



Maplestead Magna Carta

The Official Newsletter of Great Maplestead Parish Council

Use It Or Lose It – Mobile Library Service Under Threat...

Read All About It...

Due to a steady decline in the numbers of parishioners patronising the mobile library, a potentially vital village service is under threat of withdrawal.

The mobile library – provided by **Essex Library Services** – visits Great Maplestead fortnightly, on **Thursdays** between **4.40-5.00pm**, parking in the Church lay-by or by the Village Hall.



It is a service that the village can ill-afford to lose: for many older parishioners it is the only way to access the library's facilities and, for children, it is a free opportunity to widen their horizons and enjoy reading interesting books.

So, the onus is on everyone to use it, or risk losing it! The library's next visiting dates are: **November 5th & 19th; December 3rd & 17th**

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Growing Homes and Businesses...

The District Council report at the last Parish Council meeting concentrated primarily on homes and business.

Cllr. John O'Reilly-Cicconi indicated **Braintree DC** is being required to make a provision for **17,700 homes** over the next 5 years. He also announced the launch of a **Business Growth Loan Fund** which offers capital loans of between **£5,000 & £100,000** to benefit local businesses – details at www.braintree.gov.uk/businessloan.

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Bussing About

There have recently been disruptions to the village bus service provided by Regal Busways, with buses either not running to schedule or being cancelled altogether.



The main causes have now been addressed but, to avoid future inconvenience, the Council has agreed a procedure for **Regal** to **authorise**, and **refund the costs** of, alternative travel arrangements.

Go to www.essexinfo.net/qtmaplesteadpc/local-amenities/local-bus-service/ to find details about the **authorisation** and **claims** procedure.

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The Bridges of Maplestead Parish

With most of the parish's footpath network now clear for walking, the condition of two stream footbridges is being addressed.



The bridge at the junction of FPs 16, 18 & 19, in the Water Meadows (left), has a loose/insecure plank fixing while the one at the north-west end of The Slype (FP 26) has a plank missing.

These were reported to **Essex CC** on 10th Sept, inspections were carried out on 18th & 22nd Sept and both bridges are now scheduled for repair.

Meanwhile, the Council has agreed to enter into a **Service Level Agreement** with **Essex CC** to take Parish responsibility for maintaining certain footpaths: for this, a grant will be provided. The application, with a schedule of paths for consideration, will be made in December.

The current status of the footpath network is at <http://www.essexinfo.net/qtmaplesteadpc/footpaths/> – follow the instructions on the page.

If you wish to report any footpath problems, please notify the **Parish Clerk**.

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Making It A Level Playing Field

The Playing Field is a community amenity owned by the Parish Council for the benefit of the village and is freely available to parishioners for casual activities.

These may include ball games (not golf), picnics, jogging, children's games, dog walking and informal small gatherings, all of which are allowed without seeking specific consent.

The Playing Field is also available for **Organised Events**, providing an **Application for Use** is submitted, on a form available from the **Parish Clerk**, at least 8 weeks prior to the event.

Limitations as to Use apply in order to ensure minimal inconvenience to neighbouring people/properties. Amongst a host of things that are **not** allowed are the flying of model aircraft, horse riding, music concerts and overnight camping.

The Council has recently undertaken a major review of its **Terms of Reference** for use of the Playing Field and these will shortly be published on the Council website.

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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. Items in the revised plan will include replacements/repairs to Children's Play Area items, fitness equipment for parishioner use in the field and a new cladding proposal for the storage facility.

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The Task Force Needs You!

We want **Great Maplestead** to remain a pleasant place to live - are you able to occasionally offer your time and/or skills to help us achieve this aim?

If so, the **Task Force** would be really happy to hear from you.

We are particularly looking for volunteers with specific skills: **carpenters, painters, diggers, gardeners, creative DIY types** and even general factotums!

However, your skills, interests, experience, age and gender are completely immaterial – if you are able to offer any help at all please contact:

Task Force Leader Martin Elms
e-mail: martinelms@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk
phone: 01787 461 421

Dangerous/Illegal School Parking



Dangerous and/or illegal parking by some parents and taxi drivers at drop-off and pick-up times is causing severe difficulties for people living near the School.

In addition to cars blocking driveways, in some cases verbal abuse has also been directed at residents attempting to access their own homes.

The Council is working closely with the School, and initiatives, such as the **Walking Bus** from the School Car Park, are already in place to try and resolve the problem of inconsiderate parking close to the school, which is creating accident risks and putting children in danger.

It has been suggested that residents could help by reporting any offending taxi drivers to their employer(s), as well as notifying the police about repeated illegal/inconsiderate parking near the junction and/or instances of verbal abuse.

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Forthcoming Events

Between now and mid-December there are a number of events in the Village Hall* that you may wish to note for your diary:

- ✚ **Sat 31st Oct* Hallowe'en Murder Mystery Evening and Supper** at 7.00pm. Tickets **£12.50** (inc. 3-course meal) from Julie Ingram (01787 463 637) or Ann Crisp (01787 460 216)
- ✚ **Sun 8th Nov Remembrance Day Service** in the Church – 10.45am
- ✚ **Sat 21st Nov* Autumn Ceilidh** at 7.30pm, dancing to **Cock A Snook**. Tickets **£12.50** (inc. Supper) from Philippa Mills (01787 460 578)
- ✚ **Sat 5th Dec* Christmas Bazaar** – 2-4pm

More details on these events, and others, 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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