



Maplestead Magna Carta

Great Maplestead Parish Council's Award-Winning Newsletter

Road safety scheme awaiting ECC funding approval...

Signs of progress...

Some of the measures that were requested last year by the Parish Council to help improve road safety in the local area are now on Essex Highways' 'schemes awaiting funding' list.

A signage proposal, which included installing new pedestrian warning signs as well as extra 30mph repeaters and additional 'SLOW' road markings where they were most needed, has been validated and costed as 'ready-to-go'. Essex Highways will be seeking approval for the £7,500 funds required at their 2021/22 budget meeting in March.

Implementation of these measures should ensure better protection for vulnerable users such as dog walkers, cyclists and horse riders on local roads.

The Council's request for one of the village's narrower roads to be designated as a Quiet Lane, essentially giving priority to non-vehicular traffic, still requires vehicle speed and use surveys to be undertaken. Essex Highways have agreed to carry out the necessary validation when circumstances permit.



In other road news...

Heavy rains during January brought a number of local flooding problems. Particularly affected was the junction of Hosdens Lane with the main road...



...whilst Purls Hill was turned into a river by water emanating from the Kofali Farm entrance.

Also worrying is the continuing lack of remedial action on the potholes in Lucking Street which, back in October, were marked for repair 'within 28 days'!



The Council has advised ECC Leader David Finch of its flooding concerns and is currently awaiting a response.

Further news about the road safety scheme will be published when it is received...

Kaitlin cleans up...

Kaitlin Kneafsey is taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme and volunteering is one of the modules she has to complete for the Bronze stage of her Award.

She elected litter picking in Great Maplestead as her volunteering activity because it was one of the few modules that she could do during lockdown – provided she only worked with someone from her household bubble – and, as she lives in the village, she thought it would also be a good way of helping the community.



Kaitlin started litter-picking, accompanied by her Mum, at the beginning of January and she will be working for an hour a week until the end of March. So far she has tackled Dynes Hall Road, the village Playing Field and areas around the centre of the village.

The Council provided Kaitlin's litter picking equipment and each week she notifies the Clerk where she has been and what she's done, provides photos of the rubbish she's collected and says if she has identified fly tipping or anything unusual. The Council can then contact BDC if something needs addressing.

At the end of Kaitlin's 3-months' volunteering activity the Council will provide the Duke of Edinburgh scheme with feedback, comments and photographic evidence to show how her work has benefitted the village.

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Footpath update...

Two footpath problems were rectified during the early part of January.



A collapsed riser on the FP7 steps at the bottom of Church Field was replaced and a collapsed way-marker at the top of the steps at the Church Street end of FP8 was repaired and re-sited.

Budgeting for Uncertain Times - 1

2021/22 Council Tax bills are set to increase by just under £20 per average household, even though Essex County Council are making no change to their own precept.

The rise is to fund an increase in the Government's adult social care provision, which is intended to help protect the most vulnerable in society.

This means the yearly Council Tax bill for a Band D householder will go up from £1,321 to £1,340.

ECC's Leader David Finch said that the Council's post-pandemic plans focus on family, the economy and the environment.



"This budget has been produced under testing circumstances. We have had to make some incredibly tough decisions in the short term to protect our communities and economy in the long term."

"Our proposals will set us on the road to recovery; we have a strategy and an investment plan to begin to mitigate some of the impacts we have all felt over the last year."

ECC is committed to increase apprenticeships, help the unemployed start their own businesses, create 1500 more school places, support older people to remain in their homes and improve and support those with mental health and learning difficulties.

Among other proposals, **ECC** is to plant 50,000 trees this year and invest more than £2.5million in flood defences.

It also announced a 4-year, £1.34billion spending commitment on major infrastructure projects such as new schools and road improvements.

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Budgeting for Uncertain Times - 2

At its January meeting the Council reviewed its 2021/22 Budget & Precept options.

In a move to help alleviate potential financial hardship for parishioners, it was agreed to keep the Precept (the portion of **Council Tax** received by the Parish) at the 2020/21 level for the coming year.

This has subsequently been accepted by **BDC**.

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Parish Council Announcement

Councillors are continuing to undertake their duties and specific responsibilities whilst trying to comply with the ever-changing Government and NALC advice with regard to holding meetings and household mixing.

To be certain of compliance, the next Council meeting, on Wednesday 17th March 2021, is scheduled to be held on Zoom.

If you would like to attend/participate in the meeting, please e-mail the Parish Clerk to request an invitation, which will then be sent to you nearer the time.

Census 2021

The National Census is held every 10 years; the next one is on Sunday 21st March.

Because of the pandemic, this year the Census is being conducted on-line. It is a legal obligation to take part and more information can be found at <https://greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk/latest-news/>

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Latest Planning News

The Council discussed the following planning matters at its Zoom meeting on 20th January:

Application Received:

- ✚ **20/01984/AGR** Land North of Purls Hill Farm, Purls Hill. Erection of general purpose agricultural building.

The **Council's** objections were essentially the same as for its previous responses to **20/01471/AGR** and **19/01829/FUL**. Its complete & detailed objection to this application, plus other comments, can be found by clicking on the link below.

- ✚ **20/02021/HH** Purls Hill Farm House, Purls Hill. Demolition of existing and proposed two-storey side and rear extension incorporating a balcony.
- ✚ **20/02070/LBC** St Giles School Church Street. Proposed removal of wall between existing oil storage tank enclosure and plant room.

The agreed response to both the latter applications was "No objections raised, no comment".

For comments/responses to all applications go to: <https://publicaccess.braintree.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do?action=simple&searchType=Application>, then click on 'View Current Applications', type in the **planning reference** and open the files.

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Forthcoming Events

In order to comply with current 'lockdown' guidance there are no communal village events being planned at present.

However, walking in the local area is still allowed as a permitted exercise; some suggestions of walks that you can do around the village as part of your daily exercise, either individually or in your bubble groups, can be found, in both **map** and **narrative** form, at <https://greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk/parish-information/footpaths/> from where they can be down-loaded and printed off.

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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)
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