

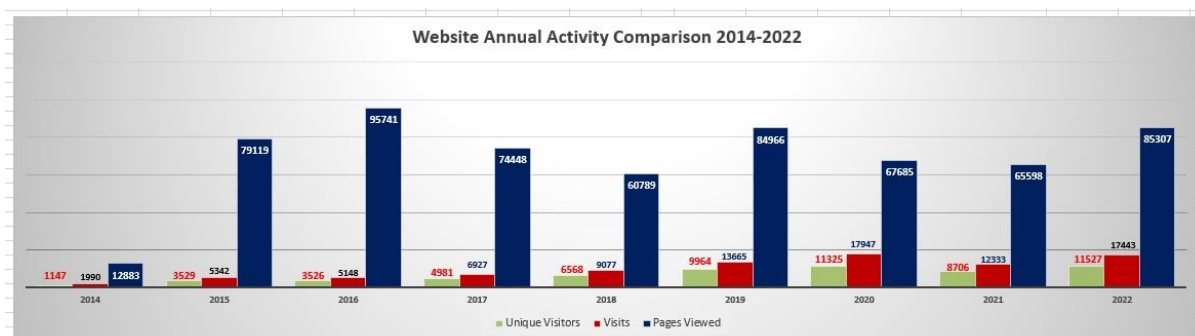
Cllr Harris Report/Action Plan – January 2023

Communications

1. Website/Facebook

❖ Report/Review:

- The Council’s website continues to be a valuable source of local information.
- Averaged across the whole of **2022**, unique visitors to the site were over **960** and it was visited just under **1455** times each month.
- As the chart below shows, after a slight decline in activity during 2021 following **6 years of successive growth** in visitor numbers and site visits since the Council took control of the website, **2022 saw visitor and visit numbers back up to 2020 levels and page viewings at a pre-pandemic level:**



- Some of the reasons for this may be that:
 1. A greater number of village events took place during 2022 than in the previous year; this in turn meant that there was more frequent updating of event information on the site, which is one of the main visitor attractors.
 2. Special pages created for the Cost of Living Support Group and the Queen’s funeral were an additional source of interest and reference, as was the news about the Playing Field development and lottery win.
- The Council’s Facebook page has continued to prove a valuable asset during the year, in particular its link with the village’s Maplestead Mates page enabling important information to be quickly and widely distributed across the parish.
- Unfortunately, recent changes to Facebook mean that only information about **the last 90 days activity** can now be accessed. However, during the last 3 months, **15** separate posts were made on the Council’s page, reaching **1999** people, each post reaching around **133** people on average.
- The top post by reach was the **Maple Lodge pond clearance (366)**; the post with the least interest shown was the news about **Essex County Council’s research ‘to explore the experience of individuals and households in the rural areas of Braintree district’ (61)**.
- As would be expected, many more saw the Council’s posts on the 490-member **Maplestead Mates** village Facebook group – there the same **15** posts reached **3276** people, with the top one being the **Christmas Walk (354; 72%)** and the lowest the **ECC research (166; 34%)**.
- The demographic of the Council’s Facebook followers is 71% women/21% men.

❖ Action Plan:


- Regular updating of the website and associated links will continue in 2023.
- The Council’s Facebook page will continue to carry links to the website when more in-depth information than can sensibly be carried on Facebook needs to be communicated, in order to bring it to the widest possible attention.

2. Council Information Leaflets

❖ Action Plan:

• Emergency Information:

- Agree and submit current content (below) to **BDC** by end of January
- Agree new content for update subsequent to the May PC election.



Great Maplestead Parish Council

Emergency Information

The information below is a quick-reference guide to the people, facilities and resources available in the Parish for responding to local emergency events.

Emergency Contacts/Responders:

Village

Martin Elms , (Parish Council Chairman) Hunters Wood, Church Street, Great Maplestead, Halstead, Essex CO9 2RG 01787 461 421	Ann Crisp (Parish Clerk), New House, St Giles Close, Great Maplestead, Halstead, Essex CO9 2RW 01787 460 216
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Public Services

Fire/Ambulance/Police	999
Police (non-emergency)	101
Electricity Mains Power Failures	105
Electricity (UK Power Networks)	0800 316 105
Water Supply problems	0845 714 5145
Telephone faults	0800 800 151
Floodline Helpline	0845 988 1188
Environment Agency	0800 807 060
Color LP Gas problems (not mains)	0845 744 4999

Parish Council

Parish Council Emergency Officer: Joe Newton if required, he'll notify BDC Emergency Planning Officer [24hr No]	01787 461 308 01376 552 525
or: Parish Clerk Ann Crisp who will notify all Councillors – but if the Clerk is unavailable, they are:	01787 460 216
Martin Elms (Chairman)	01787 461 421
Steve Harris (Vice-Chairman)	01787 462 818
Peter Haylock	01787 460 302
Ian Johnson	01787 461 109
Simon Last	01787 462 957
Patricia Malle	01787 461 002

