people who may need special help.

More locally, it is the Parish Council's responsibility to manage the distribution of sandbags and the flood warden team. In 2000 the Parish Council also set up a 'Command Centre' in East Peckham School. This was the responsibility of the Parish Clerk and controlled the Flood Warden system. KCC and TMBC are responsible for supplying bedding and food for the 'Command' centre.

There was some discussion about the flood warden system. Their role is to inspect danger spots in areas likely to flood, to call for assistance if necessary, to warn householders when flooding is possible and to keep the parish council informed about any need for more sandbags, help with evacuation, moving furniture, pumping out, drying out etc.

There was a degree of uncertainty about whether or not some of the flood group members were wardens (they had been in the past) and David Poole was asked to see if it was possible for the

team of flood wardens to receive an annual briefing about their role, so that they could be clear about what was expected of them.

There was also discussion about how to overcome inevitable problems when flood wardens, who are volunteers, are away (especially over a holiday period) and how the system could be made more robust to cover for vacancies. David was also asked if the Parish Council could consider advertising for Flood Wardens, as there are a number of vacancies at present.

The Environment Agency offers a 24 hour flooding service on 0845 988 1188 which offers information and advice on all matters related to flooding. During a flood you can call this number and obtain up to date information about current and expected river levels in the main river network. When the weather is less extreme general information about flooding and the agency's automated flood warning system can be had.

## **Other News**

### **Secretary and Newsletter Editor**

Sarah Newall has resigned from this position and we are very sorry to lose her. Sarah has worked tirelessly to prepare the monthly newsletter and co-ordinate its distribution. The group extended its thanks to Sarah for all she has done to over the past year and we wish her well for the future.

The big question now is – are there any volunteers who would be prepared to take this on? If you are interested please ring Sue Chalkley who can explain more about what the role entails.

### **Correspondence**

We have received a copy letter from Professional Planning Services, addressed to TMBC, Policy and Conservation. The letter indicates that correspondence is ongoing about building housing on land to the rear of the Rose and Crown Pub.

The National Flood Forum has contacted us about their annual conference to be held in the Midlands on 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> March 2004. They have started producing a newsletter and the first is now available.

The Parish Council has written to clarify the position on the emergency plan. The group noted the letter and its contents have been included in either last month's or this newsletter.

### **Elderly and vulnerable people**

So far one resident has contacted us for help if flooding occurs and a near neighbour has offered to provide her with assistance if necessary.

### **News from the Technical Group**

Fell Mead culverts are being cleaned now. It is now too wet to over pump and keep the culvert dry for long enough for the linings to dry, so this work will be left until next year. Although the majority of the culvert appears to be sound, there are concerns for the section beneath Pound Road and this is currently being investigated by KCC's Bridge Manager.

The Environment Agency and Weeks Consultants have now started discussions with the landowner about the dam and holding reservoir. This is the main project being considered to protect the village and work is underway to prepare a robust case for a bid to DEFRA in February 2004. If the bid were successful, the work would commence in the summer 2004.

However, the Technical Group is concerned that many residents are not being honest about whether their home was flooded. The plans are based on information that 30 or more homes were affected by run off (more than half those flooded in total) but despite carrying out home visits, the group are struggling to find more than 20 householders who will now admit to being flooded. Weeks Consultants are now modelling water levels across the parish to identify that properties have flooded. This work would not be necessary if householders were honest about their situation.

If you are one of these householders, or know someone who is, PLEASE understand that the Village has a golden opportunity to have measures put in place to protect it from flooding. **The reluctance to admit that your home has flooded is likely to jeopardise chances of DEFRA funding for the dam and reservoir.** The priority score for funding has recently been increased to 20. Previously we had 20 points with 30 properties, so it is vital that the Technical Group has honest and accurate information from all, or our bid will not be successful.

The FWAG (Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group) project is progressing well with 7 farms signed up so far. One local farm has already received advice on farming practices from one of FWAG's agronomists

The next Flood Relief Partnership meeting is on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2004. We hope to be able to arrange for someone from the Technical Group to attend our meeting on 27<sup>th</sup>, to explain the proposals that will form the bid to DEFRA in February 2004.

### **News from the Environment Agency**

Investigations on the Bourne at Little Mill have shown a surprising discrepancy between the river capacity upstream and downstream of the siphon. It is very much higher upstream than downstream and further work is being undertaken to identify the cause and how this can be remedied. The Agency is surveying the Bourne to identify low spots in the bank upstream and dredging is starting on the downstream pinch point. The judicious raising of the banks may be carried out when the low spots have been identified, although the Agency has to be cautious not to simply move flood risk from one area to another.

The Middle Medway Strategy is now released for public consultation and is available on the following website: <http://kbrgis.halliburton.com/ea/medway/medway.htm> This strategy ranks flood prevention schemes in terms, for instance, of environmental impact and cost benefit. The River Bourne does not currently rank very high because it is hard to achieve a good cost benefit ratio. The River Medway at East Peckham does rank high but no specific schemes are proposed, as this may be manageable by Leigh Barrier.

Neil Gunn is now the project manager for the Catchment Flood Management Plan. He will soon be announcing the start of the statutory consultation phase on this.

# East Peckham Flood Group

## NEWSLETTER

January 2004

Residents will be aware that a Multi-Agency Steering Group has been set up, which brings together considerable expertise from a wide range of agencies in an effort to reduce the flooding problems in East Peckham

The aim of this newsletter is to keep residents and businesses, from East Peckham, informed on matters relating to flooding. It also provides information on the East Peckham Flood Group meeting dates and contact information.

Meetings are always on the last Tuesday of every month, at the Man of Kent pub at Little Mill.

**Next Meeting Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2004 at 8pm**

### Last Meeting – 27<sup>th</sup> January 2004 UPDATE

Stuart McLeod, Principal Engineer, for Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council explained progress on the plans for dam and reservoir on the Coult Stream, which would protect the village from everything up to a one in a hundred year flood. The discussions therefore centred on the main village flooding.

Neil Gunn and Leslie Mannini from the Environment Agency will be attending the February meeting. The Environment Agency is responsible for the Bourne and the Medway, which cause flooding at Little Mill and Pinkham respectively. Leslie Mannini will be advising about flood protection methods and will be showing a video.

### Contact Details

<b>Sue Chalkley</b> (Chairperson) 117 Snoll Hatch Road East Peckham TN12 5EA (01622) 871926	<b>Claire Hawkins</b> (Treasurer) Cornerways 138 Hale Street East Peckham TN12 5JB (01622) 873371	<b>Peter Clymer</b> (Tech/Research) Walnut Tree Cottage 50 Addlestead Road East Peckham TN12 5DJ (01622) 872565
<b>Nick Hale</b> (Secretary/Newsletter) 13 Old Road East Peckham (01622) 872344	<b>Julia Winn</b> (Press Secretary) 30 Snoll Hatch Road East Peckham TN12 5ED (01622) 873142	<b>David Poole</b> (Chair of EPPC Emergency Planning Group) 9 Orchard Road East Peckham TN12 5AN (01622) 872023

## **Progress on the dam and reservoir**

The Technical Sub Group arranged for a level survey to be carried out during January to assess floodwater levels, which may result for various intensities of storms. This survey was necessary as a result of poor results from the paper questionnaire.

The survey has put the programme back two weeks, but this is not critical and all is in hand for the bid, or Project Appraisal report (PAR), to be submitted to DEFRA at the end of February 2004. The PAR contains a technical report and proposal and a cost benefit analysis, from which a score is created. Only submissions that have a score of 20 points or more will be considered by DEFRA this year. We are hoping that the survey just carried out will enable a score of more than 20 to be achieved but at this time the data is still being analysed.

