



Maplestead Magna Carta

Great Maplestead Parish Council's Award-Winning Newsletter

New Waste and Recycling Scheme Under Pressure

Residents expressing discontent...

The new Waste/Recycling Scheme introduced by Braintree District Council on 1st July is now coming under fire from residents for failing to meet their recycling and collection needs.

There have been many comments on social media regarding the scheme's unsuitability for improving recycling behaviour – its purported rationale.

Residents' main concerns are that using the new fixed-capacity bins actually limits the amount of recycling that can be done, a problem exacerbated by the extended 4-weekly collection periods for these bins and an increase in 'missed' collections.

The problem of limited bin capacity has already been tacitly acknowledged by **BDC** agreeing to collect additional cardboard that is left alongside the red-lidded bins (in direct contravention of their "no side waste" policy). However, this is not a sustainable long-term solution, inclement weather apparently rendering wet cardboard uncollectable.



No such initiative has so far been suggested for the blue-lidded bins, such as allowing glass bottles to be collected as "side waste", in suitable containers.

BDC does not appear to respond to social media posts by concerned individuals – many of whom also find the 'finger-wagging' videos, explaining the over-prescriptive 'rules' and how to flatten cardboard and plastic containers, patronising.

The only public comments from **BDC** addressing this issue are that the new scheme "*needs time to bed in*" and, in the meantime, "*if there is an excess of recycling to go in the blue bin, an option is for people to go to the recycling centre locally*".

In the **Parish Council's** view these responses are unacceptable. They do not satisfactorily answer people's immediate concerns – and the suggestion to use a local recycling centre for getting rid of excess blue-lidded bin waste seems to indicate that **BDC** is happy to place a costly, unwelcome and burdensome responsibility on parishioners to rectify the problem of there being more recycling produced than **Braintree Council's** new system can adequately handle.

The Parish Council's request:

In order to responsibly address and to be able to answer parishioners' concerns, the **Parish Council** has officially asked **BDC** the following:

- How long is **BDC** going to give the new scheme to "bed-in"?
- What does **BDC** plan to do if the problems that have already become glaringly apparent persist – will it be:
 - o Provide additional bins?
 - o Introduce more frequent recycling bin collections?
 - o Accept there should be separate glass collections?
- Are any alternative, **BDC**-initiated, solutions being investigated, as a matter of urgency, to resolve these problems quickly?

The **Parish Council** have also asked why, in the interim, the red- and blue-lidded bin collections cannot be converted to an alternating fortnightly cycle immediately. This solution would, in its view, quickly and efficiently solve most parishioners' "excess recycling" problems.

When received, BDC's response will be published on the Council's website and Facebook pages.

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Keeping our Village Tidy

Potential downsides of the recycling problems currently being experienced locally could be increases in littering/fly tipping in the area.

To ameliorate this, on **Saturday 13th June Task Force** volunteers met in the Playing Field Car Park for the second of this year's community litter-picks.

Doing two of these each financial year ensures that the **Council** receives its annual Street Cleaning Grant from **Braintree District Council**.

During the morning, eight half-filled 60-litre sacks were collected, meaning some 240 litres of detritus was cleared from the roadsides. This means that, in the two litter-picks carried out so far this year, over 500 litres of rubbish has been removed from the village's environment.



Cllr. Rob Brudenell would like to thank all those who helped carry out this essential and worthwhile community activity.

DigiGo takes over from DaRT3...

DigiGo is the new bus service provider in those areas previously covered by DaRT3, offering an enhanced demand responsive service.

As an introduction, **FREE travel** in DigiGo's new areas is available until **31st August**. More details on notice board posters (below) and social media..



The poster features the DigiGo logo at the top, a blue DigiGo van in the center, and a map of the service area at the bottom right. Text on the poster includes: 'DigiGo is coming to your area!', 'From 26 July 2026, DaRT services will become DigiGo. Following Essex County Council's Bus Network changes, residents will soon benefit from DigiGo, a flexible, demand-responsive transport service designed to make local travel easier and more convenient.', 'DigiGo is an on-demand public transport service that allows you to book journeys when you need them, rather than following fixed bus routes and timetables.', 'We're offering FREE travel for all passenger types until 31 August 2026. Whether you're commuting, shopping, visiting friends or exploring somewhere new, now's the perfect time to give the service a try - completely free of charge.', 'For more information visit: www.digigo.uk', 'How do I book? Book your journey up to 7 days in advance by calling 03330 137138 (Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm). Next day journeys must be booked by 5pm on the previous working day.', 'Booking line will be open from 25 July for travel from 26 July.', 'Coming soon: Once things bed in, DigiGo will introduce the TravelEssex app for the new Travel Zones offering booking, payment, live tracking and real-time updates in the palm of your hand.'

Journeys can be booked up to 7 days in advance on **03330 137 138** (Mon-Fri, 9.00am-5.00pm) or must be booked by 5.00pm the previous working day. The booking line is open now. To find out more on how the service operates, visit www.digigo.uk

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Parish Council Vacancy



**GREAT MAPLESTEAD
PARISH COUNCIL**

NOTICE OF CASUAL VACANCY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a vacancy has occurred in the office of Parish Councillor for Great Maplestead Parish Council.

An election to fill the vacancy will be held if ten local government electors for the electoral area so request. Such request should be made in writing and must include name, address and signature.

Requests must be submitted to the Proper Officer (Chief Executive) of Braintree District Council at Causeway House, Bocking End, Braintree CM7 9HB. The deadline for receipt of requests is no later than 5:00pm on 10th August 2026.

If an election is not requested as aforesaid the vacancy will be filled by the Parish Council as soon as is practicable.

Date: 27th July 2026

Parish Clerk:
Denise Ellison, 25 Monks Road,
Earls Colne, Essex CO6 2RY

Braintree Foodbank initiative

People using the foodbank are often dealing with much more than a lack of food.

Many are facing a range of difficult challenges and, while providing emergency food is the immediate priority, help connecting people with additional support/services may make a lasting difference:



The poster has a central list of services: 'Benefits & Income', 'Bills & Budgeting', 'Employment', 'Housing Support', 'Health & Wellbeing', 'Fuel & Energy Costs', and 'Access Local Services'. Each service is accompanied by a green icon. At the top, it says 'Support Starts Here' and 'More Than Just Food'. At the bottom, it says 'Don't Face Things Alone' and provides contact information for Braintree Area Foodbank: phone 01376 330694, email info@braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk, and website braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk. It also mentions 'Together with Trussell' and 'Registered Charity Number: 1148752'.

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Forthcoming Events

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

- Fridays until 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**.
- Sat 5th Sep*: Autumn Show** – Copies of the full **Schedule** are available in the **Church**.
- Saturday 19th Sep*: Maplesteads' Jumble Sale** – from **3.00pm**. More information from: Diane Smith (473 300)/Doreen Faulks (460 727)

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://greatmaplestead-pc.gov.uk>