Neighbourhood Watch/Transport

Ian Johnson (NW Local Co-ordinator) Pink Cottage, Puris Hill, Great Maplestead CO9 2QX	01787 461 109
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Task Force

Martin Elms Hunters Wood, Church St, Great Maplestead CO9 2RG	01787 461 421
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Emergency Facilities:

Village Hall
Lucking Street, Great Maplestead, Halstead, Essex CO9 2RE
Kitchen, toilets, WiFi, seating, tables, crockery, cutlery, first-aid kit, defibrillator and car parking.

Village Hall Keyholders:

Liz Newton , Springwells, Lucking Street, Great Maplestead CO9 2RE	01787 461 308
Ann Crisp , New House, St. Giles Close, Great Maplestead CO9 2RW	01787 460 216
Lyn Haylock	01787 460 302
Myra Jeggo	01787 474 285
Carol Brownlie	01787 461 527
Janice Chaplin	01787 463 893
Jill Newton	01787 463 893

St Giles' School
Church Street, Great Maplestead, Halstead, Essex CO9 2RG
Kitchen, toilets, WiFi, tables, seating, telephones, computers, first-aid kit and car parking.

School Keyholders:

Jinnie Nichols (Head Teacher)	01787 460 481
Penny Doe (Head of Governors)	01787 460 142

St Giles' Church
Church Street, Great Maplestead, Halstead, Essex CO9 2RG
Kitchen, toilets, seating, tables, crockery and cutlery.

Church Keyholders:

Rev. Beverley Vincent , The Rectory, Church St, Gt Maplestead CO9 2RG	07944 200 132
Jill Newton (Warden), Krackstones, Church St, Gt Maplestead CO9 2RQ	01787 463 893
Gill Peckett (Warden), Four Seasons, Church St, Gt Maplestead CO9 2RQ	01787 462 786
Mary Elms , Hunters Wood, Church Street, Great Maplestead CO9 2RG	01787 461 421

Local Resources:

Tractors/Lifting Gear/Chainsaws	Joe Newton	01787 461 308
	Alllyn Weight	01787 461 643
4x4 Emergency Rescue	Bob Chaplin	01787 469 600
Cordon Tape/Cones/Road Repair Signs	Martin Elms	01787 461 421
Salt Supply (road use only)	Joe Newton	01787 461 308
Sandbags (available for purchase)	Braintree District Council	01376 552 525
Building Work	Paul Breed	01787 462 847
		Mobile: 07967 143 808
Plumbing/Heating Work	Keith Sheffle	01787 462 144
		Mobile: 07889 512 280
Doctors Surgeries	Castle Hedingham	01787 461 465
	Sible Hedingham	01787 460 612
	Elizabeth Courtauld Halstead	01787 475 944
Veterinary Surgeries	Catley Cross, Catley Stables	01787 269 006
	The Forge, Halstead	01787 472 666
	Mulberry, Little Henney	01787 753 530
	Shell, Sible Hedingham	01787 465 030
	Eso, Sible Hedingham	01787 460 427
Petrol/Diesel		01206 541 169
BBC Essex	FM 95.3/103.5; MW 765/729/1530	01787 461 169
BBC Suffolk	FM 95.5/103.9/104.6	01473 250 000


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

Please Note:
The information contained in this Emergency Information document ("this document") is for general information purposes only. Great Maplestead Parish Council assumes no responsibility for the accuracy, errors or omissions in the content of this document. In no event shall Great Maplestead Parish Council be liable for any special, direct, indirect, consequential, or incidental damages – or any damages whatsoever – whether in an action of contract or negligence, arising out of, or in connection with, the use of this document, the contents of this document, or the services provided by individuals or organisations identified in this document. Great Maplestead Parish Council reserves the right to make additions, deletions, or modification to the contents of this document at any time.

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• 'Become a Councillor':

- Agree to produce a new version of the previously-issued recruitment leaflet (below), for either physical or on-line distribution.
- Review/amend content prior to, and sign-off at, the next meeting.



