



Maplestead Magna Carta

Great Maplestead Parish Council's Award-Winning Newsletter

Playing Field Development Project wins lottery funding!

Now it's all systems go...

The Playing Field Development Working Party recently received some very welcome news: its £75,000 application to the National Lottery Community Fund to help fund the Parish Council's ambitious Playing Field project has been successful!



This sizeable grant, together with the £37,000 already raised through generous personal donations from residents, contributions from village institutions, businesses and various social events over the last 18 months, means that this major project for improving and future-proofing a unique, valuable village amenity, can now be delivered successfully within its originally planned timescale.

What are the next steps?

The Working Party is now confirming with its selected supplier, EarthWrights, a final quotation, the contract and a timeline for completing Phases 3, 4 & 5 of the project: Phase 3 is the removal of the old play equipment and preparatory ground-work; Phases 4 & 5 is the installation of the modern play equipment and perimeter pathway.

Playground

The new play area will be more imaginatively configured than currently, featuring sustainable, natural equipment in landscaped surroundings.



Playground (contd)

It will become a modern, bold and attractive focal point for the playing field, with a visual appeal in keeping with and enhancing its rural setting.

Perimeter Access Pathway



The new perimeter pathway is a key element of the project – the lottery team emphasising the need for better access to the play area and to the rest of the field for people of all abilities.

The path is designed such that a 'lap' will be 0.2 miles, enabling pupils at the school to do 5 laps for their 'Mile-a-Day' challenge.

On behalf of the Parish Council, the Working Party would like to thank sincerely everyone who has organised events, taken part in challenges, donated or otherwise contributed to the project.



Improving the playground and developing the playing field's facilities will now help preserve this valuable village asset, leaving a lasting legacy for future generations.

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A Warm Haven at St Giles'

A Council-backed Community Cost of Living Liaison Group of village volunteers...

...has been set up to help share ideas on reducing energy costs/food waste and provide information on cost saving food ideas, sources of financial help and ways of keeping warm this winter.

As part of this initiative, a **Warm Haven** in the Tower Room of **St Giles' Church** has been set up. It has a host of leaflets with advice on reducing costs-of-living, some comfortable chairs, tea and coffee making facilities, free wi-fi, a small library and a number of activities to help pass the time.

The room is now open **Mondays to Saturdays, 9.30am - 4.00pm** and members of the **CCLLG** will be available from time to time to provide specific information and help. They can also be contacted at gmcostoflivingcrisis@gmail.com

Latest Planning News

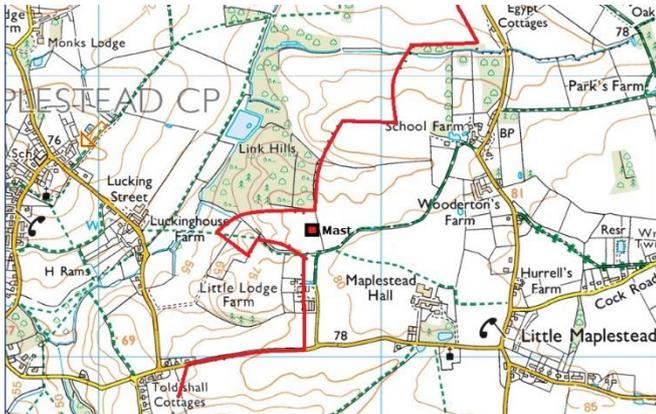
Mobile Phone Mast Installation - Update

Telefónica is in the process of submitting another application for a mobile phone mast on land adjacent to Little Lodge Farm on the border of Great and Little Maplestead.

The company has determined that a mast there will help to improve mobile phone services, particularly in respect of 5G and associated data provision, while also allowing the roll-out of smart energy metering access in this area of **Braintree District**.

A previous application for a mast on this site, was refused by **Braintree DC** on 22nd September 2021 because certain material considerations, highlighted by both **Great & Little Maplestead Parish Councils**, had not been met.

The revised proposal (**Application Reference: 22/02780/T56**, the consultation for which closes on **17th November**), is essentially as before, with a 25m (75ft) mast and antenna array in a fenced compound in the field next to the bridleway at the end of **Little Lodge Lane** (map below):



The **Council** has regularly received complaints from parishioners about the village's poor mobile phone coverage and asking what could be done to improve things and it agrees that this proposal would offer a welcome solution.

However, the benefits need to be balanced against potential downsides, both in terms of the mast's adverse visual impact and the potential harm 5G radiation may have on aircraft avionics and health.

There was a public suggestion at the **Council's 9th November** meeting that **BDC**, like a number of UK Local Councils, should invoke the **Precautionary Principle** regarding this installation – "When human activities may lead to morally unacceptable harm that is scientifically plausible but uncertain, actions shall be taken to avoid or diminish that harm" – until there is more Government research into these matters.

More particularly, the **Council** was concerned that, either because of a lack of due diligence or proper understanding of specific planning guidelines, a number of material considerations it had previously identified have still not been met, amongst them: incorrect identification of the field's landowner and a failure to follow **Civil Aviation Authority** safety guidelines regarding the siting of the mast within 3km of two local airfields.

The Council agreed to object accordingly.

Other Planning News

Other planning matters considered by the **Council** at its 9th November meeting were:

Application Decisions

- ✚ **22/01984/HH** – 2 Toldish Hall Cottages, Toldish Hall Road. Erection of first floor side extension.

Application Withdrawn

- ✚ **22/02069/HH** – 7 Stone Cottages, Church St. Erection of 2 storey rear extension, demolition of existing extension & adding a single storey rear extension. Replacement front porch (amendment to Application **21/03606/HH**).

Granted 29/09/22

Applications Received

- ✚ **22/02924/HH** 2 Toldish Hall Cottages, Toldish Hall Rd. Erection of two storey rear elevation

The **Council's** detailed comments on the phone mast and its 'no objection/no comment' response to the above application 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:

- ✚ **Sat 26th Nov: Festive Coffee Morning** in St Giles' Church. From **10.30am - 12.30pm** Raffle, Cake stall, Christmas decorations and much more.
- ✚ **Sat 26th Nov*: Quiz Night**
Please Note: this event has had to be **postponed** and will now take place in February (date to be advised).
- ✚ **Thur 1st/Sat 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.
- ✚ **Tues 27th Dec*: Christmas Village Walk** – meet at **11.00am**. Cost: **£2.50/person** – dogs & children under 15: **free**. Half-way drinks + refreshments afterwards.

Further social events are currently being planned for 2023. 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
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