



Maplestead Magna Carta

Great Maplestead Parish Council's Award-Winning Newsletter

Playing Field Development Project fundraising ramps up...

Moving up a gear

The **Playing Field Development Project** has now reached a critical stage in its fundraising cycle, as the money already received/pledged is sufficient to provide suitable match-funding for more substantial grant applications.

Generous donations from the Village Hall trustees, the Autumn Show committee, the Church, local businesses and private individuals, together with contributions from events such as the Fun(d) Day, walks and the Quiz Night, mean that over **£29,000** is now available as collateral for future fundraising.

A **CIF Grant** application for **£10,000** has already been submitted to **Essex CC** and, at its meeting on 17th November, the **Council** approved a **National Lottery Grant** application for **£40,000**.

You will have noted that the amounts being applied for, together with the money already raised, exceed the original **£55,000** target by some margin. The reasons for this are three-fold:

- Due to the number of applications funders receive, it is unusual for the full amount of any grant applied for to actually be awarded.
- Since this project started there has been significant inflation in raw material costs, added to which much of the construction phase for the play area is nearly a year away, so labour costs are sure to be higher than when the initial quotes were received.
- A disabled access/walking path, previously an optional consideration, has now been costed into the final plans.

What's happening next?

The **Council's Working Party** is preparing and compiling a **formal tender document** for the manufacture and supply of natural play equipment, which its research suggests will not only meet all current requirements for encouraging exciting and stimulating play but will also offer a modern, bold, and attractive focal point for the playing field.



It is intended to complete and issue this document early in the New Year.

In the meantime, the Working Party would welcome any further fund-raising suggestions you may have – every penny counts! Contact the Parish Clerk with your ideas and for more information about how to make a donation.

Land at the Sudbury Road Triangle

The **Parish Council** has been liaising with **Castle Hedingham PC** about the unauthorised development work that has taken place on land at the junction of **Monks Lodge Road** and the **Sudbury Road**.

Although the area sits outside of the parish, there is naturally a mutual interest in this unacceptable situation being resolved satisfactorily.

As things currently stand, a **High Court permanent injunction**, brought by Planning Enforcement at **BDC**, was issued on the **12th October** prohibiting the owners of the land from:

- bringing on caravans, mobile homes or any other structures
- bringing on any hardcore or other material for preparation of hard surfaces
- installing or connecting any utility services (but water and electricity are already connected)
- introducing any residential structures
- carrying out any work
- allowing other persons to occupy the land

The defendants have also been given until 4.00pm on **12th January 2022** to remove the unauthorised development and restore the land to its condition prior to the various breaches of planning control.

If anyone observes any breach of this permanent injunction it would be good to take photos for evidence – but only if it is safe to do so – and send in a report, with dates and times, to the main Braintree Planning Enforcement e-mail address: planning.enforcement@braintree.gov.uk.

That will enable the Planning Enforcement team to build a strong file to support their case. A hearing about a breach of an earlier temporary injunction is taking place in early December, so any new evidence of breaches of the permanent injunction will be most helpful.

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A12 Chelmsford to A120 Widening

BDC has launched its **Supplementary Design Consultation** on National Highway's proposed A12 Chelmsford to A120 widening scheme.

The Consultation is running until **Sunday 19th December**, and you can visit the exhibition and see plans, maps and environmental information at: <https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/a12-chelmsford-to-a120-widening-consultation-nov21/>

Walk this way...

The contentious signs prohibiting access to some of the local farm tracks regularly walked by villagers for more than twenty years have been replaced.



Legally-acceptable signs have now been installed, granting permission for the paths to be used 'at your own risk' but with a request for dogs to be kept on leads.

In the interests of public safety, on shoot days (mainly Tuesdays through to the end of January 2022), notifications of the temporary closure of the paths between 8.00am and 4.00pm will be displayed.



Remedial work to improve footpath safety has also been carried out on the steps at the bottom of Church Field. The old risers, many of which were rotten, have been replaced and new ones added to remove the 'slippery slope' on the lower part of the descent.



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Latest Planning News

The following planning items were considered by the Council at its 17th November meeting:

Application Decisions:

- ✚ **21/01996/HH** Library Cottage, Monks Lodge Road. Erection of single storey rear extension
Granted 15/9/2021
- ✚ **21/02426/T56** Land near Little Lodge Farm, Church Rd, Little Maplestead. Prior approval for installation of 25m high communications mast with 3 antenna, 2 dishes, equipment cabinets & associated ancillary development.
Refused 22/9/2021
- ✚ **21/02513/DAC** – Purls Hill Farm House, Purls Hill – Discharge of conditions 3 & 4 of approved application **20/02021/HH**.
Granted 14/10/2021
- ✚ **21/02302/VAR** Highview, Church St. Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of permission 15/00914/FUL to allow alteration to windows and replace render with brickwork and cladding.
Granted 15/9/2021

Applications Received:

- ✚ **21/03045/FUL** Lynwood, Toldish Hall Road. Demolition of existing detached bungalow & erection of 2 residential dwellings, landscaping and associated parking.
- ✚ **21/03213/TPO** Limewood Church St. Works to lime tree with TPO. Crown lift to 6 metres. Reduction of 3 lower growing branches by 1 metre to allow light into garden

Latest Planning News

Applications Received (contd.):

- ✚ **21/03072/COUPA** Byham Hall, Lt Maplestead Road. Prior approval for the change of use of agricultural building to a dwelling house (class C3) & for associated operational development – change of use to 5 residential dwellings.
- ✚ **21/03099/FUL** Land north of Osier Way, Sible Hedingham. Erection of two-storey medical centre with allocated parking.

The Council's comments on the applications received can be seen, and BDC's decision regarding the 'refused' application 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:

- ✚ **Wed 1st/Fri 24th Dec: Advent Window/ Garden Display** – starts with dressing and lighting the **Village Christmas Tree** on the Church Street triangle **at 6.00pm** – bring baubles! Contact Ann Crisp (01787 460 216) to book a date/theme for your own display.
- ✚ **Sun 26th Dec: Boxing Day Boules** – on the Playing Field (weather permitting). Start at **11.00am**. Free, but donations to the Playing Field Development Fund welcome.
- ✚ **Mon 27th Dec*: Christmas Village Walk** – meet at **11.00am**. Cost: **£2.50/person** – dogs & children under 15: **free**. Half-way drinks + refreshments afterwards.
- ✚ **Mon 10th Jan 2022*: Maplesteads' WEA Spring Course** begins – a 7-week course on **The Victorian Mind**. The initial session starts at **6.45pm**. For more details contact Jean Bowers (01787 460 181)
- ✚ **Sat 29th Jan 2022*: Comic Greyhound Racing Night** - Starts **7.00pm**. Tickets **£5/person** from Martin or Jo Watson (01787 469 857). Bring your own drinks, nibbles and a good supply of **£1** coins...

Further social events are currently being planned for next year. More information about these will be posted on **Maplestead Mates** and the 'Events' page of the **Parish Council** website nearer the time.

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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>