



Maplestead Magna Carta

Great Maplestead Parish Council's Award-Winning Newsletter

Postal, Telephone or Cyber-Crime – protect yourself by...

...recognising the symptoms.

Every day people fall victim to scams and fraud, either through receiving a seemingly attractive offer through the mail, accepting a cold-call on the telephone or unsuspectingly clicking on an e-mail link.

Such scams are usually designed to trick the recipients out of money, valuables or to get hold of sensitive personal information for fraudulent use. They can be potentially expensive and are often very distressing, particularly since those who succumb are usually the most vulnerable people in the community.

• Please Mr Postman...



Royal Mail

Royal Mail has taken steps to reduce the amount of scam mail – such as bogus competitions and fake prize draws – that gets into the postal system.

Local postal delivery workers are also involved in trying to prevent scam mail reaching letterboxes, by checking to see whether certain people on their 'walks' are receiving abnormal amounts of post.

This is also something everyone can assist with: if you know of a neighbour, relative or other vulnerable person who is receiving quantities of such mail – and, more importantly, responding to it by sending off money or information – they may require help.

If you are concerned that someone you know in the village is being targeted by scam mail:

- Write to Royal Mail at Freepost Scam Mail, enclosing any items that seem suspicious or fraudulent
- Call the Royal Mail Scam Helpline: 0800 0113 466
- E-mail scam.mail@royalmail.com

• Telephone Scam



Fraudsters can also either cold-call on the phone, or send an unsolicited e-mail pretending to be from your computer company or internet service provider, with a message that there is a problem with your device or router.

This usually leads to a request to 'validate your software', or be granted access to your computer to 'fix the problem' – **don't fall for it!**

No reputable company will send unsolicited e-mails or make cold phone calls to ask for access to your computer or request personal or financial information to fix problems – any such contacts will be fraudulent.

So what to look out for and be aware of?

Common scams use trusted brand names to lull you into a false sense of security. These might be:

- A supposed phone call from your internet service provider i.e. BT, Sky, EE, Virgin etc. or 'Microsoft Tech Support' offering to fix your computer
- An unsolicited e-mail with attached security updates
- A purported request for your credit card details to 'validate your copy of Windows'
- Being told you have won the 'Microsoft Lottery'.

If you receive such an e-mail or call:

- **Delete** the e-mail or hang up the phone – do not engage in a conversation.
- **Never** grant the caller remote access to your computer,
- **Never** click on a website link in the e-mail
- **Never** install software as a result of a cold-call.

For reassurance, contact the company directly, using a method and phone number obtained from their contract or other trusted source. **Never** use phone numbers or e-mail addresses sent by the fraudsters.



You can report cyber-crime at:
www.actionfraud.police.uk
www.getsafeonline.org or:
www.cyberaware.gov.uk

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Changes to Community Policing...

The formation of Braintree's Community Policing Team (CPT) in 2015 resulted in fewer community officers and a withdrawal of 'beat officers' from some local areas.

Now, Police Officers and Community Support Officers (PCSOs) have been allocated **specific local areas of responsibility** for improved accountability and to help develop better relationships with residents.

The local **Community Officers** for Halstead district, which includes **Great Maplestead**, are:

PC 3655 Craig Wheeler

e-mail: Craig.Wheeler@essex.pnn.police.uk

PC 2613 Andy Pilgrim

e-mail: Andy.Pilgrim@essex.pnn.police.uk

PC 2457 Paul Norman

e-mail: Paul.Norman@essex.pnn.police.uk

PCSO 70714 John Thorne

e-mail: John.Thorne@essex.pnn.police.uk

PCSO 70955 Joanne Cooper

e-mail: Joanne.Cooper@essex.pnn.police.uk

These officers are the **initial points of contact** for **any** community concerns. **999** remains the number for emergencies; for non-urgent enquiries it's **101**.

Local Plan Update

Braintree District's Local Plan was submitted to the Planning Inspector in October 2017 and public hearings were held in January and May 2018 to consider the first part of the Plan.

This **Strategic Section 1 Plan** is shared with Colchester Borough and Tendring District Councils and contains **10 strategic policies** for developments in **North Essex**, as well as proposals to create **three new Garden Communities**.

In June 2018 the Planning Inspector agreed that **716 homes** needed to be built in **Braintree District** each year until 2033. However, he also said that **the current plan was not sound** and needed more work, particularly in relation to the **Garden Communities**.

After considering the Inspector's letter the three local authorities have agreed to work together to gather further evidence – this is considered to be the best approach for **Braintree District** in order to protect existing towns and villages from urban sprawl.

This new evidence, along with any consequent changes to the **Local Plan**, will be considered at a **BDC** meeting before being put out for more public consultation and then consideration by the Inspector.

The next step is to agree a timetable for this work, which will be advised to the public in due course.

Section 2 of the **Local Plan**, which only contains site specific policies/allocations for **Braintree District**, remains with the Planning Inspectorate – it will only be considered once **Section 1** has progressed.

For any questions, or for further information, contact: **Emma Goodings**, Head of Economic Development and Planning Policy, **BDC**, Causeway House, Bocking End, Braintree, CM7 9HB. Phone: **01376 552 525** Ext **2511** or e-mail: localplan@braintree.gov.uk

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Latest Planning News

There were no Planning matters discussed at the Council meeting on 17th October.

However, the following **Application** has since been received and will be considered by the **Council** at its meeting on **28th November**:

- ✚ **18/01900/VAR** *Buttercup Cottage, Church Street. Variance of Condition 2 of planning permission 13/00328/FUL, to replace the previously approved drawings with revised drawings that the dwelling is actually being built in accordance with.*

The **Council** has also been advised by **BDC** of its **Planning Committee's** unanimous **refusal** of the following **Application** at its **30th October** meeting:

- ✚ **18/01208/FUL** *Long Fen, Church Street. Erection of a new Passivhaus dwelling.*

To see comments on either of these click on: http://www.braintree.gov.uk/info/200225/search_and_track_planning_applications, then click on 'View Current Applications', type in the **planning reference** and open the files.

Forthcoming Events

Over the coming months, and into the New Year, there are village events (some at the Hall*) you may wish to note in your diary:

- ✚ **Wed 14th Nov* County Broadband Fibre Optic Presentation** - find out all about the plans for a 1000Mbps service for the village. Doors open **7.30pm. All welcome.**
- ✚ **Fri 16th Nov* Pub Night** – from **7.30-9.30pm** Come along, unwind and join us for an informal social evening, play **Indoor Bowls** or just have a chat. Bring your own drinks and nibbles.
- ✚ **Sat 17th Nov Bottle Collection** – round the village for the **Christmas Fair** – from **2.00pm**. Leave out full bottles only, please!
- ✚ **Sat 24th Nov* Christmas Fair** - from **10.30am to 1.00pm**. Gifts; Tombola; Bric-a-Brac; Raffle; Refreshments. Christmas table and floral arrangement demonstrations/ordering.
- ✚ **Sat 1st Dec/Sun 6th Jan 2019 Village Christmas Tree Trail** – starts with dressing and lighting the **Village Christmas Tree** on the Church Street triangle **at 6.00pm** – bring baubles! Mulled wine in the **Village Hall** later. Contact Julie Ingram (01787 463 637) for more information about the Trail and to book a date for lighting up your own Christmas tree. 
- ✚ **Fri 21st Dec* Carols Round the Village** – meet at the Church Street triangle at **7.00pm**. Mulled wine and light refreshments afterwards.
- ✚ **Sat 29th Dec* Mid-Winter Beer Festival** – the beers, wines, any food, the opening times, prices and any further details to be announced on the **Council** website's 'Events' page soon.
- ✚ **Fri 4th Jan 2019* Pub Night** – from **7.30-9.30pm**. Join us, unwind and enjoy an informal social evening, play a mystery game or just have a chat. Bring your own drinks and nibbles.
- ✚ **Sun 6th Jan 2019* New Year Village Walk** – meet at **11.00am**. Cost: **£2.50/person** – dogs & children **free**. Half-way drinks + refreshments
- ✚ **Fri 18th Jan 2019* Pub Night** – from **7.30-9.30pm** Join us, unwind and enjoy an informal social evening, play '**Kurling**' or just have a chat. Bring your own drinks and nibbles.
- ✚ **Sat 19th Jan 2019* Cards & Curry Evening** – more details on the 'Events' page soon.

Further information about these and many other village activities 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: <https://greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk>