



Maplestead Magna Carta

Great Maplestead Parish Council's Award-Winning Newsletter

Playing Field Project: supplier recommendation accepted...

...after assessing the tenders.

The Playing Field Development Working Party's recommendation for their preferred supplier to replace the existing playground equipment was unanimously accepted by the Parish Council at its 29th June meeting.

The recommendation was only made after carrying out detailed studies of five submissions received during the legally-mandated tender period, using a standardised assessment template to ensure these were performed equitably and fairly.

This process left just two suppliers in contention; subsequent responses to further enquiries about each tender determined the final selection.



The preferred supplier not only scored highest by the assessment criteria but it was felt that the style and design of their play area, being both innovative and fully understanding of all children's needs, was also the best fit with the playing field's rural setting.

In other Project news...

...the choice of a supplier for the **fully-accessible perimeter pathway** is still under review.

Alternative quotes are now being assessed; the main requirement is that any proposed pathway is not only ecologically friendly, hardwearing and low maintenance but also offers value for money.

The **Working Party** is now concentrating all its efforts on revising and updating its submission to the **National Lottery Fund** for the approximately **£75,000** now needed to complete the project.

Having reached **Stage 2** of the application process, the **Playing Field funding proposal** has been assigned to the South East Region lottery team.

Dialogue with this team has already provided useful pointers, help and guidance on some important ways in which the submission can be strengthened and improved.

They did it! (and were still smiling at the end...)

Simon Last's and Martin Crisp's amazing **1000-mile, 14-day Land's End to John o'Groats fundraising bike ride...**



...which they successfully completed in May, raised a **magnificent £5,500** for the

Playing Field Project fund.

This feat of endurance was not just an epic personal challenge but was only made possible with the help of their support team and the donations of their campaign supporters.



The generous financial contributions and messages of encouragement on social media throughout the ride was welcome motivation as their energy and spirits understandably flagged...

Hearty congratulations to them both!

--ooOoo--

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

People from across the Parish participated in and enjoyed the three days of events held in June to mark the **Queen's Platinum Jubilee**.

Over 100 gathered by the Village Hall to enjoy some free fizz and Jubilee tart before **Martin Elms'** trumpet rendition

of **'Majesty'** announced the lighting of the new village beacon. **'A Life Lived With Grace'**, exquisitely sung by **Catriona Martin a capella** as dusk fell, accompanied the lighting.



Friday's service of thanksgiving in St Giles', with a display of **'70 Years of Great Maplestead History'** in the Tower Room, preceded an **evening dinner/dance** party in the Village Hall, including a wonderful lamb spit-roast and strawberries and cream. Afterwards, revellers danced to music from across seven decades.

Sunday's concluding **'It's A Royal Knockout'** games featured the **Maplestead Mincers** Morris group, while the best **Royal Scarecrow** prize went to **Alison** and **Phil Cantor's** Elizabeth I.

The village-wide floral displays, on old farm machinery and featuring imaginative creative work, will stay to be enjoyed for the summer.

The Local Plan: Section 2

Planning Inspectors have ruled that a blueprint for development in the Braintree District until 2033 can be found legally sound.

The Planning Inspectors have examined **Section 2** of **Braintree's Local Plan**, which includes localised policies and site allocations that can be used for considering planning applications in the District. It also identifies land for economic growth, supporting infrastructure and protecting land for open spaces and community facilities.

The Inspectors' final report came after the July 2021 formal examination and a public consultation on the proposed modifications, which ended in January 2022.

After scrutinising the **Plan** and the supporting evidence, hearing from stakeholders and taking into account resident's comments via the public consultation, the Inspectors' final report concluded that **Section 2** of the **Plan** can be adopted – subject to and including their recommended modifications – and be found legally compliant and sound, subject to Councillors' approval.

A final list of the main modifications that were required accompanied the Inspector's report.

What happens now?

A revised **Section 2** of the **Local Plan** was presented for approval to the **BDC Local Plan Sub-Committee** on **Tuesday, 5 July**. Approved, it will now be recommended to the **Full Council** on **Monday, 25 July** for the final adoption of the whole **Local Plan**.



Cllr Gabrielle Spray, Cabinet Member for Planning and Infrastructure, said: *"I'm pleased we have now received the Inspectors' feedback and gone ahead with the formal approval of our **Local Plan**. It will put us in the best possible position to fight against speculative, unsustainable and poorly designed housing developments and give greater certainty to our local communities as to where new developments will be built and the infrastructure and facilities that will accompany them."*

The Planning Inspectors' report can be read at: <https://www.braintree.gov.uk/S2InspectorsReport>

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Green Power Consultation

Braintree District Council have opposed the National Grid's East Anglia Green (EAG) proposal for the route of a high voltage network reinforcement between Norwich, Bramford and Tilbury.

The **Council** acknowledges that the current high voltage electricity network in East Anglia doesn't have the capacity to cope, reliably and securely, with 2030's power needs but considers that alternatives, including undersea options, need to be investigated further before yet more pylons are allowed to despoil areas of open countryside.

Latest Planning News

The following planning decisions were noted by the **Council** at its 29th June meeting:

Application Decisions

- ✚ **22/00219/HH & 22/00220/LBC** – *The Old Vicarage, Church St.* Installation of 28 ground-mounted solar panels. **Granted 28/05/2022**
- ✚ **22/01125/HH & 22/01126/LBC** – *Old Timbers, Church St.* Erection of single-storey extension. **Granted 28/04/2022**

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Forthcoming Events

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

- ✚ **Fri 8th Jul - 26th Aug: Summer Boules Evenings** – on the **Playing Field Boules Court**. Start **6.00pm**. Players **£2/head** – teams created each evening. Weekly prizes for the winning team/the much-coveted **Summer League Trophy** award for the best overall team at the end of the season. **All welcome**, whether to play or just watch. **BYO chairs, nibbles and drinks.**
- ✚ **Sat 10th Sep*: Autumn Show** – categories include flowers (& a sunflower competition), fruit/vegetables, cookery and handicrafts. The photography competition is '**Abandoned Buildings**' (for children under 16: '**I Love My...??**'). The full schedule can be found at: <https://greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk/parish-information/activities/autumn-show/>.
- ✚ **Sat 17th 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 26th Sep – 14th Nov*: WEA Autumn Course** – this **seven-week** course by Susan Pownall is entitled '**Women War Artists**'. More details from Jean Bowers (323 326).
- ✚ **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 22nd Oct*: Greyhound Racing Night** – more details nearer the time.

More information about these and other social activities will be found on the 'Events' page of the Parish Council website and on Facebook.

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Contacting the Council

Any comments, requests or correspondence should initially be made to the Parish Clerk:

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