The capital cost of the project is approximately £450,000. Consultants, Baptie, have been retained to validate the cost benefit analysis and ensure the PAR is as well prepared as possible, so that the bid stands the best chance of success.

## **Other News**

### **Secretary and Newsletter Editor**

Nick Hales very kindly volunteered to take on this role. His contact details are shown on the front page.

### **Correspondence**

We have received a letter from the Parish Council in response to ours about the Flood Warden system. The PC has explained that they assume that flood wardens wish to remain unless they inform the PC otherwise.

Also, in response to our query about the vacancies, it was explained that adverts in parish magazine have not been successful in the past. They have asked if there are any volunteers from our group. This suggestion was discussed but it was thought preferable for flood wardens to be people whose own properties were not at risk, so they could devote the necessary time to their flood warden duties in the event of a flood. We agreed to help in the recruitment as these are such vital roles and have included an advert later in this newsletter.

We also asked the parish council whether flood wardens could receive an annual briefing and have been informed that all wardens have copy of flood warden plan. The PC is conscious that flood wardens are all volunteers and an annual briefing might make the task too onerous. This suggestion will though be considered at a future PC meeting.



## **The National Flood Forum annual conference**

This is being held at Edgbaston Cricket ground on the evening of 19<sup>th</sup> March and all day 20<sup>th</sup> March 2004. Sue Chalkley is travelling up on the Saturday and there is space in the car if anyone would like a lift.

Speakers include Baroness Barbara Young (Chief Executive of the Environment Agency), Margaret Burrup (Toolkit Team, Severn Trent Water Networks Sewerage), Tom Crossett (Lewes Flood Action), Sarah Bunney (North Wessex Flood Warning Team) and James Marsden (Head of Policy, English Nature).

Other speakers not yet confirmed are: Elliot Morley MP (Minister for Environment and Agriculture), Peter Bye (Environment Agency Board Member), Jane Milne (Manager, Household and Property, ABI), Jenni Burton (Chair, RAFT Community Flood Group, Cheshunt) and Paddy Tipping MP

The fee per delegate, for the Saturday only, is £25 + VAT (£29.38)

## **Annual General Meeting**

We will be holding our first AGM on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2004. All committee members and officers are required to retire each year and are eligible for re-election, by show of hands, at the AGM.

Nominations for officers or Committee members and notice of any resolution have to be made in writing by the proposer and seconder to the Secretary by 16<sup>th</sup> March 2004.

A nomination form will be supplied to members on request. If you would like to become a member, please contact Nick Hale for a membership form. The annual subscription is £20.00 (£10.00 concessions) - although we are not collecting subscriptions at present because we have sufficient funds for our needs.

## **Multi Agency Steering Group meeting 29<sup>th</sup> January 2004.**

Cllr Matthew Balfour (Cabinet member for Planning and Transportation), and David Hughes (Chief Executive) from Tonbridge and Malling BC attended, as this was the final meeting before the submission to DEFRA.

Ian Walton (Weeks Consultants) gave an extremely interesting (and understandable!) presentation about the work of the Technical Sub Group over the past twelve months. He explained the causes of the flooding, remedial work undertaken to date, information about rainfall and flood flows, the options considered, details about the Coult Stream flow, details of the construction and effect of the proposed dam and explained how the bid to DEFRA was being put together.

This presentation will also now be made to the full Cabinet on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2004 and arrangements are in hand for the same presentation to be made to a public meeting in East Peckham, hopefully after our AGM on 30<sup>th</sup> March. This is a really useful presentation and, in partnership with the Council, we will send out promotional literature during March, so that as many people as possible have a chance of being able to attend.

# **VOLUNTEER FLOOD WARDENS REQUIRED**

Would you be prepared to help the Village cope in the event of a flood??

Flood wardens are responsible for inspecting danger spots in areas likely to flood, calling for assistance if necessary, warning householders about likely flooding and keeping the Parish Council informed about any need for more sandbags, help with evacuation, moving furniture, pumping out, drying out etc.

If you are interested and would like to find out more, please contact:

Mrs Karen Bell  
Clerk to East Peckham Parish Council  
3 The Freehold  
East Peckham  
TONBRIDGE  
Kent TN12 5AA

01622 871309  
[parish-council@eastpeckham.fsnet.uk](mailto:parish-council@eastpeckham.fsnet.uk)

# East Peckham Flood Group

## NEWSLETTER

May 2004.

Residents will be aware that a Multi-Agency Steering Group has been set up, which brings together considerable expertise from a wide range of agencies in an effort to reduce the flooding problems in East Peckham

The aim of this newsletter is to keep residents and businesses, from East Peckham, informed on matters relating to flooding. It also provides information on the East Peckham Flood Group meeting dates and contact information.

Meetings are always on the last Tuesday of every month, at the Man of Kent pub at Little Mill.

**Next Meeting Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2004 at 8pm**

### Last Meeting - April 2004 UPDATE

It was agreed that in the future, formal meetings with a theme and a guest, would be held every other month. These will start in June. On the alternate last Tuesday there will be an informal meeting for general discussion and any updates. If there is anything you wish to know or any information you have to impart, please come along.

The first formal meeting will be held on **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June**, where it is hoped to have a progress update on the Little Mill consultation from the Environment Agency.

### Contact Details

<b>Sue Chalkley</b> (Chairperson) 117 Snoll Hatch Road East Peckham TN12 5EA (01622) 871926	<b>Claire Hawkins</b> (Treasurer) Cornerways' 138 Hale Street East Peckham TN12 5JB 01622 873371	<b>Peter Clymer</b> (Tech/Research) Walnut Tree Cottage 50 Addlestead Road East Peckham TN12 5DJ
<b>Nick Hale</b> (Secretary/Newsletter) 13 Old Road East Peckham TN12 5AS (01622) 872344	<b>Julia Winn</b> (Press Secretary) 30 Snoll Hatch Road East Peckham TN12 5ED (01622) 873142	<b>David Poole</b> (Chair of EPPC Emergency Planning Group) 9 Orchard Road East Peckham TN12 5AN (01622) 872023

## **Residents Meeting Thursday 1st April**

A successful and very informative presentation was held by the East Peckham Flood Relief Partnership on the 1<sup>st</sup> April at the Curran Hall. Over 50 members of the public attended along with representatives from all the participating agencies and our M.P. Sir John Stanley.

Since the meeting the funding application has been submitted, we now await news of success or failure with the bid.

### **A.G.M**

The AGM was held on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March. All the officers were re-elected, except Sarah Newall who has resigned .Her place has been taken by Nick Hale (ably assisted by Alison, his wife - i.e. she does the work and he takes any credit!).

### **Other News**

Although we are optimistic that the funding application will be successful and that the building of the dam will go ahead, there remains plenty to be done in relation to flooding around the village.

A list of subjects to be discussed at further meetings has been drawn up. These include:

Highways and ditches maintenance

Flood wardens

Future planning – What is happening with building in the village, when is the next local plan review?

FWAG – Understand what the FWAG recommendations do and how they may assist in reducing flooding in the village.

If there is anything else anyone would like to discuss please contact a member of the committee.

# East Peckham Flood Group

## NEWSLETTER

July 2004

Residents will be aware that a Multi-Agency Steering Group has been set up, which brings together considerable expertise from a wide range of agencies in an effort to reduce the flooding problems in East Peckham

The aim of this newsletter is to keep residents and businesses, from East Peckham, informed on matters relating to flooding. It also provides information on the East Peckham Flood Group meeting dates and contact information.

Meetings are always on the last Tuesday of every month, at the Man of Kent pub at Little Mill.

**Next Informal Meeting Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> July at 8pm**

**Next Formal Meeting Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> August at 8pm**  
Speaker due from the EPFRP

### Last Meeting – June 2004 UPDATE

The meeting was attended by Neil Gunn from the Environment Agency who made a Presentation about the Medway Catchment Flood Management Plan. (See over)

And also by Glynis Payne, the Community Liaison Manager for Kent County Council

### Contact Details

<b>Sue Chalkley</b> (Chairperson) 117 Snoll Hatch Road East Peckham TN12 5EA (01622) 871926	<b>Claire Hawkins</b> (Treasurer) Cornerways' 138 Hale Street East Peckham TN12 5JB 01622 873371	<b>Peter Clymer</b> (Tech/Research) Walnut Tree Cottage 50 Addlestead Road East Peckham TN12 5DJ
<b>Nick Hale</b> (Secretary/Newsletter) 13 Old Road East Peckham TN12 5AS (01622) 872344	<b>Julia Winn</b> (Press Secretary) 30 Snoll Hatch Road East Peckham TN12 5ED (01622) 873142	<b>David Poole</b> (Chair of EPPC Emergency Planning Group) 9 Orchard Road East Peckham TN12 5AN (01622) 872023

## **The Medway Flood Catchment Plan**

Neil Gunn gave a presentation about the MFCP. This equates to 3 or 4 years of work assessing all aspects of flooding, flood protection, possible flooding etc in the Medway catchment area and will be the basis for any further work carried out to improve the situation in the Medway catchment area. This is a VERY IMPORTANT piece of work. The Environment Agency will be carrying out these assessments in all areas of potential flooding in the country. The Medway is amongst the first of these schemes. As a result, although nothing is going to happen immediately, this means that measures should be taken, and money available, sooner than in other parts of the country.

The full report is available on the Internet at <http://kbrgis.halliburton.com/ea/medway/medway.htm> (please note there should be no www and if you have any problem leave off medway/medway). This report is out for consultation until August 4<sup>th</sup>. It is strongly recommended that you have a look at it. THIS REPORT WILL HAVE A CONSIDERABLE EFFECT ON HOW FLOODING IN THE MEDWAY CATCHMENT IS MANAGED FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

We will be discussing the report and submitting the views of the group after our next meeting on July 27<sup>th</sup>. All comments are welcome.

### **KCC Community Liaison Manager**

Glynis Payne is responsible for liaising and trying to improve communication between the county councillors and the public. She holds 4 meetings a year which people can come along to raise local issues and ask questions. She also has funds available to assist local community based projects, subject to certain criterion. We will discuss any possible funding we may need at the next meeting. Nick Hale has forms to contact Glynis if anyone would like to contact her, attend a meeting or find out more of what she does.

### **Other News**

- No reply has been received about the funding application for the dam, but Sir John Stanley did receive a positive letter from Margaret Beckett, asking for a little more information. This had already been supplied to the Regional Engineer at DEFRA.
- It is now unlikely the dam will be completed for this winter.
- Interest has been expressed by J Clubb Ltd in attending meetings, we will supply them with copies of newsletters.
- There is to be a Kent Flood Fair at the Mote Leisure Centre on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September. The group would like to man a stand. This will be discussed at the July meeting.
- Brasted action group has contacted us. Sue Chalkley will attend one of their meetings.
- The River Bourne will be cleaned in August when the power cables by Muraspec can be turned off during their summer shutdown.
- The re-engineering of the Coult Stream between Hatches Lane and Fell Mead will be commenced during the autumn. This will decrease considerably the risk of the capacity of the stream being exceeded. Subject to funding and land negotiations.

# East Peckham Flood Group

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2004

**Would you be prepared to help your friends and neighbours in the event of a flood?**

**Are you fit, healthy and take an interest in your community?**

- As you probably know, plans are being finalized to help East Peckham overcome some of the risks currently faced by flooding. In fact, by summer 2005, half the properties previously affected by flooding will be significantly safer. However, we have this winter to get through and the village needs to be prepared.
- Flood Wardens play a vital role in helping the community to deal with a flood. If you are fit, live in the area of East Peckham and you are willing to help the village, please contact Karen Bell, to volunteer and find out where and how you can help.

Mrs Karen Bell  
Clerk to East Peckham Parish Council  
01622 871309

3 The Freehold  
East Peckham  
Tonbridge  
Kent  
TN12 5AA

[parish-council@eastpeckham.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:parish-council@eastpeckham.fsnet.co.uk)

## East Peckham Flood Group

Meetings are on the last Tuesday of every month, at the Man of Kent pub at Little Mill. (Please note that the November meeting is a special meeting and will be held on a Thursday. The December meeting is cancelled. The next regular meeting is in January 2005.)

# Next Meeting Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2004 at the Curran Hall at 8pm

## Last Meeting – 26<sup>th</sup> October 2004 UPDATE

Mike Watson from the Upper Medway Internal Drainage Board attended this meeting. He explained the responsibilities of the UPIDB and what the UPIDB is going to do to maintain its ditches and watercourses in East Peckham. The UPIDB is responsible, for example, for the Coult Steam and Boroughs Oak Stream.

The bid to DEFRA has been successful and the building of the dam on the Coult Stream and associated work is likely to commence in April 2005.

## Contact Details

<b>Sue Chalkley (Chairperson)</b> 117 Snoll Hatch Road East Peckham TN12 5EA (01622) 871926	<b>Claire Hawkins (Treasurer)</b> Cornerways' 138 Hale Street East Peckham TN12 5JB 01622 873371	<b>Peter Clymer (Tech/Research)</b> Walnut Tree Cottage 50 Addlestead Road East Peckham TN12 5DJ
<b>Nick Hale (Secretary/Newsletter)</b> 17 Old Road East Peckham TN12 5AS (01622) 872344	<b>Vacancy (volunteers?) (Press Secretary)</b> 30 Snoll Hatch Road East Peckham TN12 5ED (01622) 873142	<b>David Poole (Chair, EPPC Emergency Planning Gr'p)</b> 9 Orchard Road East Peckham TN12 5AN (01622) 872023

## The dam on the Coult Stream at Bullen Farm

***The bid to DEFRA for 45% of the cost of building the dam on the Coult Stream has been approved.***

The East Peckham Flood Relief Partnership is now urgently considering how to obtain the balance of the funding so that the scheme can be implemented on programme next spring/summer. It is anticipated that the balance will be made available from DEFRA or through one or more of the agencies that participate in the partnership.

The dam and associated works will protect properties in Addlestead Road, Snoll Hatch Road, the Pound and Old Road from up to a one in one hundred year flood flow on the Coult Steam.



The engineers that have been working hard to identify the cause of our flooding and the solutions, are now drawing up detailed plans and specifications, so that the construction work can be put out to tender early in the New Year. The aim is to have everything ready for the contractors to start on site around April 2005. This is of course dependant on weather conditions, as the soil needs to be dry enough for the work to be carried out.

Many thanks go to all the agencies, and in particular the individuals who have been so determined to achieve this result. It is incredible to think that the partnership was only set up in January 2003 and already we have the green light for a substantial dam (4 metres high and 160 metres wide) – as well as all the other work that has been and still will be carried out to improve drainage etc.

**Everyone is invited to a meeting at the Curran Hall on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November at 8.00pm.** Each agency in the partnership will be represented, so if you are interested in knowing more about the dam, or anything else to do with flooding in the village, do come along.

