



Maplestead Magna Carta

Award-Winning Newsletter of Great Maplestead Parish Council

So It's Goodbye, Regal Busways – Hello DaRT...

All Change for a New Bus Service...



Great Maplestead's existing bus services are being withdrawn over the August Bank Holiday weekend to make way for a more frequent, more flexible service.

Regal Busways' contract to run routes **11/12** & **13** from Halstead to Sudbury – the ones directly serving **Great Maplestead** – expires in September, so these routes are being axed and replaced by a **Demand Responsive Transport (DaRT)** service, one where passengers need to book journeys with the operator in advance.



The new **DaRT F315** service will be operated by Arrow Taxis, using minibuses that hold up to 16 passengers, and it will run between 6.00am and 8.00pm, Mondays to Saturdays. Concessionary bus passes will be accepted from 9.00am until mid-night during the week and all day Saturday

The service differs from a normal bus in as much as the route is flexible, allowing people to be collected and dropped off at, for example, the hospital within the service's operating area.

However, unlike conventional buses, **DaRT** users **must book a seat**, and register as a customer, **at least two hours before travelling**.

Booking can be done by phone **01621 87441** or e-mail: info@essexandsuffolkdart.co.uk

To let people familiarise themselves with the new system, the **DaRT F315** service will **run to a timetable** for a 3-6 month period, starting on **29th August**, during which users **won't need** to book the timetabled segment but **will need** to book the **Demand Responsive** part.

Great Maplestead is on this part of the route – which means **the bus won't visit the village unless the service has been booked**.

The timetable and fare details can be found at: <https://greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk/local-amenities/local-bus-service/>; this page also has a link that provides answers to some **Frequently Asked Questions** about the new service.

...and for Community Transport too

Braintree District Council is currently undertaking a consultation about the fees and charges made for its Community Transport Scheme.



This is due to a proposed reduction in the **Essex County Council** grant for its running costs.



At the last **Parish Council** meeting, **Braintree District Cllr. John O'Reilly-Cicconi** said that, in order to help **BDC** maintain this service, despite the subsidy reduction, it is having to consider increasing fares and charges – which have not risen for four years. Currently the cost of a journey is about half the cost of conventional transport services.

The main cost changes being proposed are:

Social Car Scheme: Current Fare Structure	Proposed New Fare Structure
£3.00 minimum fare up to 5 miles	£3.50 minimum fare up to 5 miles*
60p per mile over 5 miles	70p per mile over 5 miles

Minibus Hire Scheme: Current Charging Structure	Proposed New Charging Structure, including Fuel
£25 minimum charge up to 20 miles	£30 minimum charge up to 20 miles
£1.25 per mile over 20 miles	£1.50 per mile over 20 miles

The Community Transport scheme provides affordable transport for older people, those with restricted mobility, those with a disability who may struggle to use public transport and those who have needs which are not met by existing transport services. It provided over 51,000 journeys in the Braintree District during 2016.

The 8-week consultation runs until **Friday 15th September 2017** – subject to its outcome, the intention is to implement the proposed increases **from 2nd October 2017**.

To contribute to/comment on the consultation, e-mail: community.transport@braintree.gov.uk

Winning ways...

Great Maplestead won a Merit Award in the 2017 Essex Village of the Year Competition, run by Rural Community Council of Essex.



The Award was announced at the **RCCE AGM**, held at Chelmsford City Racecourse on 5th July.

This is the third year running that the village has won in this competition, gaining a **Merit Award** in 2015 and a **Class Winner's Award** in 2016.

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Emergency Telephone Scheme

Following its successful and well-attended CPR training courses, the Parish Council is now evaluating the setting up of a Village Emergency Telephone Scheme (VETS).

VETS is designed to assist in a lone-rescuer situation, where someone aiding a person who has suffered a cardiac arrest has to stay with the patient but needs help in getting the defibrillator.



It works like this: after ringing the Emergency Services on **999**, the rescuer calls a memorable **VETS** number, unique to **Great Maplestead**.

This then rings telephones simultaneously in a number of volunteers' homes, until someone answers and can assist.

The rescuer then tells the responder the location of the incident so that the responder can collect the defibrillator, take it to the patient and assist the rescuer until the Emergency Services arrive.

Comments regarding such a scheme, and whether it would be useful for the village, would be welcomed by the Parish Clerk.

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Just Walking the Dog...

Concerns have recently been expressed by the School and Youth Group leaders about dogs running free on the Playing Field when children are doing supervised activities.

Residents are reminded that, as part of the **Playing Field's Terms of Use***, dog walkers are required not only to keep their pets under close control at all times, but to **put them on a lead while in the vicinity of children** or **when any formalised games/organised events are taking place**.

Dog faeces must **always** be bagged immediately and **put in the dog waste bin provided**.

*Full **Terms of Use** are on the **Parish Council website**.

Latest Planning News

The Parish Council considered the following applications at its meeting on 19th July:

Applications Received:

- ✚ **17/01084/FUL** – *Erection of single storey extension. 1 Langthorne Cottages, Gestingthorpe Road.*
- ✚ **17/01147/FUL** – *Erection of orangery extension. Bennetts Farm, Dynes Hall Road.*

It was agreed that the response to 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.

The following **Appeal Decision** was notified to the **Parish Council** on **1st August**:

- ✚ **16/01932/FUL** – *Notification of Appeal: Long Fen, Church Street. Appeal Ref: APP/Z1510/W/17/3172840* **Appeal dismissed**

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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:

- ✚ **Fri evenings to end of Aug: Boules** – on the **Playing Field**. Make the most of those warm summer nights! Starts around: **6.30pm**. Bring your own drinks, snacks & chairs.
- ✚ **Sat 9th Sept* Jumble Sale** + raffle and refreshments. Opens **3.00pm**, admission **30p**. Contributions to Diane Smith (01787 473 300) at the **Village Hall** on **Thursday** morning, all day **Friday & Saturday** morning **only**.
- ✚ **Sat 16th Sept* Maplesteads' Autumn Show** – for **schedule and show** details contact Carol Brownlie (01787 461 527).
- ✚ **Sat 30th Sept* Bingo Evening** – eyes down for some fun with numbers. More details from Myra Jeggo (01787 474 285).

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: <http://greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk>