



Maplestead Magna Carta

Great Maplestead Parish Council's Award-Winning Newsletter

Come and enjoy a 'Fun(d) Day' afternoon on the field to...

...help fund the Development Project

On Saturday 14th August the Parish Council is officially launching its ambitious Playing Field Development Project by holding a summer afternoon fête on the field from 2.30-6.00pm.

The 'Playing Field Fun(d) Day' will be the first of hopefully many village fundraising events for this £50,000 Project.

In addition to a great **Fun Dog Show**, with classes suitable for every sort of dog (see below*), a guest appearance by the **Hells Belles Morris Dancers** and many fun events and activities to enjoy, there will also be visual displays to give everyone attending the opportunity to get a better idea of what the **Project** involves.

You will be able to study the initial proposals and also discuss how to become involved in helping to raise further funds by organising other community-led or social events.

*The Fun Dog Show Schedule

Details of the classes, registration and contact information are shown below – there are prizes for each class, so please give this event your support:

What is the Development Project's aim?

The **Council** is looking to broaden the appeal of the playing field and encourage its greater use by residents, their children and grandchildren. The plans involve completely replacing the ageing play equipment, improving field drainage and installing new adult social recreational/relaxation facilities.

The improvements, which have already started with the installation of **two new picnic benches**, will also benefit the School, its children and their parents, allowing this important community asset to safely and sustainably cater for everyone's recreational and social needs well into the future.

What's been happening so far?

The **Working Party** tasked with undertaking this **Project** has, to date, been doing:

- **Public Presentations**

Two of these, at the end of May, were held to inform parishioners about the scheme, its aims and anticipated implementation timescale. These also included discussing why sponsorship/funding/donations are needed from within the community.

- **Publicity**

A welcome boost to the **Project's** profile was as a result of the village's inclusion as a clue in the BBC Essex Quest programme on 6th June. This gave **Cllr. Simon Last** the opportunity to explain to a wide local audience what the **Council** is trying to achieve and the funding that is needed.

- **Playground Equipment Reviews**

A research trip was made to view local children's playgrounds, evaluate different ideas and to see what types of equipment might best:

- meet the sustainability/longevity brief
- conform with current thinking on child play requirements
- have a suitably lengthy warranty period
- be low maintenance/easy to repair
- have 'style', impact and visual presence

This research suggested that a more imaginatively configured playground, featuring natural wooden equipment, would not only meet all the above criteria but also offer a modern, bold, exciting and attractive focal point for the field, enhancing its setting and improving the area's visual appeal.



What's been happening so far? (contd.)

• Fundraising

Obtaining funding for the **Project** has already achieved a remarkable degree of success – even prior to its official launch, around **£20,000** has been raised or pledged by village institutions, local companies, the proceeds of social events and individual donors.

The **Working Party** is still seeking the remaining finance through grant requests to local/national funding agencies. A grant of **£10,000** is being applied for from the **Essex Local Council Association Community Initiative Fund** and applications will also be made to **BDC** for a District Councillor fund contribution.

There is no guarantee, however, that such applications will be successful and, if they are, match-funding is usually required. Additional financial support from individuals and companies that have not yet committed to being involved is therefore important if the **Project** is to succeed.

As well as donating directly, you can also help raise the money that's needed for match-funding by:

- Supporting organised community events (e.g. the Autumn Show; village walks etc.)
- Organising/attending any social events (e.g. Quiz/Race/pub nights etc.)
- Devising specific fund-raisers of your own (e.g. open garden parties; car washing etc.)
- Setting up a crowd-funding initiative (e.g. through Just-Giving etc.)

The Working Party would welcome any fundraising suggestions you may have – every penny counts! Contact the Parish Clerk with your ideas and for more information about how to make a donation.

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Pizzas on the Playing Field

One of the earliest funding contributors to the Playing Field Development Project were Nonna's Pizza and Grill, who have already donated a percentage of their takings from each of their previous two village visits.



Their unique Citroën van will be back once again in the Playing Field Car Park from **5.00pm** on **Friday 13th August** (the evening before the **Fun(d) Day** fête) with more of their delicious freshly-baked, wood-fired pizzas – and they'll be making a further donation, so your support is important. And maybe the weather will be OK for a picnic this time!

Menu details and how to pre-order can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/nonnasessex/>

Latest Planning News

The following planning items were considered by the Council at its meeting on 14th July:

Application Decisions:

- ✚ **21/01276/DAC** *September Cottage, Church St.* Application for approval of details as reserved by condition 3 of approved application **19/00938/LBC.** **Permitted 01/07/21**
- ✚ **21/01565/DAC** *September Cottage, Church St.* Application for approval of details as reserved by conditions 4, 5 & 6 of approved application **19/00938/LBC.** **Permitted 02/07/21**

Applications Received:

- ✚ **21/01996/HH** *Library Cottage, Monks Lodge Rd.* Erection of single storey rear extension with pitched roof.
- ✚ **21/02079/TPO** *The Old Rectory, Church St.* Crown lift of a group of four lime trees overhanging the public footpath.
- ✚ **21/01009/FUL** *Kofali Farm, Purls Hill.* Application for the erection of 2 poly-tunnels for agricultural use. Retention of CCTV & temporary consent for a storage container

The agreed response to the first two applications was "No objections raised, no comment".

The **Kofali Farm** retrospective application was supported by the **Council** with certain conditions. The caveats and other comments can be found at: <https://publicaccess.braintree.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do?action=simple&searchType=Application>. Click on 'View Current Applications', type in the **planning reference** and open the files.

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Forthcoming Events

The following are some village events (*these at the Village Hall) to note for your diary:

- ✚ **Fri 13th Aug: Pizzas on the Playing Field** – see left for timing and pre-ordering details.
- ✚ **Sat 14th Aug: Playing Field Fun(d) Day** – for more information see the main article.
- ✚ **Sat 11th Sep*: Maplesteads Autumn Show** – for entry details and a programme contact Carol Brownlie (461 527) or click the links on the **Council** website's **Autumn Show** page.
- ✚ **Sat 25th Sep*: Jumble Sale** - starts **3.00pm**. Admission **30p**. Raffle and Refreshments. More details from Diane Smith (473 300), Doreen Faulks (460 727) or Liz Newton (461 308).

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Contacting the Council

Any comments, 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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