



# Maplestead Magna Carta

Great Maplestead Parish Council's Award-Winning Newsletter

## Waste Management and Recycling Consultation...

...it's important to have your say.

**Braintree District Council is proposing to make changes to its household waste and recycling collection service.**

These changes aim to:

- Improve the quality of the recyclable materials collected
- Reduce the amount of waste that is sent to landfill
- Meet new recycling targets and support climate change ambitions
- Comply with new legislation and make recycling simpler
- Improve the financial sustainability of the waste service

They will also mean residents having to find space for more bins and understanding and coping with a more involved 8-week collection sequence.

Before deciding on whether to introduce the proposed changes, **BDC** is therefore carrying out a **Public Consultation** so that local residents and other key stakeholders can have their say and help shape the future of the service.

**The consultation opened at 10.00am on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and will close at midnight on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2025.**

### Participating in the consultation:

Residents are being invited to participate in the consultation by completing the questionnaire at:

<https://engage.braintree.gov.uk/en-GB/projects/waste-services-review>

The survey should be completed on-line wherever possible. However, anyone needing assistance can contact **BDC's Customer Services Centre** ([csc@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:csc@braintree.gov.uk) or call **01376 552 525**) who will help ensure everyone has an opportunity to provide feedback on the proposals.

**Note: the deadline for submitting completed questionnaires is midnight Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March.**

A decision on whether or not to proceed with the outlined proposals will only be made once all the consultation responses have been fully considered by the **BDC's Cabinet on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2025**. Until then the existing waste collection and recycling arrangements will remain in place.

### A Subscriptions Reminder...

**Garden Waste collection subscriptions for 2025/26** are due for renewal by **31<sup>st</sup> March**: it's **£55** for the first bin, **£30** for each additional one. Renew on-line from **27<sup>th</sup> January** or by phoning the Customer Service Centre on **01376 552 525**



Here is more information to help explain how the proposals could work:

<b>Weekly</b>  Food	<b>Fortnightly</b>  Garden <small>(Subscription only)</small>	<b>3 Weekly</b>  Non-recyclable waste	<b>Alternate fortnightly</b> <small>(Subscribers choose one bin only)</small>	
			<b>Fortnight 1</b>  Paper & Card	<b>Fortnight 2</b>  Glass, Metal, Plastic & Cartons

- Weekly collection of food waste using a food waste bin
- Alternate fortnightly recycling collection of paper and card in a wheeled bin
- Alternate fortnightly recycling collection of glass, metals, plastic, food & drink cartons in a wheeled bin
- Three weekly collection of general household waste in a grey wheeled bin
- Fortnightly paid for collection of garden waste using a green wheeled bin (where requested)
- Alternate fortnightly means one bin (paper & card) collected one fortnight, the other bin (glass, metal, plastics) the following fortnight
- Some residents including those in flats may have alternative containers where necessary

Example calendar

WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5	WEEK 6	WEEK 7	WEEK 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food</li> <li>• Non-recyclable waste</li> <li>• Garden</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food</li> <li>• Paper &amp; Card</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food</li> <li>• Garden</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food</li> <li>• Non-recyclable waste</li> <li>• Glass, metal, plastic, cartons</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food</li> <li>• Garden</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food</li> <li>• Paper &amp; Card</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food</li> <li>• Non-recyclable waste</li> <li>• Garden</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food</li> <li>• Glass, metal, plastic, cartons</li> </ul> 

## Improving Safety & Mental Health

During the last few months the Council has taken a number of steps to help improve the safety and well-being of parishioners.

In response to concerns about the structural integrity of the footbridge on the path from St Giles' that goes towards Castle Hedingham, the old bridge was removed and a replacement 'foot-bridge kit' from **Essex Highways** assembled and installed on site by the Task Force just before Christmas.



Work continues to implement various elements of the Mindfulness Garden on the Village Playing Field. In addition to the shrubs already planted, a Willow Dome – made from

woven whips which will eventually become a quiet sanctuary for residents – has now been installed. It should grow into something like the picture, right, in a few years' time.



Flooding near the Poll Miles cross-roads, coupled with a lack of gritting along that section of Monks Lodge Road made journeys along there hazardous during the recent cold spell.

The flooding issue has been reported to **Essex Highways** but it isn't considered an urgent enough problem by them for any immediate remedial action.

To deal with the lack of gritting the Council has agreed to install a new salt bin near the junction of Monks Lodge and Gestingthorpe Roads to give users the means to cope with future icing problems.

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## Budgeting for an Uncertain Future

At its January meeting the Council reviewed various 2025/26 Budget & Precept options.

It was agreed that the Precept (the portion of Council Tax received by the Parish) should only be increased to cover any anticipated inflationary cost rises and maintain its statutory level of reserves.

However, the National Insurance changes recently announced by the Government, which come into effect in April, will have a significant and negative impact on the Council's future finances and this had to be accounted for in determining the Precept.

Consequently an annual increase of **£11.87** – or **less than 23p/week** – per Band D household was proposed, agreed and has subsequently been approved by **Braintree District Council**.

**Essex County Council** has proposed a **3.75%** Council Tax increase for 2025/26, which includes a 1.75% general increase and 2% increase in the adult social care precept. For a Band D household, this equates to an increase of **£1.09/week**

## Latest Planning News

The following was considered by the Council at its meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> January:

### Application:

- ✚ **24/02402/TPO Laundry Cottage Monks Lodge Rd.** Notice of intent to carry out work to trees protected by a Tree Preservation Order – TPO-1/98. Oak within G1 – pollard to monolith at about 12 ft due to cavity.

The Council's unqualified response can be found at: <https://publicaccess.braintree.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do?action=simple&searchType=Application>. Type or copy the **planning reference** into the 'Search' box and open the files

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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 6<sup>th</sup> Feb\***: **The Maple Leaves** present a talk about **The Essex Air Ambulance** and the important work it does. **Starts 7.30pm**. Members (**Free**): non-members (**£3**) welcome.
- ✚ **Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb\***: **The Maple Leaves** present **A Curry and Cards Evening** in aid of Cancer UK. Doors open **7.00pm** Starts **7.30pm**. Tickets **£12.50 each** from Carol Brownlie (07756 803 975). BYO drinks and glasses.
- ✚ **Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> Mar\***: **Gardeners' Question Time**, a light-hearted Q&A with a local gardening guru to prepare for the **Autumn Show**. Starts **7.00pm**. There'll be wine, tea, coffee, nibbles and a raffle. **Admission £1**. More details from Carol Brownlie (461 527)
- ✚ **Mon 21<sup>st</sup> Apr\***: **Easter Village Walk**. Meet at **11.00am** in car park. Cost: **£2.50/person**. Dogs & children **free**. Half-way drinks + refreshments.



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](mailto:anncrisp@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk)  
Website: <https://greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk>