



Maplestead Magna Carta

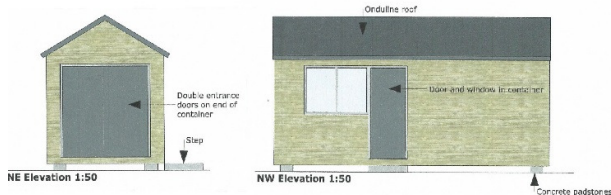
The Official Newsletter of Great Maplestead Parish Council

The Great Storage Facility Debate – Poll Results Now In!

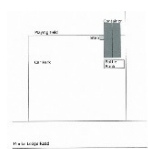
You've had your say...

In mid-July parishioners were given the opportunity to express an opinion about the Council's proposal for a community storage facility on the Village Playing Field.

All 146 households were polled and almost 30% responded. Of these, **63% were in favour** of the proposal, with just **35% against**.



The facility (above) will be approximately 20ft long x 8ft wide x 8ft 6in high (11ft 6in to the roof ridge). It will be clad in a material suitable to its location and have a low pitched, black, organic fibre roof to blend into its rural environment.



Siting will be partly on car park area and partly on the grass parallel to the Monks Ley Close fence and behind the bottle banks, which will be moved nearer to the road.

Since early 2014 this proposal has been through a long evaluation process. Now, with a mandate to proceed, the Council has to research various cladding options and re-visit its 2015/16 **Open Spaces Action Plan** to ensure that there are sufficient funds to bring this project to a satisfactory conclusion by the end of next year.

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Tightening Our Belts...

The County and District Council reports at the last Parish Council meeting were pessimistic on the subject of finances.

Cllr. David Finch notified that **Essex CC's** local budget was being **reduced by £50-60m**, while Cllr. John O'Reilly-Cicconi indicated **Braintree DC** was **to save £2-5m** over the next 3 years.

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Best Kept Village Award

Great Maplestead has received a Merit Award in the Small Village category of the 2015 Rural Community Council of Essex's Best Kept Village Competition.



Sadly, there was no associated financial benefit! The Council did get a nice certificate to frame and hang in the Village Hall, though...

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A Walk On The Wild Side

Over the summer a number of footpaths in the Parish were reported as being quite overgrown, with some being un-walkable.

As a result, the **Task Force** swung into action to carry out a couple of major clearing operations – one in June, another in early August – which opened up most of the footpaths affected.

Harvesting has also helped clear some of the paths where crop intrusion had been a problem.



At the beginning of August a request was made to **Essex CC** to help clear the chest-high overgrowth on FP 1 at Purls Hill (left).

Disappointingly, despite the path being totally impassable, the response was that this "...vegetation problem...at present does not meet our criteria for immediate repair".

If you wish to check the current condition of the Parish's footpath network, you can click on: <http://www.essexinfo.net/qtmaplesteadpc/footpaths/> and follow the instructions on the page.

Should you come across, and wish to report, any footpath problems, please notify the **Parish Clerk** in the first instance.

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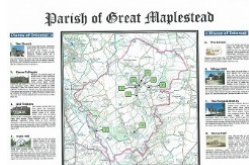
Village Information Boards

The Council is considering a proposal to install two Village Information Boards to provide visitors and residents with details of the local sights, features and footpaths.



The boards would be oak-framed A1 (840mm x 575mm) sized, lectern-style, with two-post mountings (example left). It is proposed to site one near the entrance to the Church and the other near the seat outside the Village Hall.

The boards' information panels would be printed and encapsulated into low maintenance, graffiti-resistant glass-reinforced plastic – this offers exceptional durability and water resistance, is colour-fast and stands up well against scratches.



Although the design and content of the information panels has yet to be determined, a Parish map will be a central feature.

The Council would be very interested to receive your panel content ideas.

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Latest Planning Applications

The Council received the following Planning Applications at its last Meeting:

- ✚ **15/00874/FUL** Variation of condition relating to approved application no: 2 of approved application 15/00874/FUL - Erection of 1 no. detached dwelling. Land Adjacent **1 Toldish Hall Road** Great Maplestead Essex.
- ✚ **15/00952/ELD** Application for an Existing Lawful Development Certificate - Occupation of New Farm Barn without compliance with condition no. 2 (occupancy condition) attached to planning ref 03/02063/FUL **New Barn Farm** Alderford Street Sible Hedingham Essex CO9 3HZ.
- ✚ **15/00914/FUL** Replacement dwelling for High View and erection of 2 no. dwellings. **High View** Church Street Great Maplestead Essex CO9 2RG.

It was agreed that the response to the first two applications should be "No objections raised, no comment". It was considered that there were a large number of Planning Policy, environmental and social objections to the **High View** (formerly **Treeways**) development. The Council's agreed response can be found by clicking on: http://www.braintree.gov.uk/info/200225/search_and_track_planning_applications, then clicking on 'View Current Applications', typing in 'Great Maplestead' and opening the **High View** file.

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Children's Play Area/Playing Field

A parishioner has queried the 'industrial look' of the newly-installed fencing around the children's play area. It was explained that the design chosen was the most robust, long-term cost-effective, option.

Actions now under consideration include sowing a natural wildflower screen and installing a sign stating: "Children's Play Area, No Dogs Allowed".



The Council also addressed another parishioner's request for a **complete ban on dogs** on the Playing Field, because some dog owners are not scooping, bagging and using the waste bin provided.

It was agreed that current legislation is sufficient to support concerned residents wishing to report irresponsible owners, using the information at: <https://www.braintree.gov.uk/forms/form/306/> or contacting the Dog Warden: 01376 552 525

The wider dog waste problem has already been addressed by asking Braintree DC to provide two additional dog waste bins, one of which is to be sited at the Church Road entrance to FP 8.

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Forthcoming Events

During September and October there are a number of events at the Village Hall you may wish to note for your diary:

- ✚ **Sat 12th Sep Great Maplestead Jumble Sale**
Opens **3.00pm** – entry **20p**
- ✚ **Sun 27th Sep Harvest Festival** at the Church, followed by lunch in the Village Hall
- ✚ **Sun 4th Oct Autumn Village Walk** – meet at **10.30am** – ½ way drinks/refreshments at end
- ✚ **Sun 10th Oct Great Maplestead Quiz Night**
- ✚ **Sat 31st Oct Hallowe'en Murder Mystery Evening and Supper**

More details on all these events can be found on the **Parish Council website**.

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Contacting the Council

Any enquiries, requests or correspondence should initially be made to the **Parish Clerk**:

**Ann Crisp, New House, St Giles Close
Great Maplestead, CO9 2RW**

Tel: 01787 460 216 (4-6pm Mon-Thurs)

E-mail: anncrisp@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk

Website: www.essexinfo.net/gtmaplesteadpc/

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