TOPIC PAPER 5 OF 7 · POSTER 1 OF 2

Amenities and Services

What the village has, what it lacks, and what residents say is missing

The village centre has a real day-to-day amenity base, but there is no GP or dentist, and community life depends on volunteers.

1

93%

use the shops weekly or more

The shops and green spaces are used every week

Green spaces (89%), the playing fields (70%) and the Post Office (68%) follow. These are the assets residents rely on most and the plan should protect (residents survey, figures as published in the topic paper).

2

0

GP practices or dentists in East Peckham

No GP and no dentist in the parish

Residents travel to Paddock Wood, Hadlow, Yalding, Wateringbury or Marden, and some lists are closed. Access to GP or healthcare is a top concern for 75.4% of respondents to the 2026 residents survey.

3

52%

want more pharmacy or healthcare provision

The pharmacy is the most wanted service

The Field pharmacy also acts as a vaccination centre drawing people from a wide area. 38% use a pharmacy weekly and only 2% never do, pointing to unmet capacity rather than lack of demand.

4

17+

regular clubs and groups across three halls

Community life runs on volunteers

From the Baby and Toddler Group to the Evergreens, the bands, the choir, the WI and the Community Fridge, plus the fete, the Halloween walk and the lights switch-on. Volunteering has fallen since Covid.

5

97%

full (203 of 210 places)

The primary school has 7 spare places

Reception had 37 first-choice applications for 30 places in two of the last three years. Kent County Council plans places for Hadlow and East Peckham primary schools together (60 Reception places a year) and forecasts only a handful of places spare, or a small shortfall, each year to 2035.

Read the full topic paper on the Parish Council website: **eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk**, Neighbourhood Plan pages. Ask a committee member today.

Our Village · Our Voice · Our Plan

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6

101-107%

capacity at Discovery, Valley Invicta and Capel

Neighbouring schools are full too

Kings Hill and Mereworth schools are at or over capacity, and the new primary planned for Paddock Wood is for that town's own growth. Every 100 new homes could need 25 to 35 primary places.

7

41.5%

want more facilities for teenagers

Teenagers are the biggest gap

36.4% want more youth facilities, against only 7% wanting more childcare or nursery places. The unmet need is for older children, not under-fives (2026 residents survey).

8

88.6%

cite overdevelopment as a top concern

What residents worry about most

The loss of green spaces (81.8%), flooding and drainage (76.7%), access to GP or healthcare (75.4%) and traffic and road safety (66.1%) follow. Final figures from the 2026 residents survey, 236 responses.

9

Bottom 15%

of English neighbourhoods for access to services

Among the hardest places in England to reach services

The Indices of Deprivation are the government's official ranking of every neighbourhood in England on income, health, access to services and other measures. On the 2025 access-to-services measure the parish ranks 4,641 of about 32,000. Only 14% use the bus weekly; 41% never do.

10

73%

hear village news on social media

No single information channel reaches everyone

Word of mouth reaches 62%, the Parish Magazine 53%, notice boards and posters 34%, the Parish Council website 33%. Consultation has to run several channels at once, which is why there are leaflets, a website, Facebook and this event.

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