



# Maplestead Magna Carta

The Official Newsletter of Great Maplestead Parish Council

## Maintaining Parish Footpaths – the Council’s in Control...

### Stepping Up...



The Council has agreed to enter into an Essex CC **Service Level Agreement** that will allow it to have greater local control over the maintenance of footpaths in the Parish.

As a precursor to determining the **SLA Grant Provision**, a maintenance schedule of those footpaths that will be maintained under the scheme has already been submitted to **ECC**.

The schedule of selected paths will be assessed jointly by the **Parish Council** and **ECC**, with the **Grant Provision** being calculated on the basis of £0.05p/m (mowing), £0.12p/m (strimming).

The **Council** can then appoint its own preferred maintenance contractor – and also decide when the work should be carried out. Undertaking this work earlier in the Spring should obviate the previous problems caused by overgrowth forcing the premature closure of certain paths.



In addition to covering maintenance of the path routes themselves the grant provides for some infrastructure work to be undertaken, such as additional way-marking or repairs.

The **SLA** will also allow the village **Task Force** to recover some of the fuel, consumables and machine-servicing costs it incurs in voluntarily carrying out up to 3 additional path clearings a year – something not available previously.

This innovative maintenance scheme should deliver noticeable improvements in the condition and utility of **Great Maplestead’s** footpaths, encouraging Parishioners to make greater use of these extensive, free-to-use amenities.

### Care in the Community



Funded by Essex CC, **Community Agents Essex** is an organisation dedicated to supporting older people and their informal carers living in local communities.

Comprising a partnership between the **Rural Community Council of Essex**, the **British Red Cross**, **Essex Age UK** and **Neighbourhood Watch**, the aims of the organisation are to:

- Promote health and independence.
- Reduce social isolation.
- Find practical solutions to daily living.
- Inform choice and reduce confusion.

The Community Agents can make home visits to discuss and help with things like:

- **Mobility** – using equipment/technology to improve well-being.
- **Practical living skills** – paying bills/taking medication/attending medical appointments
- **Social inclusion** – connecting with other people/groups and use of social media.
- **Healthy living** – meal preparation/advice.
- **Being a Carer** – accessing the practical support, information and advice available.
- **Individual resilience** – advice on pension/benefits entitlement and personal safety

For more about how **CAE** can help, go to: [www.communityagentsessex.org.uk](http://www.communityagentsessex.org.uk) or phone: **01376 574 341**

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### Life Can Be Draining...

The **Task Force** resurrected the old drainage channel in Lucking Street late last year.



This has meant a marked reduction in water and sediment flowing down the hill during heavy rain.

For 2016/7 **ECC** have now budgeted funds for a 'surface water alleviation scheme', to link the drain outflow from near the Village Hall into this new channel.

## Toeing the Line...

A proposal to extend the existing yellow line parking restrictions around the School has had to be temporarily kicked into touch.

Additional yellow lines were being contemplated as part of the soon-to-be-implemented **20mph scheme** in order to improve safety and alleviate congestion and dangerous parking by parents during school drop-off and pick-up times.



Unfortunately, **ECC Highways** budget constraints mean that any decision on extending the current parking restrictions will have to be deferred until 2017 at the earliest

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## Latest Planning Application News

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

### Application Decisions:

- 15/01309/ELD Change of use of stable building to joinery workshop. **New Barn Farm**, Alderford Street, Sible Hedingham CO9 3HZ.  
**Permitted 16/12/15**

- 15/00914/FUL Revised plans for replacement dwelling for High View (Treeways) and erection of 2 new dwellings. **High View** (Treeways), Church Street, Great Maplestead CO9 2RG.  
**Permitted 22/12/15**

### Applications Received:

- 15/01544/FUL & 15/01545/LBC Installation of 16 photovoltaic solar panels on outbuilding. **Hosdens Farm**, Hosdens Lane, Great Maplestead CO9 2QU.
- 15/01605/FUL Erection of a new exemplar, off-grid Passivhaus in south side of garden. **Long Fen**, Church Street, Great Maplestead CO9 2RJ.

It was agreed that the response to the **Hosdens** solar panels application should be "No objections raised, no comment".

With regard to **Long Fen**, it was considered that, whilst the 'green' concept behind the proposed Passivhaus was to be commended, since the development not only falls outside the Village Envelope but would also be a *de facto* extension of the village, the application had to be rejected. The Council's agreed response can be found at: [http://www.braintree.gov.uk/info/200225/search\\_and\\_track\\_planning\\_applications](http://www.braintree.gov.uk/info/200225/search_and_track_planning_applications), then clicking on 'View Current Applications' and typing '**Long Fen**' into the 'Search' box.

Your comments on either of these applications can also be submitted through this website link.

## Wheels Come Off Hub

The Council's plan to enable the village to provide an emergency response to serious local incidents has received a setback.

Establishing an **Emergency Hub**, located in the Village Hall, requires funding for equipment and back-up training. Unfortunately an application submitted to **MiCommunity** – who co-ordinate grant applications on behalf of **BDC Community Services** – was turned down, due to the scheme being over-subscribed.

Alternative funding sources are now being investigated and pursued.

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## Forthcoming Events

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

- Sat 20<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> Mar\* **Maplestead Magic Night Dinner** – in aid of the **Essex Air Ambulance** and the **Village Hall**. Enjoy a two-course meal and be mesmerised at your table by some amazing close-up magic! Opens **7.00pm** for **7.30pm**. Tickets: **£15/person/tables of 8**. Bring your own drinks and glasses. For tickets contact Steve Harris (01787 462 818)
- Mon 28<sup>th</sup> Mar\* **Easter Village Walk** – meet at **10.30am**. Cost: **£2 per person** – children & dogs **free**. Refreshments at half-way + end.
- Wed 13<sup>th</sup> April\* **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.

Further details on these, and other events, 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**:

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Great Maplestead, CO9 2RW

Tel: 01787 460 216 (4-6pm Mon-Thurs)  
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