A great big thank you to Tonbridge and Malling BC, the Environment Agency, Kent County Council, The Upper Medway Internal Drainage Board, Southern Water and the Parish Council for achieving such a significant step forward.

## **Other News**

### **▪ Press Secretary**

Julia Winn has resigned from this post and we offer our thanks for all she has done to raise the profile of our work and her unfailing support. We know that she and Don are still there if we need them, and are still one of our stalwart band of volunteer newsletter deliverers. There was real appreciation of their work and of course some discussion about Julia's successor. So far no volunteers have stepped forward so for the time Sue Chalkley will fill the post.

### **▪ Newsletter deliverers**

If anyone is able to deliver some newsletters in either Old Road or the Pound Road Area contact either Nick Hale or Sue Chalkley.

### **▪ Flood Wardens**

The news about the dam is wonderful BUT we do have to get through another winter AND some residents are still at risk of flooding from the Bourne, the Medway and, even with the dam, very extreme floods on the Coult Stream. The news in the local paper about a one in two hundred year risk of flooding from the Medway is very reassuring but it does not mean that we will not flood – and we know this from bitter experience!

Rupert Dobson is liaising with the Parish Council about the emergency plan and the information and support that is made available to the villages flood wardens.

The advertisement on the front of this newsletter is designed to attract more flood warden recruits to fill some of the vacancies that exist.

## **Flooding from the Bourne (Little Mill residents) and the Medway (Pinkham and others)**

The partnership will continue working until as much as possible has been done to resolve ALL the causes of flooding. It may be that, as both these rivers are designated main rivers, the lead will change from the Borough Council to the Environment Agency – but the team will continue working together.

The Environment Agency's policy for the Bourne is to reduce flood risk. The agency has investigated installing a structure on the Bourne, upstream of Little Mill, but the economics are not good (i.e. cost to benefit). Work is ongoing to find a suitable solution to flooding in this area.

### **Sandbags for Little Mill**

Rupert Dobson is seeking out a local supplier for sandbags that could be stored somewhere suitable at Little Mill. He is liaising with the Parish Council about storage facilities. Any help with either contacts for sand or ideas for a good location are most gratefully received.

### **Gauging Station**

An additional gauging station will be installed on the Coult Stream at Bullen Farm as soon as possible. This will help the technicians check their calculations for the dam through the coming winter.

### **Farming Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG)**

A representative from FWAG made a presentation at the partnership meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2004. There are 18 landowners in the catchment area of the Coult Stream and, to date, Farm Plans have been designed for 10. These plans provide each farmer with maps, crop rotations and other information on farming practices that increase the productiveness of the farm and, importantly for us, also mitigate run off. Run off is a cause of flooding for some residents in Chidley Cross Road and Hale street.

One recommendation, for instance, might be to allow old crops and weeds to grow between strawberry polytunnels over the winter to help break up the soil structure and make it more permeable.

### **Venues for future meetings**

Ben Ryan has sold the Man of Kent. We thank him very much for his hospitality over the past months and wish him all the best for the future. The new landlord is John and he has kindly offered to allow us to continue meeting at the Man of Kent. The next meeting there will not be until January 25<sup>th</sup> 2005. This is because our next meeting will be on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November at the Curran Hall and the December meeting is cancelled.

# East Peckham Flood Group

## NEWSLETTER

### NEXT MEETING MARCH 2005

Residents will be aware that a Multi-Agency Steering Group has been set up, which brings together considerable expertise from a wide range of agencies in an effort to reduce the flooding problems in East Peckham. This group is called the East Peckham Flood Relief Partnership.

The aim of this newsletter is to keep residents and businesses, from East Peckham, informed on matters relating to flooding. It also provides information on the East Peckham Flood Group meeting dates and contact information.

Meetings are always on the last Tuesday of every month, at the Man of Kent pub at Little Mill.

### Next Meeting Tuesday 29th MARCH 2005 at 8pm

**This meeting will also be the AGM, find attached forms for any nominations. Note the lack of a Press Secretary**

### Last Formal Meeting - 26th January 2005 UPDATE

The last meeting was a well attended, if a touch cosy! Neil Gunn of the Environment Agency presented the Middle Medway Strategy which is at its final consultation stage and Ian Walton of Bureau Veritas, consultant engineer for the East Peckham Flood Relief Partnership, gave an update on the progress on the plans for the dam of the Coult stream.

### Contact Details

<b>Sue Chalkley</b> (Chairperson) 117 Snoll Hatch Road East Peckham TN12 5EA (01622) 871926	<b>Claire Hawkins</b> (Treasurer) Cornerways' 138 Hale Street East Peckham TN12 5JB 01622 873371	<b>Peter Clymer</b> (Tech/Research) Walnut Tree Cottage 50 Addlestead Road East Peckham TN12 5DJ
<b>Nick Hale</b> (Secretary/Newsletter) 13 Old Road East Peckham TN12 5AS (01622) 872344	(Press Secretary) Vacant	<b>David Poole</b> (Chair of EPPC Emergency Planning Group) 9 Orchard Road East Peckham TN12 5AN (01622) 872023

## **The Middle Medway River Strategy**

The Environment Agency is carrying out the final stage of public consultation on this strategy which sets out its plans over the coming years for managing flood risk across the catchment of the Middle Medway (including East Peckham). The strategy will be submitted to a National Review Group during February or March 2005. Following that it will be submitted to DEFRA and a formal response is expected in about 12 months from that date. This, combined with the budget timetable, means that the earliest date that construction on projects set out in the strategy would be in 2010.

The principal potential projects to come out of the process so far have been: a bigger Leigh Barrier (raising the height by a small amount brings considerable benefits), storage at Edenbridge and storage at Stilebridge. More locally there is the possibility of flood defences at East Peckham and Yalding.

In the period to 2010 the Environment Agency will use its own budgets to work on a number of smaller projects to manage flood risk. The agency is also improving flood warnings by installing local rain gauges, which enable more accurate forecasting. The agency will also consider local schemes which have been rejected by DEFRA and are improving operational procedures including at the Leigh Barrier.

### **THE COULT STREAM DAM**

Plans are now well advanced, although not finalised for the dam. DEFRA funding for 80% of the project has been approved, with the balance of 20% being made by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, The Environment Agency and a contribution from the Upper and Lower Medway Internal Drainage Board and Kent County Council.

Ian Walton explained that the 2002 flooding was a 1 in 8 year event with the resultant flooding equivalent to 1 in 7 years. At the peak, water was running at 4.5 cubic metres per second but the capacity of the culvert under Hatches Lane is just 0.6 cubic metres per second. The stream was at this point over topping its banks and flowing into Hatches Lane, down Addlestead and Snoll Hatch Road and into Old Road. The water was unable to get back into the stream because the roads are lower than the surrounding fields.

The new dam will be constructed on Bullen Farm and the reservoir behind it will be able to retain approximately 80,000 cubic metres of floodwater and will reduce the 1 in 100 year flood flows in the Coult Stream from 3.8 cubic metres to 0.6 cubic metres. The dam will be approximately 4 metres high with a 7 metre crest width and 330 metres length.

In addition to the dam, the Coult Stream itself will be improved. And following extensive CCTV surveys of the culvert in Hatches Lane the options for improving the flow capacity at this location are being evaluated. The effect of this flow on land near the Coult Stream and the Medway itself had been modelled and further work was being undertaken to fine tune the modelling before the work starts, so that the team can be as confident as possible that this solution will be successful.

The final decision on the size of the dam to protect from the 1 in 100 year flood will be made in March/April once this modelling has been completed. The difficulty is that there are no definitive measurements for water flows down the Coult's Stream as this stream is not at present designated 'Main River' and is currently ungauged.

The approximate build cost will be around £550,000 with calculated damage savings over the lifetime of the dam of approximately £11,975,000. The actual cost will be defined once the above work is complete and the size of the dam known.

The likely date for commencement of construction is June 2005 and the dam will be substantially completed by October 2005.

### **Annual General Meeting**

We will be holding our second AGM on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2005. All committee members and officers are required to retire each year and are eligible for re-election, by show of hands, at the AGM.

Nominations for officers or Committee members and notice of any resolution have to be made in writing by the proposer and seconder to the Secretary.

A nomination form will be supplied to members on request. If you would like to become a member, please contact Nick Hale for a membership form. The annual subscription is £20.00 (£10.00 concessions) - although we are not collecting subscriptions at present because we have sufficient funds for our needs.

### **Flood Restoration Survey**

We have agreed to assist the University of Warwick's flood research group, which is supported by the National Flood Forum, by enclosing questionnaires with this newsletter. Their researchers would very much appreciate it if you could take the time to complete the form and post it direct to the University in the enclosed envelope – the postage is free.

PLEASE NOTE AND CHANGE THE REFERENCE ON THE ENVELOPE TO START RLSE  
NOT RLFE.

1 **NAME**

The Association shall be called East Peckham Flood Group.

2 **OBJECTS**

The objects of the Association shall be to represent the common interests of the residents of, and businesses located in, East Peckham to make national and local government, government agencies, utilities, landowners and other persons or bodies aware of the causes and consequences of flooding in the village and to press for a concerted approach to future flood prevention

3. **MEMBERSHIP**

All persons not less than eighteen years of age being resident in or with a business located in the civil parish of East Peckham shall be eligible for membership. Persons resident in the same household shall constitute one member for the purpose of subscriptions and voting rights.

4. **SUBSCRIPTION**

The first annual subscription shall be £20 (£10 concessionary rate) and thereafter as determined by the Committee and shall be due on joining the Association and thereafter payable on 1 March each year.

5. **RESIGNATION**

5.1 A member shall cease to be a member if he gives written notice to the Secretary of his resignation.

5.2 A member whose subscription is more than two months in arrear shall be deemed to have resigned

6. **COMMITTEE**

- 6.1 The Committee shall consist of the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and 4 elected members.
- 6.2 The Committee members shall be proposed, seconded and elected by show of hands at the Annual General Meeting each year and shall remain in office until their successors are elected at the next Annual General Meeting. Any vacancy occurring by resignation or otherwise may be filled by the Committee. Retiring members of the Committee shall be eligible for re-election.
- 6.3 Committee meetings shall be held as required and the quorum of those meetings shall be 4. The Secretary shall give all the members of the Committee not less than 7 days notice of a meeting. Decisions of the Committee shall be made by a simple majority and in the event of equality of votes the Chairman (or the acting Chairman of that meeting) shall have a casting or additional vote. The Secretary, or in his absence a member of the Committee, shall take minutes.
- 6.4 In addition to the members so elected the Committee may co-opt up to 3 further members of the Association who shall serve until the next Annual General Meeting. Co-opted members shall be entitled to vote at the meetings of the Committee.
- 6.5 The members of the Committee shall be indemnified by the members of the Association against all liabilities properly incurred by them in the management of the affairs of the Association.

## **7 OFFICERS**

- 7.1 The honorary officers of the Association shall be a Chairman, a Treasurer and a Secretary and they must all be members of the Association.
- 7.2 The officers shall be proposed, seconded and elected by show of hands at the Annual General Meeting and shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting when they shall retire. Any vacancy occurring by resignation or otherwise may be filled by the Committee. Retiring officers shall be eligible for re-election.

## **8 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

8.1 The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held each year not later than 31 March to transact the following business:-

8.1.1 to receive the Chairman's report of the activities of the Association during the previous year;

8.1.2 to receive and consider the accounts of the Association for the previous year and the Honorary Auditor's report on the accounts and the Treasurer's report as to the financial position of the Association;

8.1.3 to remove and elect a member who is not a member of the Committee to act as the Honorary Auditor or confirm that he remain in office;

8.1.4 to elect the Officers and other members of the Committee;

8.1.5 to decide on any resolution which may be duly submitted in accordance with Rule 9.2.

8.2 Nominations for election of members to any office or for membership of the Committee shall be made in writing after obtaining the consent of the nominee by the proposer and seconder to the Secretary not less than 14 days before the Annual General Meeting. Notice of any resolution proposed to be moved at the Annual General Meeting shall be given in writing to the Secretary not less than 14 days before the meeting.

## **9 SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING**

A Special General Meeting may be called at any time by the Committee and shall be called within 14 days of receipt by the Secretary of a requisition in writing signed by not less than 10 members stating the purposes for which the meeting is required and the resolutions proposed.

## **10 PROCEDURE AT THE ANNUAL AND SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS**



- 10.1 The Secretary shall send to each member at his last known address written notice of the date of the General Meeting together with any resolutions to be proposed at it at least 7 days before the meeting.
- 10.2 The quorum for the Annual and Special General Meetings shall be 10.
- 10.3 The Chairman, or in his absence a member selected by the Committee, shall take the chair. Each household a member of which is present shall have one vote and resolutions shall be passed by a simple majority. In the event of an equality of votes the Chairman shall have a casting or additional vote.
- 10.4 The Secretary, or in his/her absence a member of the Committee, shall take minutes at Annual and Special Meetings.

## 11 **ALTERATION OF THE RULES**

The Rules may be altered by resolution at an Annual or Special Meeting provided that the resolution is carried by a majority of at least two thirds of members present and entitled to vote at the General Meeting.

## 12 **FINANCE**

- 12.1 All moneys payable to the Association shall be received by the Treasurer and deposited in a bank account in the name of the Association. No sum shall be drawn from that account except by cheque signed by two of the three signatories who shall be the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. Any moneys not required for immediate use may be invested as the Committee in their discretion think fit.
- 12.2 The income and property of the Association shall be applied only in furtherance of the objects of the Association and no part thereof shall be paid by way of bonus, dividend or profit to any members of the Association.
- 12.3 The Committee shall have power to authorise the payment of expenses actually incurred on production of receipts or other evidence of payment, but not

remuneration, to any officer, member or employee of the Association and to any other person or persons for services rendered to the Association.

12.4 The financial transactions of the Association shall be recorded in such manner as the Committee think fit by the Treasurer.

### 13 **DISSOLUTION**

13.1 A resolution to dissolve the Association shall only be proposed at a Special General Meeting and shall be carried by a majority of at least three-quarters of the members present and entitled to vote.

13.2 The dissolution shall take effect from the date of the resolution and the members of the Committee shall be responsible for the winding-up of the assets and liabilities of the Association.

13.3 Any property remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Association shall be given to a charity or charities nominated by the last Committee.

# EAST PECKHAM FLOOD GROUP

## NOMINATION FORM

### FOR ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Nominations must have the consent of the nominee.

Please submit this form to the EPFG secretary, Nick Hale, 13 Old Road.

