



Maplestead Magna Carta

Award-Winning Newsletter of Great Maplestead Parish Council

SUPERFASTESSEX broadband – but not for this parish...

We are already being served...

Superfast Essex, Essex County Council's superfast broadband roll-out programme, is not currently planning to invest in providing a broadband network in **Great Maplestead**.

This is because, under State Aid rules, **Superfast Essex (SE)** is legally unable to invest in areas where superfast broadband is already available from an existing network operator – in this case, **County Broadband**.

Reviewing the situation ...

An assessment of the broadband provision in the parish was recently carried out by independent technical consultants together with **SE** and the UK National Competency Centre for State Aid (NCC) in response to queries from residents regarding the quality and availability of **County Broadband's (CB's)** service.

• The Outcome:

The results of this review were as follows:

- The **CB** network meets the technical requirements for a superfast broadband service as set by the EU and is capable of providing such a service.
- It was recognised that, in a small number of cases, the wireless signal may not reach individual houses. **SE** has an evidenced feedback process for affected residents (see below) and, where this process is successfully completed, the impacted premises will become eligible for public investment.
- **SE** will continue to monitor the deployment of the remaining coverage planned by **CB**, which must be completed by the end of December 2019 – if this does not happen, impacted areas will be re-classified as eligible for SE investment.

• Providing feedback:

If residents in areas that are claimed to be covered by **CB** are unable to access superfast broadband, and can provide evidence, **SE** should be informed, either online at www.superfastessex.org/contactus or by e-mail: make.theconnection@essex.gov.uk.

The evidence from **CB** should be in writing (e-mail) but, if that is not possible, **SE** will accept evidence of a phone call/site visit, supported by a time and date and the name of the person spoken to/visitor.

Why we are where we are...



Back in 2013 St Giles' PCC, along with Chelmsford Diocese, entertained a proposal from **CB** to supply wireless broadband to the village from the church, which would enable parishioners to enjoy a reliable and competitive superfast broadband service at a time when BT/Openreach's earliest realisation date was not expected to be until late 2015.

After a privately undertaken parishioner survey the **CB** proposition was implemented. Subsequently, BT/Openreach removed the parish from its rollout.

What are the alternatives?

Various options exist for anyone wishing to take local action to increase market competition for broadband services in areas where **SE** investment is unavailable. Some alternatives are detailed at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-led-broadband-schemes/introduction-to-community-led-schemes>

The Government however sounds a note of caution: any actions that require community funding or self-financing can require significant organisation and commitment and, almost inevitably, there are risks of such projects running into difficulties.

It also warns that is possible to invest significant time, effort and cost into such a scheme without actually achieving the delivery of a functioning or sustainable broadband network.

--ooOoo--

Council Meeting Dates 2018/19

The Parish Council agreed at the AGM to hold six more meetings during the next 12 months.

The meeting dates, which also appear on the **Parish Council** website, are:

- ✦ **2018:** 11th July; 29th August; 17th October; 28th November.
- ✦ **2019:** 16th January; 13th March.

Dealing with anti-social behaviour...

Residents expressed concern at the Council AGM about anti-social behaviour by some people using the Playing Field car park.



The **Playing Field** is an amenity dedicated as an **Open Space** for the enjoyment of parishioners and others. Although it is expected that

users of the car park should show respect and have consideration for people living in the surrounding area, it is not feasible for the **Council** to either regulate or constantly monitor car park use.

However, anyone witnessing anti-social behaviour in the vicinity is being urged to report incidents to the police, using the **non-emergency 101** number. It is often assumed that the police are not interested in dealing with such complaints but the **Essex** force has stressed its willingness to investigate and deploy resources to areas suffering from anti-social problems.

A police spokesman said; "Anti-social behaviour can have a big impact on people's lives and we take reports of it very seriously. We would strongly encourage residents to report all matters of anti-social behaviour so that an intelligence picture can be built up and the matter addressed."

--ooOoo--

Sign of the times...

Residents have also queried the location and size of the Kofali Farm signs mounted on the field entrance and on fencing alongside Purls Hill road.

The **Council** has investigated with the Planning Enforcement department at **BDC**, which has confirmed that the signs do not breach planning regulations.



--ooOoo--

Getting things fixed...

The **Council** is proposing to replace a number of items of worn-out equipment in the Children's Play Area.

Particularly badly worn are the spring rockers – these will be removed and two new rockers (one of which will be 4-way) will be installed, together with some new safety matting that will be fitted beneath each rocker. The total cost of the replacements and installation will be around £3,300.00 + VAT.



Goodbye John...



District Councillor **John O'Reilly-Cicconi** said at the **Council AGM** that he will not be running for re-election next year.

John was on the Planning Committee of **BDC** for many years, and was helpful with many of the **Council's** planning decisions; he will be missed...

--ooOoo--

Latest Planning News

The **Parish Council** considered the following application at its meeting on 23rd May:

Application Received:

- ✚ **18/00629/FUL & 18/00630/LBC** Hulls Mill Barn, Hulls Mill Lane. Proposed replacement of existing modern garage/outbuilding to provide a 2-storey/2-bed annexe.

It was agreed that the response to this 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 relevant **planning reference** and opening the files.

--ooOoo--

Forthcoming Events

During the next few months you may wish to note the following events for your diary:

- ✚ **Friday Evenings from 15th June – 31st Aug: Boules** – on the **Playing Field**. Make the most of those warm summer nights! Starts around: **6.30pm**. B-y-o drinks, snacks & chairs.
- ✚ **Sun 22nd Jul: Navigational Scatter Event** – from the **Village Hall**. Enjoy a quiet drive in the country, answer a few questions and possibly win a prize! **Max. entry 12 cars**; maximum of **4 participants/car** – entry **£7.50/person**. Breakfast/briefing at **9.15am**; start **10.00am**; lunch & prize-giving **1.00pm**. More information from Steve Harris (01787 462 818)

More information on both these and many other village activities 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: <https://greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk>