



Maplestead Magna Carta

Great Maplestead Parish Council's Award-Winning Newsletter

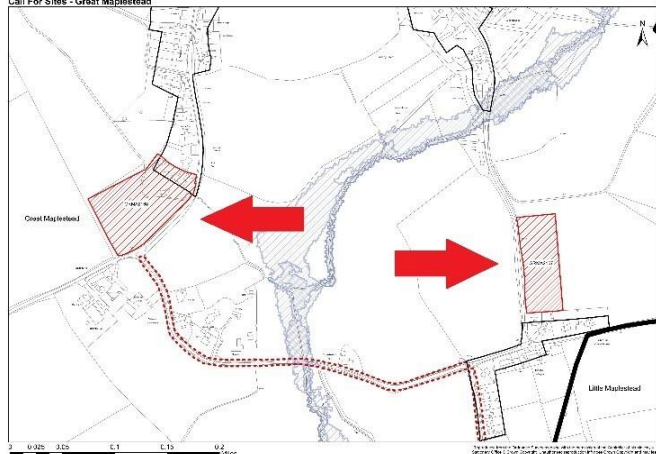
Local Plan: village 'not a priority for new housing'...

Proposed sites deemed unsuitable

At its meeting on Thursday 19th June Braintree District Council's Local Plan Sub-Committee...

...considered two sites in **Great Maplestead** that, last year, had been proposed for inclusion in the **Local Plan** to meet the District's longer-term housing and infrastructure needs until **2041**.

Call For Sites - Great Maplestead



In preparation for the meeting the two proposed sites, in **Lucking Street** and at **Long Fen**, were assessed for their development suitability.

Using **BDC's** calculation metric for determining the potential for housing – **25** houses per developable hectare – these proposals could have added **35** more dwellings to the village, increasing its size by nearly a quarter. Using another **BDC** metric – **2.3** cars per household – developing these sites could have brought another **80** cars to local roads.

The assessment of the **Lucking Street** site was that, due to its unsustainable location, access limitations, landscape sensitivity, detachment from the village form and infrastructure constraints, it should not be proposed for development allocation.

For **Long Fen** the assessment was that this site has previously been tested through the planning system and found to be inappropriate for development. Its location, access limitations and environmental sensitivities, combined with a recent history of dismissed appeals, render it unsuitable for future development allocation.

In summary, the assessments concluded that, as **Great Maplestead** has limited local services and infrastructure, **the village is not considered a priority location for new housing growth** within **Braintree District**.

Recommendations accepted

The recommendations to the **Sub-Committee**, that **neither site should be allocated for development**, were therefore accepted and will be carried through to the next consultation phase this autumn. Before then there will be an opportunity for further sites to be put forward for consideration.

A webcast of the **Sub-Committee** meeting can be viewed until December, using this link: <http://braintree.publici.tv/core/portal/home>

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Waste Recycling – the decision...

Following a public consultation, in which almost **8,000** residents took part, **BDC's Cabinet** meeting on **27th May** agreed changes to waste recycling and bin collections; these will come into effect on **1st June 2026**.

The new arrangements are to try and help get the District to over 60% recycling, with a key aim of recycling more food waste – a 2024 study found that almost a third of black bin waste was food.

The plans include the reintroduction of hard-copy **Recycling Calendars** – good news, because many people relied on these as a source of information and the new collection arrangements will be more complicated than the current ones, viz:

- Green waste as now – once a fortnight, for those subscribing.
- Food waste will stay the same – weekly, using the current caddies.
- Black bins (residual waste) will be collected only every 3 weeks.
- Recycling will no longer be in clear sacks but instead in 2 new wheelie bins with alternating fortnightly collections: paper and card in one bin and all other recycling, including glass, in the other.

Weekly	Fortnightly	3 Weekly	Alternate Fortnightly
			 
Food	Garden	Residual	• Paper & Card • Glass, Metal, Plastic, Cartons

There will be bespoke arrangements for flats and homes that do not have space for extra wheelie bins. The collection days will be announced, and the new Recycling Calendars issued, in spring 2026.

Playground Safety Report issued

The annual Safety Inspection of the Playing Field's children's play area was carried out by an inspector from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) Play Safety team on 5th June.

As expected, no problems or issues were found with any of the current play equipment, which only received its completion sign-off in March 2023.

A few minor items that were noted for action were: parts missing from the litter bin, the looseness of some of the perimeter fencing supports and the ineffectiveness of the main access gate closer, which has subsequently been adjusted to now completely close the gate after use.

Users of the play area are reminded that, for safety and hygiene reasons, no dogs are allowed inside the fenced enclosure. To avoid parents having to leave dogs alone outside,



while they supervise their children, one of the original benches has been moved to a position that allows good visibility of the entire play area so parents can remain outside with their dogs.

Playing field users are also reminded that, to comply with the **Council's Safeguarding Policy**, they should show due consideration for others using this valuable community asset, whilst ensuring that their behaviour and interactions – in particular with young children and vulnerable adults – are both respectful and appropriate.

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Bus Service Update

Central Connect have confirmed that they have retained the contract for operating the on-demand DaRT3 local bus service for a further 12 months, from the end of June.

The DaRT3 service does not run to a regular, or published, operating timetable – it needs to be pre-booked. The **Booking Centre** is open **8.00am to 6.00pm** Monday to Saturday and bookings must be made **by 6.00pm the day before you wish to travel**. All bookings are subject to availability.



Charging remains as before, the fare being **£3 for any single journey**. One significant change however is that, now, **booking is no longer conditional on** there being a **minimum number of passengers** from any particular location.

DaRT3 operates between **6.00am and 8.00pm** Mondays to Saturdays. Concessionary bus passes are accepted after 9.00am Monday to Friday and all day on Saturdays.

To book call: **0115 777 3187**

or e-mail: dart@central-connect.co.uk,

Latest Planning News

The following applications were discussed by the **Council** at its meeting on 16th July:

Decisions Noted:

- ✚ **15/01304/AGR** – Land North of Purls Hill Farm, Purls Hill. Refers to **25/01304/AGR**, an application for prior notification of agricultural/forestry development: Steel-framed structure to be used as a general purpose building.
Planning Application required. Decision 7/7/25

Applications Received:

- ✚ **25/00831/HH** – 1 Toldish Hall Cottages. Revised plans for a proposed single-storey front and rear extension, with the addition of a privacy screen for roof terrace to rear elevation.
- ✚ **25/01224/TPO** – St Giles Church, Church Street. Notice of intent to carry out works to trees protected by TPO 6/2000.

The **Council's** responses to these applications are at: <https://publicaccess.braintree.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do?action=simple&searchType=Aapplication>. Type or copy the **planning reference** into the 'Search' box and open the files.

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Forthcoming Events

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

- ✚ **Fridays until 22nd Aug: Social Boules** – on the **Playing Field Boules Court**. From **5.00–7.00pm** (weather permitting). **All welcome**, to play or socialise. **BYO chairs/nibbles/drinks**.
- ✚ **Sunday 10th Aug: Hymns and Pimm's** – in **St Giles' Church**. All welcome to celebrate hymns and their composers with a glass of Pimm's. **Starts 5.00pm**.
- ✚ **Saturday 16th Aug: Café Church's Charity Afternoon Tea** – in **St Giles' Church**, raising money to improve the lives of people affected by Breast Cancer. From **3.00–5.00pm**.
- ✚ **Saturday 6th Sep*: Autumn Show**. Entries accepted Friday 5th **6.30–7.30pm** or Saturday 6th **11.30am–2.30pm**. Viewing from **5.30pm** with raffle and bar followed by prize-giving and produce sale. **Show Schedules** are in **St Giles'**.
- ✚ **Saturday 20th Sep*: Maplesteads' Jumble Sale** – from **3.00pm**. More information from: Diane Smith (473 300)/Doreen Faulks (460 727)

More details will be on Maplestead Mates, in Parish News and on the 'Events' page of the Parish Council website.

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Contacting the Council

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

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