



Maplestead Magna Carta

Award-Winning Newsletter of Great Maplestead Parish Council

Coping with power cuts – a new central reporting service...

Who You Gonna Call?

A new, centrally coordinated, reporting service – **Power Cut 105** – has recently been launched, making it easier and less stressful to report electrical power cuts.



105 is a nationally-available, three-digit phone number that is now available to report, or get information about, electrical power cuts. It is also the number to call about any welfare worries related to a power cut, or if you are concerned about the safety of over- or under-ground electricity cables or substations.

105 has been introduced because people often don't know who their power network operator is, or who to call to report, or get updates about, power cuts – it's not necessarily the company to whom you pay your bill...

This problem has been resolved by having an easy-to-remember number – **105, free** from most landlines and mobile phones – that will put you straight through to your local power network operator. This is particularly important in winter or in bad weather, when severe storms can cause major disruptions to electricity supplies to homes and businesses.

The website <http://www.powercut105.com/> also provides information and directs you to your power network operator, which alternatively can be contacted directly either by phone, on its 0800 number, or via its own website – most can also be reached through social media.

Speeding Awareness, of Course...

Concern has increasingly been expressed about the perceived excessive speed of vehicles on some of the village approaches.

The problem is particularly apparent on **Lucking Street** and **Purl's Hill** which, although they fall outside the village's 30mph speed limit, feature blind bends, concealed driveway/field entrances and are narrow, with houses in close proximity.



In order to gather factual data about this problem, speed monitoring devices were installed for a short time recently on both of these roads. Information obtained is currently being analysed to see if there is sufficient evidence for a review of their currently applicable national speed limit.

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Making a difference...

The recent extension to the **Playing Field car park** has markedly improved the parking situation around the **School at drop-off and pick-up times**.

Most parents, with the School's encouragement, are now using the car park instead of the road – safer for them and their children.



This is just one of the projects that the present **Parish Council** has undertaken to improve life in **Great Maplestead** since it was elected.

Others have so far included:

- Installing railings for the children's play area
- Reinstating the Lucking St drainage ditch
- Talking charge of footpath maintenance
- Provision/siting of additional dog waste bins
- Improving the website currency/content
- Introducing an award-winning Newsletter

Future plans include: school wig-wag signs; new playground equipment; a village information board; a community leaflet; an emergency hub.

On The Buses

Complaints have continued to be received by the **Parish Council** about the village bus service – timetable irregularity, bus no shows and not completing routes correctly being typical comments.

At the last **Parish Council** meeting **Essex Cllr. David Finch** promised to investigate matters with **Regal Busways** as a matter of urgency.



Meanwhile, please remember that the **Council** has already agreed a procedure with **Regal** to **authorise**, and **refund the costs** of, alternative travel in the event of service cancellations.

Go to www.essexinfo.net/gtmaplesteadpc/local-amenities/local-bus-service/ for details about how to get **authorisation** and make a **claim**.

Otherwise, **Braintree Community Transport** offers an affordable subsidised service, operated by volunteer drivers, aimed at people who:

- have a disability/restricted mobility
- live in isolated areas not properly served by public transport
- have transport needs that are not met by existing timetables
- are temporarily unable to use public transport



Anyone who meets these criteria can register with **Braintree Community Transport** at https://www.braintree.gov.uk/info/200300/community_transport/137/social_car_scheme to use this service.

Minibus hire is also available for any non-profit making group – for more information contact the Community Transport team on **01376 557 883**.

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Latest Planning News

The **Parish Council** considered the following **Applications at its last Meeting**:

- ✚ **16/00270/TPO** Carry out works on a tree affected by TPO 6/88. Remove lower 4 branches and new growth at bottom, reduce by 5m at the sides and 10m on top. **Eastcote**, Church St.
- ✚ **16/01529/FUL** Creation of a separate access driveway. **Springwells**, Lucking St.

It was agreed that the response to both of these should be "No objections raised, no comment".

See other responses & comments by clicking on: http://www.braintree.gov.uk/info/200225/search_and_track_planning_applications, then clicking on 'View Current Applications', typing in the **planning references** and opening the files.

Bottling things up

The **Bottle Bank** has been re-sited to the left of the field car park entrance, to minimise disturbance to nearby residents.



'**No Fly Tipping**' signs have been posted to try and discourage the dumping of bottles around the bins if they become full between the fortnightly recycling

collections. This inconsiderate behaviour is both a danger to children and adults using the field and also a **criminal offence** – carrying fines which can range from £75 to £2,500.

The **Council** is actively working to stamp out such **anti-social** activity – so please look out for, make a note of and report anyone you see fly-tipping to **Martin Elms** on **01787 461 421**.

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Forthcoming Events

During the next few months there are a number of events at the **Village Hall*** that you may wish to note for your diary:

- ✚ **Sat 5 Nov* Bottle Collection** – for '**Get Set For Christmas**' – from **2.00pm**. Leave out full bottles only, please!
- ✚ **Sat 12 Nov* 'Get Set for Christmas' Coffee Morning** – from **10.30am** to **1.00pm** (was the **Christmas Bazaar**). Gifts, Christmas Cards, Toys, Craftwork, Jewellery, Cakes & Produce; Tombola; Bric-a-Brac & Raffle. Refreshments by the WI. Christmas table and seasonal floral arrangement demonstrations.
- ✚ **Thurs 1 Dec/Fri 6 Jan 2017 Village Christmas Tree/Advent Windows Display**. Christmas tree dedication at **7.00pm** on **1st December** on the Green, Church Street – bring baubles! To book your '**Advent Window**' date and theme call Julie Ingram (01787 463 637)
- ✚ **Tues 27 Dec* Christmas Village Walk** – meet at **10.30am**. Entry **£2 per person/** children and dogs **free**. Drinks at half-way + refreshments at end.

Much more information can be found on the 'Events' page of the Parish Council website.

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Contacting the Council

Any comments, 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/