



Maplestead Magna Carta

Great Maplestead Parish Council's Award-Winning Newsletter

Council continues to keep the Foundation strong...

...as is recognised by the EALC

The **Parish Council** was presented with a third consecutive **Foundation Award Certificate** at its **Annual Meeting** on **15th May**.

This **Award**, presented by the **Essex Association of Local Council's Vice Chair Mike Eldred**, was in recognition of the **Council** continuing to meet all the criteria and requirements for operating both **lawfully** and in accordance with **best practice** – it is valid for the next four years.



There are 10,480 Parish and Town Councils in England and, of the 307 in Essex, only 29 have achieved **Foundation Award** level – the **Council** would therefore like to thank the Clerk, **Ann Crisp**, for ensuring that it remains meeting the criteria laid down by the **EALC's** Award Assessment Panel.

At the meeting Mike was also pleased to present **Councillor Long Service Awards** to **Joe Newton** (37 years) and **Ian Johnson** (33 years) in recognition of their contribution to, and work on, the **Parish Council** for over three decades.



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Council Meeting Dates 2024/25

The next five full meetings will be held on:

- 📅 **2024:** 10th July; 4th September; 6th November.
- 📅 **2025:** 8th January; 12th March.

A Vacancy Exists

Due to a resignation a **Councillor Vacancy** currently exists, which the **Council** is looking to fill before its next meeting.

Information about the position and the closing date for applications is detailed below:



Councillor Vacancy

Great Maplestead Parish Council...

...needs another Parish Councillor

We are looking to appoint someone with good local knowledge of the Parish, an interest in the local environment and who is keen to serve our community and help to make Great Maplestead an even better place to live.

What do Councillors do?

- **Local Involvement**
Work as a team on behalf of **all** residents to consider, evaluate and undertake actions that will benefit the whole Parish.
- **Monitoring**
Ensure together that grants are sought, awarded and best value services obtained for major projects.
- **Decision Making**
Decide how funding is best spent to improve residents' facilities and, in the common interest, respond to **all** planning applications affecting the Parish.
- **Governance**
Commit to the **Council's Code of Conduct** to undertake the role in an unbiased and lawful manner.

What could YOU do?

DON'T BE SHY! If you have the time, and can make the commitment, then this is a great opportunity to get involved in the Parish's future and become a part of its history.

To be a candidate you must:

- ✓ be a British, Commonwealth or Irish citizen; and
- ✓ be aged 18 years or over.

Also, you must fulfil at least one of these criteria:

- ✓ have been on the electoral register for the Parish; or
- ✓ during the whole of the 12 months before your appointment, owned or occupied land or property in the Parish; or
- ✓ during that same 12-month period, have had your main place of work in the Parish; or
- ✓ during that same 12-month period, have lived in the Parish or within 3 miles of it

If you are interested, please submit a short written application to the Parish Clerk, Ann Crisp – e-mail: anncrisp@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk or deliver it to: New House, St Giles Close, Great Maplestead CO9 2RW

Closing date for applications is 28th June 2024

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D-Day 80 Beacon Lighting
Thursday 6th June 2024



Great Maplestead will be commemorating the **80th Anniversary** of the D-Day landings in WWII by participating in the co-ordinated nationwide **Beacon Lighting**

6.30pm Participation in the national ring out of bells at **St Giles' Church**

7.30pm **Village Hall** opens for a Fish & Chip supper. A cash bar will be available.

8.00pm Fish & Chip supper for those who pre-ordered – provided by **The Hook Halstead**

9.15pm **Beacon Lighting**, together with the **National Tribute** in the **Village Hall Car Park**

This will be a fundraising event for **SSAFA** – the **Armed Forces** charity

Essex County Council Initiatives

Eco Upgrades – Applications Open

Residents in Essex can apply for solar panels, heat pumps and have more energy-efficient measures installed for little or no cost.

ECO4 Flex and the **Great British Insulation Scheme Flex (GBIS)** are being offered by **ECC** through '**Better Housing Better Health**' to help improve energy-inefficient properties.

Both schemes are available to homeowners, those with a health condition or qualifying benefit and tenants, with their landlord's permission, who have a household income below £31,000 and Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) ratings between D and G. Residents with a property tax band between A and D can also apply for the GBIS.



Councillor Peter Schwier, Climate Czar and Cabinet Member for Environment, Waste Reduction and Recycling at ECC, said: "A low EPC rating can cost hundreds of pounds per year in energy bills, reduce the value of a property and ultimately harm the environment. However, improving it can come with an upfront cost many people can't afford."

"ECO4 Flex and the Great British Insulation Scheme Flex will help eligible low-income households and vulnerable residents to access valuable energy-saving measures. People can check their eligibility at: <https://www.essex.gov.uk/planning-land-and-recycling/energy-climate-and-environment/energy-company-obligation-eco4-and-great>"

Digital Switchover Campaign

ECC has launched a campaign to raise awareness that, by 2025, analogue phone lines will be replaced by a digital landline service that will require a broadband line.

Telephone providers should be contacting residents before any changes are made to discuss what needs to be done to keep their phones operating.

The change should be straightforward: existing broadband users should just be able to plug their digital landline into their router.

However, residents should contact their provider for more information about what needs to be done if they or someone they know:

- doesn't have broadband at home
- uses a personal alarm or healthcare device
- has additional needs
- lives in an area with no mobile signal

Cabinet Member for Planning a Growing Economy, **Councillor Lee Scott**, said: "The digital switchover is vital to replace analogue phone lines in the UK."

Note: Some residents could be adversely affected by this change, particularly if they have to use a personal alarm, have additional needs or don't currently have broadband.

For the latest information on the switchover, visit www.essex.gov.uk/landline-switch.

Latest Planning News

The following application was noted by the Council at its meeting on 15th May:

Application Decision:

- ✦ **23/00340/FUL** Chifneys, Lucking Street – Conversion of existing barn to form a 1 x 3-bedroom residential dwelling.

Granted, with caveats: 24/04/24

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Forthcoming Events

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

- ✦ **Thurs 6th June*: D-Day 80th Anniversary Commemoration and Beacon Lighting.** Village participation in this national event will include **bell-ringing**, a **fish & chip supper** and the **beacon lighting**. More details on the front and in **Parish News**.
- ✦ **Fridays 7th June to 23rd Aug: Social Boules Evenings** – on the **Playing Field Boules Court**. From **5.00–7.00pm** (weather permitting). **All welcome**, whether to play or just socialise. **BYO chairs/nibbles/drinks**.
- ✦ **Sunday 30th June: Inter-Village Boules Challenge – Great Maplestead vs Gestingthorpe** in a team competition for the **Best Village** title. **Starts 2.00pm : Entry £2.00/player**. There's a special trophy and prizes to be won. Come and give your support – the honour of your village is at stake! **BYO drinks, snacks and chairs**.
- ✦ **Sun 21st July*: Navigational Scatter Event** – from the **Village Hall**. Enjoy a quiet drive in the country, answer a few questions and possibly win a prize! **Max. entry 12 cars**; maximum of **4 participants/car** – entry **£8/person**. Breakfast/briefing at **9.15am**; start **10.00am**; lunch & prize-giving **1.00pm**. Contact Steve Harris (01787 462 818).

And later in the year:

- ✦ **Sat 7th Sep*: Autumn Show** – categories include flowers (and a sunflower competition), fruit and vegetables, cookery and handicrafts. The subject for the photography competition is '**Our Church**' (for children under 16: '**Selfie**'). A full schedule will be distributed with the July issue of **Parish News**.

More details will be on Maplestead Mates, in Parish News and on 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>