



Maplestead Magna Carta

Great Maplestead Parish Council's Award-Winning Newsletter

The Playing Field Development Project – have your say...

...and make a contribution

The **Council Working Party** tasked to create a plan to develop the Playing Field in a way that will ensure its future safety and sustainability will be presenting its **Development Project proposals at two public meetings to be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 22nd May.**

These one-hour presentations – at **10.00am** and **2.00pm** – will explain what the plan is aiming to achieve, the longer-term community benefits and how it is intended that the project will be funded. The meetings will **enable you to play an active role** in the biggest community scheme since the play equipment was first installed 25 years ago.

The **Working Party** is proposing that funding be sought to carry out:

1. A redesign of the playground, with the complete renewal of its equipment (the illustration below is **just an initial idea, not an approved plan**)
2. The installation of new field drains to improve surface conditions after heavy rainfall
3. The construction of a Boules Court and provision of additional picnic benches, for which partial grant funding has already been received

It is estimated that about **£55,000** will be required to deliver the **Development Project** in its entirety.

How will the project be financed?

The **Working Party** has identified five potential funding sources for the project: the **Council's** own reserves; income from events; crowd-funded donations; sponsorship from local businesses and individuals; grants from local/national agencies.

The **Council** has already taken the initiative by investing some **£2,000** of its reserves to kick-start the scheme. This money will be added to the grant already received to purchase and install the Boules Court and picnic benches, enabling these additional facilities to be available for use later this summer.

How you can help

The **Working Party** is now putting together further grant requests to submit to various local/national funding agencies. However, since **match-funding** is needed to help most applications succeed, the project needs to secure initial financial support from local businesses, institutions and individuals.

The meetings will therefore also offer opportunities to explore the **crowd-funding, sponsorship** and **business investment** potential within the parish.

To allow social-distancing at these meetings, please e-mail the **Parish Clerk** for an invitation to attend, stating your morning/afternoon preference.



Equipment Key:

1. Tottlebank Plus (Green) Plastic Slide
2. Timber Cradle Swing
3. Timber (Double Bay) Team Swing
2x Junior Seats/1x Green Team Seat
4. Timber Combo 10
5. Gravity Bowl
6. Little Monkeys - Orangutan
7. Rusland Seat
8. Play Tractor

Playground Renewal Idea

Half-Term Report

The Parish Council is now half-way through its 4-year term – its main accomplishments since May 2019 are detailed below:

Playing Field:

- Security measures were installed to guard against traveller incursions (further work to install a bund/carry out wildflower seeding will be scheduled soon).
- The car park was resurfaced, some play equipment was replaced and the waste bin repaired.
- A funding grant was applied for and has been received for a Boules Court/additional picnic benches.
- The Terms of Use sign was re-sited at the entrance.

Footpaths:

- A new footbridge was installed across the brook at the bottom of Reyes Hill, broken planks on the footbridge from the water meadows to Lucking St were replaced and loose planks were refitted/replaced on the Slype Cope footbridge.
- The Slype steps were replaced by a 'causeway' slope, circumventing the marshy area of the previous path.
- Some broken risers on Church Field steps were replaced and a collapsed fence/fallen tree blocking the Hulls Mill footpath were re-erected/removed.

Communications:

- A Council Facebook page was created to improve dialogue with, and feedback from, parishioners.
- A Parish survey was carried out to obtain feedback on the telecommunication mast plans.

Highways:

- The Lucking Street drainage project, initiated in 2017, was finally undertaken and completed by ECC.
- A road safety programme has been initiated with ECC – confirmation of budget approval is awaited.
- A new dog bin was installed in Gestingthorpe Road.
- *Ad hoc* litter picks have been undertaken, including sponsorship of a volunteer working for her bronze Award on the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme.

Community Projects:

- The Council's Community/Emergency Information leaflets have been reviewed and updated.
- A working liaison has been established with the local PCSOs and their Community Policing Programme.
- The defibrillator stolen from the Village Hall was replaced, with improved security measures, and a CPR/Defibrillator training/refresher course held.
- A Covid Community Support initiative (Village Support Group) was established to help vulnerable residents.

General:

- The Council was presented with a second Foundation Award Certificate, recognising that it meets all the criteria for operating both **lawfully** and in accordance with **best practice** – it is valid until 2023.
- Emergency Standing Orders were introduced to enable work and meetings to continue uninterrupted.
- Planning Applications have continued to be monitored and responded to, including Kofali Farm's plans for a development on the field alongside Purls Hill.
- Monitoring of the Local Development plan continues.
- A new audit process has been implemented and the Council's financial reserves successfully maintained

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Goodbye David...

Essex County Councillor David Finch announced in March that he would not be seeking re-election this May.



David has been extremely generous with his help, assistance and advice to the Parish Council over the years; his presence will be sorely missed...

Parish Council Announcement

The emergency Covid-19 legislation that permitted Councils to hold virtual meetings expired at midnight on 6th May 2021.

The next Council meeting, on **Wednesday 14th July 2021**, is therefore planned to be held, in-person, in the Village Hall.

Council Meeting Dates 2021/22

The Parish Council has scheduled five further meetings during the next 12 months:

- ✚ **2021:** 14th July; 8th September; 17th November.
- ✚ **2022:** 12th January; 16th March.

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Latest Planning News

The following planning decisions were noted by the Council at its Zoom meeting on 5th May:

Application Decisions:

- ✚ **21/00714/AGR** Chelmshoe House Farm, Monks Lodge Road. Application for agricultural or forestry development – proposed crop store. **Approval given 30/03/21**
- ✚ **21/00865/NMA** Highview, Church Street. Non-Material Amendment to original application **15/00914/FUL** **Refused 23/04/21**

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Forthcoming Events

No communal village events are imminent.

However, there are a few post-lockdown events being planned, the first of which is:

- ✚ **Sun 27th June: Village 'Freedom' Walk** – meet at **3.00pm** in the Village Hall car park. Cost: **£2.50**/person as a donation towards the **Playing Field Development Fund** – children under 15 & dogs **free**. Half-way refreshments provided/afternoon tea and cakes at the finish.

Some subsequent dates for your diary include:

- ✚ **Sat 11th September: Autumn Show**
- ✚ **Sat 25th September: Jumble Sale**

More details on these events nearer the time.

In the meantime, some suggestions of walks that you can do around the village as part of your daily exercise 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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