<b>Nomination for post of...</b> (Please insert name)	<b>Name of proposer/second</b>	<b>Signature of proposer/second</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Chairman</b>	Proposer		
	Second		
<b>Treasurer</b>	Proposer		
	Second		
<b>Secretary</b>	Proposer		
	Second		
<b>Technical/Research officer</b>	Proposer		
	Second		
<b>Press Relations officer</b>	Proposer		
	Second		
<b>Local business contact</b>	Proposer		
	Second		
<b>Administrator/ newsletter editor</b>	Proposer		
	Second		

# East Peckham Flood Group

## NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2006

The East Peckham Flood Relief Partnership comprises representatives from Tonbridge and Malling BC (TMBC), Kent County Council Highways Department (KCC), Upper Medway Internal Drainage Board (UMIDB), Southern Water (SW), Environment Agency (EA), East Peckham Parish Council and the East Peckham Flood Group.

This group brings together considerable and wide ranging expertise in an effort to reduce the flooding problems in East Peckham.

The aim of this newsletter is to keep residents and businesses in East Peckham informed on matters relating to flooding, the East Peckham Flood Group activities and contact information.

Residents established the Flood Group in January 2003, held monthly meetings and circulated monthly newsletters to over 300 residents. Now, the newsletters are produced less frequently - this newsletter covers activities for the whole of 2006!

Meetings are held quarterly at the Man of Kent pub and dates are advertised in the parish magazine, on village notice boards and in the local papers. The meetings are open to all residents and businesses from East Peckham.

The Flood Group requests that residents note two key points shown below. Further detail on each is provided on pages 4 and 5.

- 1. Write to The Rt. Hon. Sir John Stanley MP to protest against the very substantial government cuts in DEFRA's funding.**
- 2. Always report blockages in ditches or culverts and overflowing drains.**

### Contact Details

<b>Sue Chalkley</b> (Chairperson) 117 Snoll Hatch Road, EP TN12 5EA 01622 871926	<b>Roger Wilson</b> (Treasurer) Cornerways 179 Tonbridge Road, EP 01622 873371	<b>John Headey</b> (Tech Advisor) 265 Tonbridge Road, EP 01622 871721
<b>Nick Hale</b> (Secretary/Newsletter) 13 Old Road, EP TN12 5AS 01622 872344	<b>Vacant</b> (Press Secretary) Please contact Sue Chalkley if interested.	<b>Website information</b> <a href="http://www.tmbc.gov.uk">www.tmbc.gov.uk</a> Look under 'community information' tab to see this and previous newsletters

## Meetings held in 2006

### 1. Annual General Meeting March 21<sup>st</sup> 2006

We were sorry to lose our Treasurer Clare Hawkins who is moving to France but we do thank her for managing our finances so well and wish her and John much happiness and success in their new life. Roger Wilson volunteered to take on the post and we are truly grateful. Last year no money was spent or received and the balance remains at £198.00.

Peter Clymer has also resigned from the role of Technical Advisor and we were pleased to elect John Heady as his successor. This is particularly appropriate as John (and Joan) worked for the Environment Agency before retiring and is very knowledgeable about flood risk, river maintenance and flood alleviation projects. John also lives at Little Mill, one of the areas still to be provided with flood defences.

Other than these changes, Nick Hales was re-elected as secretary and Sue Chalkley as Chairman.

It was agreed at this meeting that the next meeting would take the form of a picnic by the River Medway and Neil Gunn undertook to ensure that the Environment Agency could be represented to provide information about maintenance of the river system and also the ecology and wildlife in and around the river.

#### *Summary of Chairman's report presented at AGM*

2005 was marked by the construction work to protect much of East Peckham from the Coult Stream flooding. As in previous years, there has been sustained momentum and interest from residents, especially a number of residents new to the group who have clearly been quietly tracking progress and have shown active interest as the dam has been constructed. The Group's bi-monthly open meetings moved to quarterly and at each meeting we have been joined by a member of the East Peckham Flood Relief Partnership.

There was a highly successful visit to the site of the dam in September 2005, attended by more than 50 residents. Ian Walton from Bureau Veritas kindly showed us around and answered a wide range of questions from residents.

The really exciting part of the year though was the formal commissioning ceremony for the dam. Sir John Stanley MP, the Mayor of Tonbridge and Malling BC, David Hughes, Chief Executive and Steve Humphries, Director of Planning and Regeneration, were present. This was well attended by reporters from the newspapers, radio and television.

There is still work to do, as the Village is also at risk of flooding from the Bourne and the Medway. Work to these rivers is the Environment Agency's (EA's) responsibility. The EA has asked that our group continue, as the partnership with residents has proved successful with the Coult Stream scheme.

We understand that the EA is working on a conveyance scheme for the Bourne, improvements to the operating procedures of the Leigh Barrier<sup>1</sup> (on the Medway) and is

---

<sup>1</sup> The Leigh Barrier was designed to protect Tonbridge but it is possible to use the barrier to protect other communities such as all of East Peckham (including Little Mill).

considering schemes such as walls and bunding around the Pinkham area to protect against flooding from the Medway.

We expressed appreciation for John's hospitality at the Man of Kent over the year, for Tonbridge and Malling BC's continued assistance with the printing of the newsletter and providing information about our group on their website, our stalwart band of volunteer newsletter deliverers, Nick and Ali Hale who have produced the newsletter and organised its delivery and finally all those residents and committee members who have supported the work of the East Peckham Flood Group over the year.

### **August 2006 meeting**

This meeting was held at Sluice Weir and we enjoyed a warm evening sitting on the grass bank discussing river maintenance and the river ecology with Tom Cook, Biodiversity Officer for Medway Catchment and Neil Gunn both from the Environment Agency.

We were interested to learn that, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, mill workers at Fordhams had rioted because they had to eat salmon 7 days per week. This is a fascinating insight into the river and its inhabitants just over a hundred years ago. Apparently there was a happy ending to the story because the local MP intervened and everyone returned to work after the mill owner promised different food for one day each week!

As a footnote to this story, it is hoped that the replacement of Allington Lock will bring the return of salmon and sea trout to our river.

### *River maintenance*

The EA is required to keep the River Medway safe and navigatable and structures free of silt. High flows cause more siltation – and so maintenance is dictated by high flows. Last year the Agency desilted the River Bourne. This year there have been low flows and high water temperatures, so no maintenance has been undertaken.

Hot weather causes oxygen levels in the water to decrease and nutrient levels to rise. Both have a detrimental effect on the river ecology. We are still in the grip of a serious drought with Bewl as the main source of water in Medway catchment. The Agency has been recycling water from the river back to Bewl to keep the ecology going.

### *Wildlife and protected species*

The EA is particularly encouraging otters and water voles in this area. Otters' tracks and signs are especially found under bridges and around sluices and weirs. Excitingly, signs of otters have been found by Sluice Weir.

Depressed River Mussels (this is their name, not their state of mind!) were found in 2002. Generally, this species is in decline but the Medway has one of the highest populations in the UK.

The White Clawed Crayfish lives in the stretch of the river from Tonbridge to Maidstone. This crayfish is now under threat, especially from American Signal Crayfish, which carries crayfish plague – a terminal disease.

We were shown fascinating pictures and examples of tracks and signs for these and other creatures.

### *Flood Alleviation progress*

The public consultation on the Middle Medway Strategy is now concluded and the strategy has been submitted to DEFRA. It is hoped to hear further in February 2007. The EA is already looking into improvements at Leigh Barrier, as this project is highly cost effective – just adding 1 metre to the structure increases its storage capacity by 30%.

The EA has started modelling schemes in East Peckham such as bunding around Pinkham and water conveyancing (speeding the flow) at Little Mill. The Little Mill project on the Bourne is being funded by the EA's Regional Flood Defence Committee rather than DEFRA. It is planned to carry out pre-feasibility work during 2010 with design and building to be carried out in 2011. The project to defend East Peckham is expected to take place with a similar lead in during 2008/09/10.

### **Brassey award**

Our dam has won its first award! This was presented by the Institute of Civil Engineers for community participation and conservation.

We have decided to ask if it can be hung in the Man of Kent pub, where we have held so many of our meetings, so pop in if you would like to have a look at it.

### **December 2006 meeting**

This meeting was held in the Curran Hall, as we were keen to attract as many people as possible, including the Parish Council. In the event, partly because of short notice (for which we apologise) and probably partly also the dark and bad weather we had low attendance. This was a great shame as Stuart McLeod from TMBC, Neil Gunn from the Environment Agency and Ian Walton from Bureau Veritas had prepared a really interesting evening with a considerable volume of information and interesting maps.

We firstly discussed the news that DEFRA has had its budget cut dramatically which will inevitably impact on funds available to carry out feasibility studies and flood alleviation projects themselves. Our projects on the Bourne and the Medway may not be exempt from these cuts.

The flood group will be writing to the Rt. Hon. Sir John Stanley MP at House of Commons, LONDON SW1A 0AA and **we urge other residents to do the same, mentioning the points set out below.**

1. The cuts have already impacted on staffing levels in the EA and will inevitably impact on future flood prevention schemes planned for our Village – either by the schemes being delayed or taken out of the plan altogether.
2. There have been two recent reports into the effects of climate change: the Foresight Futures Flooding Report and the Stern Report. Both make the case for increased spending of £15 – 30 million more per annum on flood defences and yet the Treasury has made substantial cuts.

Peter Clymer and David Poole had prepared a long list of questions, which were worked through over the evening. These questions and the answers provided are set on pages 6 to 11.

We also discussed the need for residents to report problems so they can be rectified – and to record when the report was made. We cannot complain about faults if we do not report them.

**Please use these numbers to report problems:-**

0845 9881188	Floodline	For matters related to the Rivers Bourne and Medway and the Coult Stream in E Peckham
08458 247 800	KCC Highways (Highway Authority)	Culverts and highway drains
01622 758345	Upper & Lower Medway Drainage Board	(answer phone only out of hours)
01732 844522	Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council	(calls go to Invicta Telecare out of hours )
0845 278 0845	Southern Water	(sewerage system)

When the maintenance schedule has been finalised, a copy will be sent to the Parish Council and the Flood Group. This will show the ditches and culverts that that Kent County Council and the Upper & Lower Medway Drainage Board maintain, all other ditches and culverts will be the responsibility of the land or riparian owners.



## Questions and Answers

### 1 COULT STREAM DAM

- 1a **Are the works complete?** Yes
- 1b **The guard to Hatches Lane head wall needs mending.** Noted, will be fixed.
- 1c **Has the dam been operating?** Yes – but the flow has not yet been sufficient to cause a flood. The heavy rain in early December was not sufficient to cause impounding
- 1d **Is there a system for recording the usage of the dam?** Yes. There are two data collectors, above and below the dam, linked to the EA office and monitored 24/7. The Reservoirs Act requires the EA to keep a log of the occasions when the structure impounds and make frequent inspections. This regime is audited by an independent inspector.
- 1e **What is the inspection/maintenance regime?** The Reservoirs Act sets a rigorous regime for the dam. There are two regimes for maintenance of the watercourse and these are set out below.
- 1f **What is the estimated additional volume of water entering downstream from the dam?** This was considered in the original Options Appraisal and can be reviewed on request. However it is not really relevant as the flood storage system scheme (dam) reduces the flow to a maximum of 0.6 cubic metres per second, which is below the maximum capacity of the Hatches Lane Culvert.
- 1g **What action has been taken concerning the two outfalls from the hop gardens onto Hatches Lane?** None is required; it is believed that the source of water for this flow came primarily from the Coult stream flowing out of bank onto Hatches Lane. See above and also later comments about land use.

### 2 GENERAL MAINTENANCE, DITCHES AND CULVERTS

- 2a **Has a new regime been introduced?** Yes. The performance specification<sup>2</sup> is in place and the Coult Stream work has been contracted back to the Upper Medway Internal Drainage Board.
- 2b **Will the riparian (adjacent) owners be formally required to carry out the maintenance?** Work is already taking place, funded by the EA. In accordance with the Land Drainage Act 1976 riparian owners may be approached and required to put right any damage or blockages that they cause.
- 2c **What is the attitude of the UMIDB/EA/KCC/TMBC generally and specifically?** All the agencies have a very positive attitude to East Peckham; this has been demonstrated by the successful project to build the dam and associated works – and the commitment to continuing to work with residents to resolve other flooding issues.

---

<sup>2</sup> Can be viewed at the EA offices

2d **What work has been carried out over the last six months?** Snagging (putting finishing touches to construction works) and maintenance. The IDB have been keeping the Coult Stream clear and to supplement the dredging carried out on the Bourne last year there has been a hand weedcut at little mill in the last couple of weeks

### 3 THE BOURNE

3a **Has the Bourne flood gauge been checked?** The Gauges on the River Bourne in Hadlow and E Peckham are frequently checked. They are linked to the same EA 24/7 system mentioned earlier.

3b **Is there any intention to provide a flood storage scheme?** No, the scheme being proposed is a conveyance scheme (mentioned earlier in this newsletter).

3c **Is there any intention to provide other flood protection/improvements?** Not yet, this will be assessed during the pre-feasibility work for the scheme, which will involve public consultation. The EA is open to suggestions about the operation of the siphon and sluices near the Man of Kent pub.

### 4 COULT STREAM

4a **When will the banks/bed be cleared?** Mowing and weed cutting is now underway.

4b **What is the revised maintenance protocol?** See above.

4c **When will the ditch from Addlestead Road to the Coult Stream be cleared/trimmed?** The UMIDB has no obligation to do this.

4d **Has the culvert under Cogley's yard now been repaired/cleared?** It has been cleared and checked by a camera survey, which has shown that it is in a satisfactory condition and has sufficient capacity.

4e **Was the culvert under Pound Road replaced or repaired?** Yes

4f **Will the Coult Stream culvert under Hale Street be improved to straighten the flows and reduce silting and potential damming of the flow and be fitted with a grid? Is there an intention to re-engineer the entry of the Coult Stream into the Medway to assist discharge and flow/?** No. These were options originally but the dam means that they do not need to be done. Improving the outflow of the Coult Stream into the Medway could actually facilitate the entry of flood waters from the Medway into E Peckham

### 5 DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

5a **What is the general intention?** To continue according to CIRIA (Construction industry Research and Information Association), PPS25 (planning policy statement giving guidance on new development in areas at risk of flooding) etc guidance according to availability of funds.

**5b What are the specific projects including:-**

- **Hale St by the Rose and Crown** Maintenance and regular inspection
- **Church Lane/Smithers Lane** as above
- **Pinkham** See Middle Medway Strategy section 6 (and earlier comments in this newsletter)
- **Little Mill** £250,000 in EA budget for conveyance scheme during years 2009/10 to 2010/11
- **Boroughs Oak** Will T Shead's scheme diversion prevent flooding? This is under the jurisdiction of the UMIDB and the scheme was designed with their approval. Owing to its small scale, is highly unlikely that it will increase risk

**5c Have the drains been fully repaired after the damage caused by the utilities particularly in Pound Road? Yes**

**5d What is the current policy concerning gully emptying and drain clearing particularly after heavy rain/standing floodwater?** It is a high priority for the Highway Authority. Please report any incidents or obstructions (telephone number shown on page 5).

## **6 MEDWAY**

**6a What progress has been made on the Catchment Flood management Plan?**  
This is finished and on the EA website.

**6b What are the revised planning issues concerning development by the Medway?**  
See section 9.

**6c What action has been taken concerning the Mill Stream?** This is part of the performance specification for the River Medway, Coult Stream and Bourne.

**6d What action has been taken concerning the proper alignment of the scrape across Pinkham Island, the erosion by the footbridge and the completion of the proposed works to the entry and exit banks?** It is felt that this scheme has been properly implemented. The bank erosion will be looked at and is down to riparian owner see maintenance section 2.

**6e What are the short term plans?** The EA dredges the River Medway for Navigation purposes. A build up of silt in the river would be detrimental to pleasure boating sooner than it would increase flood risk. Maintenance frequency will be determined by the needs of the navigation.

**6f What are the long term plans?** The Middle Medway Strategy is with DEFRA for approval and recommends a feasibility study in 2010/11 with construction of bunds to defend E Peckham from the Medway in 2011 – 2014 at an approximate cost of £9 million.

## **7 INSURANCE**

**7a When will the flood plain map be corrected?** See below.

- 7b **Why is the Coult Stream dam not shown?** It is the EA's intention to show it. Changing the map is complex and sensitive owing to impact on property values. The original maps were drawn up using a precautionary principle and showed a very large area to be at risk of flooding – too large. The map on the internet and the information which the EA shares with insurance companies show risk decreasing year on year to more closely mirror actual risk. Work proceeds relatively slowly because the last thing the EA wants to do is remove an area from the floodplain only to reintroduce it later.
- 7c **Why has the flood plain now been increased despite the Coult Stream dam?** The flood plain size has got smaller, but improvements in the mapping techniques have caused some re-designation.
- 7d **Why are the areas protected by the Coult Stream dam not shown as such?** The benefit from the dam will be shown as soon as possible (see above). See 7b, we have told insurance companies about the area protected by the dam. This will be made available on the internet by April 07.
- 7e **Is there an intention to produce a local as well as a general flood plain map?** These are one and the same and based on detailed accurate and extensive data.
- 7f **What action has been taken to consider climate change in producing the maps?** The EA consider climate change and did so when designing the dam. However, we do not wish to put these maps on the internet yet. The EA believe that climate change will affect future flooding. But it is not certain how the climate will change or how mankind will behave in future (in relation to emissions of greenhouse gases). Here is too much uncertainty to publish a climate change map

## 8 FUNDING

- 8a **Has the funding situation for the EA been improved in the light of the publicity that flood scheme were being cancelled?**
- 8b **What is Tonbridge and Malling BC's intention with regard to future funding?**
- 8c **What is DEFRA's intention with regard to future funding?**
- 8d **Is further funding available form KCC ad how can this be secured?**

Bird Flu contingency planning and farm payments have had an impact on funding in the financial year 06/07. Extensive cuts had to be made, future efficiencies are proposed for the EA. The reduction in funding from DEFRA has delayed the implementation of the Middle Medway strategy and may also affect other schemes. The Kent local flood defence committee funded scheme at Little Mill will be implemented by the EA but is also vulnerable to cuts in funding. The EA and other partnership members will seek whatever funding opportunities or alternatives they can.

## 9 DEVELOPMENT

- 9a **What is the future policy of TMBC in view of climate change, flooding experience and in particular the recent approval of 10no B8 units adjacent to the by pass?** PPS 25 takes account of flooding and considers the effect of climate change. Tonbridge & Malling Borough Councils' future policy with regard to flooding is set out within policy CP11 of the Council's recently published 'Core Strategy'. TMBC consult the EA who advise them as to whether development should take place and if so in what form.
- 9b **Who checked and approved the flood compensation scheme and by what criteria?** Experts at the EA checked the design of the scheme, the enforcement team from TMBC checked that it was built as designed.
- 9c **Could we have a copy of the policy guidelines on flood plain development and particularly relating to compensatory flood storage?** Yes, copies of Tonbridge & Malling Borough Councils' current policies can be found on [www.tmbc.gov.uk](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk) in the online interactive version of the Local Plan within the Schedule of Policies, Flood Protection is P3/15 and are set out within PPS 25 which can be viewed at [www.planningportal.gov.uk](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk).

## 10 SOUTHERN WATER (SW)

- 10a **Sewerage was reported in Snoll Hatch Rd following the heavy rain in early September. What action has been taken to remedy the defect?** The Customer Services system and sewer incident reporting systems have been checked and no report found for this incident. Southern Water will respond promptly to reports. Please call 0845 278 0845 in and out of office hours to report incidents.
- 10b **Should screw down double sealed covers be provided in locations where the foul drains overflow?** Screw down covers may be an option to control spillage. However the problem is where will it come out next, what is at risk? Will it flood a property etc? This option will need to be fully investigated before any covers are replaced or any flood mitigations installed?
- 10c **What is SW's policy on future action in this locality?** There are two aspects to this. The first is what can be done now. Flood mitigation is one option but we are looking to protect properties from internal or external flooding, we are currently carrying out high pressure jetting on the sewer in Snoll Hatch Road on a yearly basis. If the problem is due to build up of debris, the jetting frequency may be increased. The second aspect is long-term investigations and a flow measurement has been requested to identify hydraulic issues within the system and the provision of solutions.
- 10d **What action is SW taking to discharge filtered but untreated effluent into the Medway to ease pressure in the system during floods?** Here we are talking about an overflow from the public sewer to the water course. Any new installation of an overflow on the system will need to be discussed with the EA.

10e **Are the pumping stations now fully flood resistant?** The Mechanical and Electrical Investigation Team will carry out an assessment on the risk of the pumping stations.

## 11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11a **What will the design criteria be in the future for drainage design?** This will be in line with government policy and planning policy in place at the time.

11b **Has the existing drainage to East Peckham been reviewed in view of climate change, flooding problems, additional development etc?** Yes for the dam, but no for current development because much of it predates the onset of climate change. For future development a 20% increase in flow in the 1 in 100 year flood is accounted for.

11c **Is there any control over poly tunnel and other impervious materials on farmland? What effect is there on land drainage and watercourse levels?** There are a number of reports about the impact of polytunnels and the evidence is inconclusive. It is not proven that they cause an adverse effect on land drainage. TMBC are watching a test case in Surrey in where they are being considered in a planning test case.

11d **What responsibility do TMBC and KCC take for the discharge of water from fields or other sources?** Notices can be served on the landowner on grounds of highway safety. The EA have a strategy to protect soils.

11e **Who will remain in the steering group?** Only those working on East Peckham and Little Mill schemes with the EA.

11f **Can TMBC educate local farmers as to proper ploughing of fields to retain water?** Yes the work with FWAG (mentioned in earlier newsletters) is jointly supported by TMBC, EA, KCC and EU. This work has provided advice to the major farmers on the catchment of the Coult Stream. It is one of very few such schemes in the country.

11g **What can be done to prevent infilling of ditches by Martins Cottage with hedge trimmings?** The Flood Group discussed writing to neighbours asking for cooperation in not leaving hedge cuttings in the ditches. If enforcement action is required the Environment Agency will take the lead on main river water courses (ie the rivers Medway and Bourne and the Coult stream

11h **Should the EPFRP compile a walking party to inspect all local water course/ditches etc and report there on?** No, a very kind offer. All the partners have a regular inspection program for their area of responsibility. However if residents do spot any maintenance needs or impediments to flow, please feel free to contact the relevant part of the partnership