



Maplestead Magna Carta

Great Maplestead Parish Council's Award-Winning Newsletter

The 'Fun(d) Day' afternoon proved to be a great success!

A festive and enjoyable occasion

The Parish Council's 'Fun(d) Day', its summer afternoon fête held on Saturday 14th August in aid of the Playing Field Development Project, was a resounding success!

Beautiful weather and the first opportunity to attend an outdoor social event in well over a year attracted hundreds of people to enjoy a superb village occasion, featuring dancing, displays, light-hearted competitive activities and a fun dog show.

The afternoon raised over **£1,400** – an amazing result! Unveiled at the fête, and now permanently in place on the Playing Field, the Totaliser Tree shows that funds raised to date have reached almost **£24,000** – nearly half-way towards the **Council's** overall target.



The event was introduced by a striking display of Morris dancing from Hells Belles, as colourful and musical as ever, welcoming visitors to the show.

Various fun activities and games were dotted around the field, attracting much interest from children who particularly enjoyed playing the old-school games, winning a Gold Star and rushing to pick a Lucky Dip gift from the winners' prize basket.

By far the biggest attraction of the afternoon though was the **Fun Dog Show**, compered by the inimitable Keith Brownlie – never before have so many waggy tails been seen parading round the field! Nine different classes drew a huge entry of over 75 dogs, some from Colchester, Sudbury, Hadleigh and even further afield.



The top three dogs in each class, judged by Jessica Reynolds from Mulberry Vets at Henny, won rosettes and a selection of goodies, while the top dog went on to compete for Best in Show. This was won by Boris, a handsome cockapoo handled by Darcey Jeggo, who had previously won Best Young Handler.

It was a real community effort...

The willingness of so many parishioners to either get involved with the running of, or otherwise participate in, the 'Fun(d) Day' demonstrated just how much the Playing Field – which provides a safe, open space for residents, their children and grandchildren to gather, relax and socialise with friends and neighbours – means to the village.

The Council would therefore like to sincerely thank Hells Belles, the Dog Show organisers, the Maplesteads' WI, the Beer Festival team, those who ran the games and all the other participants and volunteers who, both before and during the afternoon, helped to make this unique occasion such a great success.

How's the Project going so far?

The funding boost from the fete, plus individual and corporate grants and generous local donations from the church, Village Hall and others, has successfully kicked off this ambitious community project.

The **Council's Working Party** is now exploring ways of acquiring additional funding from national and local providers. **£10,000** has been applied for from the **Essex Local Council Association Community Initiative Fund**, an application for appropriate **National Lottery** funding is under-way and requests to **BDC** and **ECC** for local community grants are in the pipeline.

However, **additional financial contributions** from local companies and individuals continue to be needed to help generate essential match-funding for this community project. Also, the **community's commitment** must be demonstrated to satisfy and reinforce the application requirements of many of the national grant providers. So, in order to drive this project forward successfully, **your support and involvement is essential**, either through **making a donation** directly, if you can, or by:

- Supporting organised community events (e.g. village walks, quiz night etc.)
- Organising and/or attending social events (e.g. Racing/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. a Just-Giving competitive challenge etc.)

Any fund-raising event suggestions you may have would be welcome – every penny counts! Contact the Parish Clerk with your ideas and for details about how you can make a donation (anonymously if you prefer).

Walking the line...

You may have noticed recently-erected signs restricting access to some of the local farm tracks regularly walked by villagers.

The paths in question are not registered as Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and, as such, do not appear on the Council's Definitive Map.

However, paths may be still become rights of way either:

- through dedication by the landowner and acceptance by the public, or;
- as *Presumed Rights of Way* under **Section 31** of the **Highways Act 1980**, if they have been used by the public for 20 years or more without interruption, unless there is evidence to the contrary.

The latter is known as **Statutory Dedication** and the Council assessed that in the case of these particular farm tracks, since they had demonstrably been walked for a considerable period – even before the millennium – *Presumed Use* did apply.

As a result, parishioner concerns about the new restriction signs were discussed between the Council and the landowner. He recognised the situation and, after explaining that conservation work was the reason for the signs, agreed that their wording, rather than prohibiting all public access, would be changed to a request for "Dogs to be kept on leads" when walked on these tracks.

With the proviso that people properly respect the owner's use of his land, the Council is satisfied that this agreement provides a mutually acceptable solution, allowing parishioners to continue to walk these farm tracks as they have for many years.

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Season of the Switch



ECC is continuing its backing for **Essex Energy Switch**, a collective energy switching scheme whose suppliers provide 100% renewable energy and enables residents and small businesses to economise by cutting their gas and electricity bills.

The cap on standard variable tariffs is going up by £139 from 1st October 2021. So, whether you switch or not, your energy bills are likely to rise. However, a fixed tariff will offer peace of mind and ensure your bills won't go up anymore for a year

Registration – which needs to be done again even if you have registered in previous years – is easy to do either online www.essex.gov.uk/energyswitch or by calling Big Community Switch on 0800 048 8439. You will need a recent energy bill to hand.

There is no obligation to switch providers after registering but, if you do, **Essex Energy Switch** will take all the hassle out of changing suppliers.

Latest Planning News

The following planning items were considered by the Council at its 8th September meeting:

Application Decisions:

- ✚ **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. **Refused 12/08/21**
- ✚ **21/02079/TPO** The Old Rectory, Church St. Crown lift of a group of four lime trees overhanging public footpath. **Permitted 31/08/21**
- ✚ **21/02191/VAR** New Barn House, Purls Hill. Removal of condition 2 (agricultural occupancy) of planning approval **P/BTE/0596/82/FL/H** granted 17/08/82 for proposed conversion of existing barn building. **Refused 07/09/21**

Applications Noted:

- ✚ **21/02513/DAC** Purls Hill Farm House, Purls Hill Discharge of conditions 3 & 4 of approved application **20/02021/HH**. **No consultation**

Comments and reasons for the decisions regarding the 'refused' applications can be found by going to: <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:

- ✚ **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).
- ✚ **Mon 27th Sep*: WEA Autumn Course**. **Unfortunately, this has been cancelled.**
- ✚ **Sun 3rd Oct*: Harvest Village Walk** - meet at **11.00am**. Cost: **£2.50/person** – dogs & children under 15 **free**. Half-way drinks + refreshments at the finish.
- ✚ **Sat 13th Nov*: Quiz Night** - doors open **7.00pm** - start **7.30pm**. **Entry £5/person/maximum 10 teams of 6 people** each. Book your team's entry before **6th November** by e-mailing: anncrisp@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk

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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>