



Maplestead Magna Carta

Award-Winning Newsletter of Great Maplestead Parish Council

It's Rubbish! – Littering and Fly-Tipping still a Concern...

Talking Trash...

Littering and fly-tipping – anti-social and inconsiderate acts that have a detrimental, destructive impact on our environment – are still causing concern in the Parish.

The **Council's** attention has again been drawn not only to the **increasing amount of roadside litter** apparently discarded from cars, but also to a continuation of what appears to be **deliberate acts of fly-tipping**.



The above cache of cans and bottles was recently discovered fly-tipped near the **Alderford Farm/ Hedingham Road** junction; this is obviously not just a case of casual, thoughtless littering...

You can help the **Council** address this problem by notifying the **Parish Clerk – in confidence** – of any suspicious littering or fly-tipping activity you see. All the information you can provide, on the cars involved or the location, together with photo evidence of the litter, if possible, will be forwarded to the police for follow-up action.

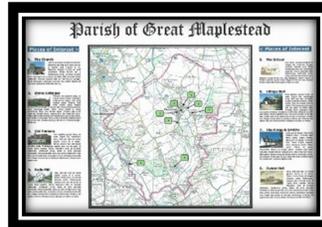
The standard penalty for a littering offence is £75, although persistent offenders can be fined up to £2,500.

Village Information Board



The Council now has agreed funding to install a **Village Information Board at the entrance to the Playing Field.**

The board will be an oak-framed A1 (840mm x 575mm) sized, lectern-style one, with a two-post mounting, as illustrated above. Its purpose is to provide visitors, and residents, with details of the local sights, features and footpaths.



The information panel will be printed and encapsulated in low maintenance, graffiti-resistant plastic, reinforced with glass – this material offers exceptional durability and water resistance, is colour-fast and stands up well against scratches.

The final design and content of the information panel is currently being decided – although a map of the Parish will be the central feature.

--ooOoo--

Wig-Wags are 'Go'...



The long-awaited flashing wig-wag warning signs (left) were finally installed for the start of the **School's spring term.**

These new solar-powered signs have replaced the previous versions on all three approach roads to the School.

The signs display an **advisory 20mph limit**, applicable when the lights – activated by an automatic timer for an hour each weekday morning and evening during pick-up and drop-off times – are flashing.

The speed limit reverts to a **statutory 30mph** at all other times.

Spreading the Word...

One of the **Parish Council's** initial aims was to improve the way that information about the Parish and the **Council's** activities could be made available to parishioners.

This resulted in the launch of this newsletter, to better communicate – and enable residents to keep abreast of – affairs of current interest.

It also prompted the on-going improvements to the content and quality of the information contained on the **Council's** website.

Now the need for a **Community Information** leaflet – a core document containing details of, and how to access, the many **services and activities** provided by the Parish – has been identified.



The leaflet – intended to benefit existing residents and to be an **essential source of information** to newcomers to the village – will also highlight, and contain details of who to contact about, the **community help** available to parishioners.

It is planned to hand-deliver a copy of the **Community Information** leaflet to each household during the spring.

--ooOoo--

Open Spaces Review

A review and update of the **Council's Open Spaces Action Plan**, which covers items for which **Braintree DC** provides **Section 106** monies, has been undertaken.

The current plan includes replacements/repairs to the children's play area equipment and the purchase of the new Village Information Board.

--ooOoo--

Latest Planning News

Application Decision:

- ✚ **16/01932/FUL** *Erection of a new, off-grid Passivhaus in the garden on the south side of Long Fen. Replaces Withdrawn Application 16/00804/FUL. Long Fen, Church Street.*
Refused 10/01/17

The reasons for refusal can be found by going to: <https://publicaccess.braintree.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=OGOGBK6BFHUR00> and then opening the 'Decision' document.

Bird Flu – Taking Precautions

To help minimise the spread of the current avian flu outbreak, all poultry keepers, by law, must house or enclose their birds.



These restrictions apply to **all** poultry – **whether kept on a commercial scale or just as a small backyard flock.**

The legal restrictions were recently extended until **28 February 2017**. Poultry keepers are also being encouraged to keep a close watch on the health of their birds.

Further information can be found in [a guide for keepers of backyard flocks](#).

Risks to public health are very low and avian flu does not pose a food safety risk.

--ooOoo--

Forthcoming Events

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

- ✚ **Sat 18th Feb* Infusion Challenge** – starts **7.30pm**. Come, sample and judge the Best Home-Made Infusion. Entry: **£1 with** 250ml bottle of infused spirit/**£3 without**. For more details contact Julie Ingram (01787 463 637)
- ✚ **Sat 4th Mar* Great Maplestead Jumble Sale** Opens **3.00pm** – entry: **20p**. Refreshments & raffle. Contributions to Doreen Faulks (01787 460 727) or Diane Smith (01787 473 300)
- ✚ **Sat 18th Mar* Spring Ceilidh** at **7.30pm**, dancing to **Cock A Snook**. Tickets **£12.50** (inc. supper) from Philippa Mills (01787 460 578)
- ✚ **Mon 17th Apr* Easter Village Walk** – meet at **10.30am**. Cost: **£2.50 per person** - dogs & children **free**. Refreshments at half-way + end.
- ✚ **Wed 19th Apr* Annual Parish Assembly** – starts **7.30pm**. An informal meeting for village organisations and groups to report their past year's activities and promote future events.

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

--ooOoo--

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/