GREAT MAPLESTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

The Council has achieved a number of important objectives during the past 4 years. These include, amongst other things:


- Children's Play Area fencing: installed for safety/protection from dog waste contamination.
- Car Park extension: to address dangers of on-street parking at the school at peak times.
- Village Information Boards: to provide visitors with details of local points of interest/walks.
- Service Level Agreements: for local footpath maintenance.
- Maplestead Magna Carta: a communications initiative to improve transparency and to provide better information about Council business.
- Website: now a modern looking, regularly updated 'one-stop' information source not just for Council matters, but all village events and activities.
- School's 20 mph scheme: 'wig-wag' signs to reduce speeds and improve children's safety.
- Street lighting: upgraded to LEDs.
- Lucking Street: major drainage project with ECC.
- Litter Pickers: regular action to maintain a good environment.
- Defibrillator: installed at Village Hall/CPR training courses run.

Parish Council Elections Thursday 2nd May 2019

Help make a difference in this village

Stand for Election!

Become a Parish Councillor



YOUR COUNCIL NEEDS YOU!

If the Parish Council is to evolve to help make Great Maplestead an even better place to live, it needs people with enthusiasm and new ideas.

There are big challenges ahead – greater financial constraints, and more powers being devolved to local level for starters...

Are you able to **Listen, Entertain, Energise and Challenge?**

What could you do for the Parish?

Local Involvement
Work as a team on behalf of all residents to consider, evaluate and undertake actions that will be of benefit to the whole Parish.

Monitoring
Ensure that grants are sought, awarded and best value services obtained for major projects.

Decision Making
Decide how funding is best spent to improve facilities for residents, and respond to all planning applications affecting the Parish, in the common interest.

Governance
Commit to the Council's Code of Conduct to undertake the role in an unbiased and lawful manner.

HOW MUCH TIME DOES IT TAKE?

Great Maplestead Parish Council currently has seven **Full Council** meetings during each 12-month period.

Extra-Ordinary meetings may also be arranged to deal with specific matters as they arise.

Full Council meetings normally take place at **7.30pm on Wednesday** evenings.

Councillors should be prepared to make time to undertake background research, investigations and information gathering.

A Councillor's term of office is **four years**.

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 village's future and become a part of its history.

HOW DO YOU STAND FOR ELECTION?

Download a **Nomination Pack** from Braintree Council's website (www.braintree.gov.uk/elections). This contains all the information and forms you need. Completing and submitting the statutory **Nomination Papers** is the only way to apply to be a candidate – there is no alternative process.

To be a candidate you must:

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

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

- be on the electoral register for the Parish; or
- during the whole of the 12 months before close of nominations, 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.

Completed **Nomination Papers** must be **hand-delivered** to the Returning Officer at Causeway House, Bocking End, Braintree CM7 9HB.

The nomination period is **9.30am to 4.00pm** on any working day from **Wednesday 27th March** until the close of nominations at **4.00pm on Wednesday 3rd April**.

This deadline cannot be extended – for any reason.

*Note: Neither electronic nor Royal Mail postal deliveries are permitted nomination submission methods.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Either contact:


Braintree District Council Electoral Office 01376 552525 x 2751
Essex Association of Local Councils 01371 879722

or talk to any of the current **Parish Councillors**:

David Turner – Chairman, Planning, Grant Funding and Care in the Community Working Parties	01787 461 421
Martin Elms – Vice Chairman, Highways & Road Safety, Task Force, Finance Review	01787 461 421
Steve Harris – Parish Council Website, Newsletter, Footpaths, Care in the Community Working Party	01787 462 818
Peter Haylock – Planning, Grant Funding Working Party, Personnel Committee	01787 460 302
Ian Johnson – Neighbourhood Watch & Crime Prevention, Transport, Personnel Committee	01787 461 109
Patricia Malle – Grant Funding and Care in the Community Working Parties	01787 461 002
Joe Newton – Playing Field, Emergency Officer	01787 461 308

For more detailed information visit: <https://greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk/>

Great Maplestead Parish Council is proud to have achieved the Local Council Award Scheme **Foundation Level**, demonstrating that it meets a set of minimum standards enabling it to deliver effective community governance.



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3. E-newsletter (Maplestead Magna Carta)

❖ Action Plan:

- **Issue 48** is scheduled for publication on **w/c 30th January 2023** (tbc).
- Editorial content for this issue is suggested to include:
 - Budget Decisions/Effects:
 - County/Parish
 - County/District news
 - Playing Field - work schedule
 - Planning updates
 - Forthcoming Events

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Footpaths

❖ Report:

- Footpaths are muddy currently and appropriate care is needed by users
- No major problems have otherwise been reported

❖ Action Plan:

- Interim assessments and maintenance will continue to be carried out during 2023 on an *ad hoc* basis to monitor path conditions/rectify problems.
- A new contract to extend the Service Level Agreement to maintain our footpaths in the 2023/24 financial year needs to be requested by the end of **February**.
- The request claim needs to be presented on PC headed paper, with details of what we are claiming for.
- Research is now required into possible alternative contractors for the 2023 footpath maintenance programme.