



# Maplestead Magna Carta

Great Maplestead Parish Council's Award-Winning Newsletter

## Community Liaison Group initiative to reduce the impact...

### ...of rising cost-of-living pressures.

The Parish Council has become increasingly concerned about the adverse impact of the current unprecedented inflationary cost-of-living pressures on village residents.

Despite measures recently announced by the new Government to try and ameliorate the effects of these inflationary pressures, over the next few months many residents will start to suffer from the impact of higher utility bills and rising food and fuel prices, exacerbated by the onset of winter.

A **Community Liaison Group** has therefore been set up to consider what can be done to combine advice from the Government, District and County Councils with practical, local exchanges of information that will allow people to benefit from community support while also contributing constructively to solutions.

The idea is to combine community-sourced ideas and actions designed to combat rising costs – such as microwave eco-cooking, economic nourishing recipes, tips on reducing heating costs, savings from the use of LED lighting, collective buying of wood and oil, insulation advice and so on – into an easily accessible and readable format that can be circulated to all households in the parish.

The **CLG** will also be co-ordinating programmes such as **ECC's Council Tax Rebate Scheme**, its **Household Support** and **Essential Living Funds** and **Warm Homes Essex**, which have already supported residents with cash payments for food, fuel, and essential living costs with more local ideas and actions.

Headed up by **Jacqui Mee**, who has extensive career experience in dealing with the sort of problems that will be affecting residents in the coming months, the **CLG** will also benefit from the expertise of other people from the village who are experienced in dealing with what are, in practice, quite sensitive social issues.

It was proposed and agreed at the last **Parish Council** meeting that the **CLG** will be fully supported and funded by the **Council**.

**Cllr. Martin Elms, the Chairman and Ann Crisp, the Parish Clerk** will be an integral part of the **CLG**, in order to ensure that the **Parish Council's** support, for those in the village who may be adversely affected by the rising cost-of-living pressures this winter, is delivered promptly and effectively.

### Playing Field Project Update

The **Playing Field Development Working Party** has now completed and submitted its **National Lottery Fund** application for the near **£75,000** needed to complete the project.

It is anticipated that a response from **NLF** will be received in the next month or so.

In the meantime, work has continued apace on Phase 2 of the Development Project – the installation of new field drains to prevent waterlogging after periods of heavy rain.



The work, originally scheduled to take five working days, was completed in three, thereby minimising the unavoidable noise and localised disruption.

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### 35 Not Out...

**At the Parish Council's 7<sup>th</sup> September meeting Joe Newton's 35-year long service as a Councillor was suitably celebrated.**

Joe has followed in the footsteps of both his father and grandfather, who also each served in excess of 35 years! In fact, a Newton family member has been on the **Council** since its inception in 1899...



Joe was awarded his long service recognition certificate by **Braintree Council Chair, Andrew Hensman**, who congratulated him on his commitment to the parish. Andrew, who had enjoyed visiting **Great Maplestead** during the afternoon, was also interested to hear about the work of a smaller, rural **Parish Council**.

**Council Chairman, Cllr. Martin Elms** said "Joe has done so much in this village, both as a parish councillor and socially, whilst integrating with a busy life as a farmer. His selfless commitment is commendable and I thank him on behalf of the parish for all that he, and also his wife Liz, have done and continue to do for the benefit of others."

**For once, Joe was rendered speechless...**

## More Green Power Consultation

In response to its previous consultation about East Anglia Green's (EAG's) proposal for the route of a high voltage network reinforcement between Bramford and the Twinstead Tee, National Grid has revised its plans and is now seeking further feedback about the changes.

Earlier this year a statutory consultation was held on National Grid's proposals for this project. A total of 575 responses were received and, following reviews of this feedback, undertaking more studies and further landowner discussions, several changes to the proposals have subsequently been made.

The biggest of these changes are in the western part of the Stour Valley, affecting the parishes of Lamarsh, Alphamstone, Twinstead, Pebmarsh and Little Maplestead.

Maps and details of the changes can be found at <https://greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk/assets/document/s/national-grid-proposal-sep22> and National Grid would like to receive further feedback about its new plans before an application for development consent is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate early next year.

The **Feedback Form**, which carries more detailed maps and further information on the changes and the effects they may have, can be found at <https://greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk/assets/document/s/national-grid-proposal-feedback>; it can either be completed online or downloaded and e-mailed or posted to the addresses given on the form.

Paper copies of the revised proposals, consultation documents and Feedback Forms are also available at Hadleigh, Sible Hedingham, Sudbury and Halstead libraries.

Comments made in response to the previous consultation, which have already been submitted, do not need to be resubmitted or repeated.

**The consultation period finishes at 23:59 on Wednesday 19 October 2022.**

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## Inter-Village Boules Challenge

On 28<sup>th</sup> August teams of villagers from Great and Little Maplestead took part in the first ever Inter-Village Boules Challenge.

It was a well-fought match, an enjoyable fun afternoon for players and spectators alike made even better by a welcome visit from Aaron Whippy's local ice-cream van!

Great Maplestead were worthy winners of the coveted **Inter-Village Challenge Trophy** and congratulations also go to the winning individual team – Cathy and Richard Price, Julie Last and Stuart Putt – who took home the bubbly.



**After the success of this inaugural event it is hoped to extend this challenge to other villages in the local area in the future.**

## Latest Planning News

The following applications were considered by the Council at its 7<sup>th</sup> September meeting:

### Applications Received:

- ✚ **22/01984/HH** – 2 Toldish Hall Cottages, Toldish Hall Road. Erection of first floor side extension.
- ✚ **22/02069/HH** – 7 Stone Cottages, Church St. Erection of 2 storey rear extension, demolition of existing single storey extension and replacement with single storey rear extension to serve as annexe. Replacement front porch (amendment to Application **21/03606/HH**).

The Council's comments can be seen 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:

- ✚ **Mon 26<sup>th</sup> Sep – 14<sup>th</sup> Nov\*: WEA Autumn Course** – this **seven-week** course by Susan Pownall is entitled '**Women War Artists**'. Enrolment details from Jean Bowers (323 326).
- ✚ **Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> Oct\*: The Maple Leaves** present '**Stars in the War**', a talk by **Paula Short**. More details from Diane Smith (473 300)
- ✚ **Sun 9<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct\*: Greyhound Racing Night** – and celebration of the **Centenary of the Village Hall**. Starts **7.00pm**. Entry **£5/head**. Tickets: Martin or Jo Watson (469 857). Race Sponsors required! Bring plenty of £1 coins...
- ✚ **Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov\*: The Maple Leaves** present '**Radiant Beauty**', a talk and demo by **Jo Green**. More details: Diane Smith (473 300)
- ✚ **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> Nov\*: Quiz Night** – doors open **7.00pm**. Starts at **7.30pm**. Entry **£5/person/** maximum **10 teams of 6 people** each. Booking 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:**

**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](mailto:anncrisp@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk)

**Website:** <https://greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk>