



Maplestead Magna Carta

Great Maplestead Parish Council's Award-Winning Newsletter

Local Plan – 'Preferred Options' Public Consultation

Another opportunity to comment

Braintree District Council is in the process of reviewing its Local Plan which, once adopted, will provide the framework for development across the district for the next 15 years.

Following a 2025 consultation, which identified local issues and options, **BDC** has now published its **Preferred Options** for public consultation.

This **Draft Plan** focuses on the development allocations in the most sustainable existing locations or where development on a strategic scale can be achieved while providing high levels of sustainability. **It does not propose development allocations in any of the smaller villages in the district, including Great Maplestead, or in the open countryside.**

Locally the proposed development allocation on land to the **NE/SE of Halstead** is probably of the most immediate interest. In the areas shaded red in the illustration opposite, the proposals are for:

- Up to 2,850 homes
- A bypass linking the A131 south of Halstead to Colchester Road, then on to the A131 Sudbury Road north of Halstead
- A new primary school provision with early years and childcare
- Secondary school education contributions
- Community facilities, including new or expanded NHS facilities
- A new local centre and public open space

How to take part

Copies of the **Draft Plan**, the **Evidence Base** and **Background Studies** used for the plan can be found at: www.braintree.gov.uk/localplanreview
Paper copies of the documents are available to view in libraries and at Causeway House, Braintree, Essex, CM7 9HB

How to submit your comments

Online:

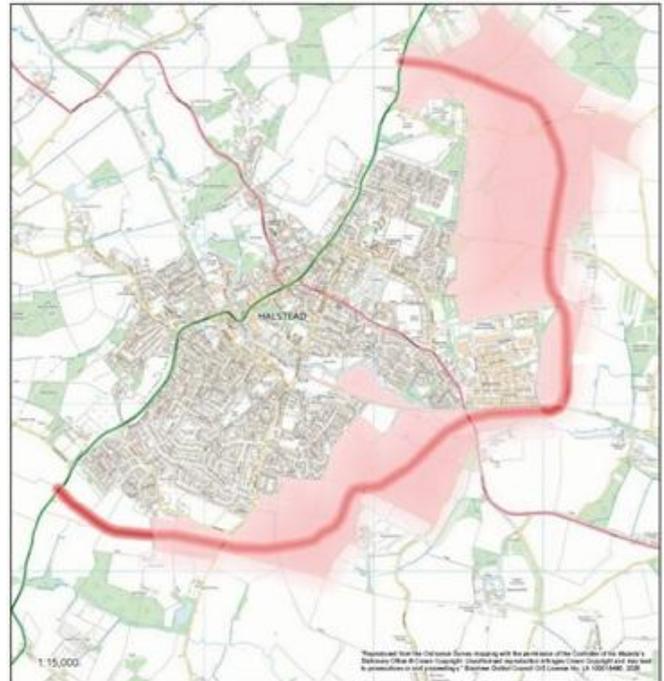
Visit www.braintree.gov.uk/consultlp

E-mail:

Responses should be sent to planningpolicy@braintree.gov.uk.

Post to:

Planning Policy, Braintree District Council,
Causeway House, Braintree, Essex, CM7 9HB.



The **Public Consultation** continues until **5.00pm on Friday 17th April 2026**.

What Happens Next?

Following this consultation, **BDC** will consider all the comments and redraft the **Plan** to take into account all the responses.

Once agreed, the pre-submission document will then be published for a final period of Public Consultation before it is submitted to the Planning Inspector later this year.

--ooOoo--

Garden Waste Collection

Subscriptions are now open for collections between 1st April 2026 and 31st March 2027.

The cost remains at **£55** for fortnightly collections all year, with a break over Christmas and New Year.

If you subscribed online last year and haven't unsubscribed or opted out of auto-renewal, your payment will already have been taken.

Otherwise, you will need to take action to **renew before the end of March** – manage your subscription at: [Register/ sign in to My account](#) or call **BDC** on 01376 552 525.

Keeping the Village Tidy

On Saturday 7th March fourteen **Task Force** volunteers, plus a couple of helpers, gathered in the Playing Field Car Park to conduct the first of this year's community litter-picks.

Doing three of these a year ensures that the **Council** receives its annual Street Cleaning Grant from **Braintree District Council**.



New equipment was funded by an **Essex Association of Local Councils** grant and included pickers, gloves and suitably logo'ed hi-vis jackets.

Specific areas of the parish were allocated to each team, to ensure



that all roads were properly covered and, during the morning, ten half-filled 60-litre sacks were collected, meaning some 300 litres of detritus was cleared from the roadsides.



Participants gathered afterwards for welcome refreshments in the Church. **Rob Brudenell** would like to thank all those who baked and provided the snacks, which were appreciated by everyone.

A donation from the grant was made to the Church for the use of its facilities and to cover the costs of the coffee and tea consumed.

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Getting it all together...

This year's **Parish Assembly** is being held in the Village Hall on 15th April at 7.30pm.

This is an ideal opportunity to socialise, meet fellow parishioners, find out what is going on in the village and hear about plans for the future. Refreshments will be provided, so do come along and say hello.

The **Parish Council** will be reporting on its actions during the past year and the meeting will include contributions from village institutions and various local event and social activity organisers.

St Giles' Church, along with the **School**, will each be reporting on their past year's activities while contributions from the **Village Hall** trustees, the **Knitting Circle**, the **Carpet Bowls Club**, the **Maple Leaves** and the **Autumn Show Society** have been invited. **PCSO John Thorne** has also been asked to come along to report on rural crime.

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Council Meeting Dates 2026/27

Following the AGM on 13th May the next five full meetings will be held on:

- ✚ **2026:** 15th July/16th September/11th November
- ✚ **2027:** 13th January/10th March

Latest Planning News

The following were discussed by the Council at its meeting on 11th March:

Applications Notified:

- ✚ **26/00459/DAC & 26/00453/BNGDAC** – Barn at Purls Hill Farm House, Purls Hill. Discharge of Condition 11 (Archaeology) of 25/00334/FUL & application for approval of details as reserved by the BNG Condition, as listed under Informative 1 of approved application 25/00334/FUL

This application was intended to notify the **Council** of the proposed lifting of the restrictions that applied to **25/00334/FUL** and did not need permission. **BDC** will not be approving or refusing the proposal, so comments were not invited.

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Forthcoming Events

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

- ✚ **Friday 27th/Saturday 28th Mar*: Robin Hood - The Pantomime.** Details of the performance times and ticket prices can be found in **Parish News**, on the 'Events' page of the website or in the 'Featured' section of the **Maplestead Mates Facebook** page.
†**Note: The Saturday evening performance is now sold out.**
- ✚ **Monday 6th Apr*: Easter Village Walk.** Meet **11.00am** in **Village Hall** car park. Cost: **£2.50/person**. Dogs/children **free**. Half-way drinks/light refreshments at the end.
- ✚ **Wed 15th Apr*: Parish Assembly – 7.30pm** (See article on left for more information)
- ✚ **Saturday 2nd/Sunday 3rd May*: Great Maplestead Beer Festival – Sat 12 noon-9.0pm/Sun 12 noon-4.00pm.** Further details in April's **Parish News**, the website's 'Events' page and **Maplestead Mates**.
- ✚ **Fridays 5th June to 21st 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**.

Further information can also be found 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**:

Denise Ellison, 25 Monks Road,
Earls Colne, Essex CO6 2RY
Tel: 07566 265 447 (4.30-6.30pm Mon/Tue/Thu)
E-mail: clerk@greatmaplestead-pc.gov.uk
Website: <https://greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk>