

Cllr Harris Report/Action Plan – November 2021

Communications

1. Website/Facebook

❖ Report:

- The website's **WEA** page now has information about its planned Spring 2022 Course: **The Victorian Mind**.
- The **News** page has been updated with details of the **A12-A120 Widening Scheme Consultation**, which runs until **19th December**, and how to take part.
- The **Events** and **Home** pages have been updated with information about the **Advent Windows** initiative and **Christmas Walk** details.

❖ Action Plan:

- Regular updating of the website will continue for the rest of 2021 and during 2022.
- The Council's Facebook page will continue to carry such immediate information as needs to be drawn to people's attention, in addition to links to the website when more in-depth information than can sensibly be carried on social media needs to be communicated, in order to give it the widest possible audience.

2. E-newsletter (Maplestead Magna Carta) [Agenda Item 12]

❖ Action Plan:

- **Issue 41** is scheduled for publication **w/c 29th November 2021** (tbc).
- Editorial content for this issue is suggested to include:
 - PF Development Project – latest news
 - Castle H triangle development update
 - A12-A120 Widening Consultation info.
 - Local footpath signs update
 - Planning news
 - Forthcoming events

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Footpaths

❖ Report:

- The contentious '**No Public Access**' signs previously installed on some of the tracks across Chelmshoe Farm's land have now been replaced by the more legally acceptable '**Permissive Path – Use at your own risk**' signs, which also request that dogs should be kept on leads. On shoot days (mainly Tuesdays through to the end of January 2022) notifications of the temporary closure of these paths between 8.00am and 4.00pm are being posted, in the interests of public safety.



❖ Action Plan:

- Interim path checks and problem rectification will continue on an *ad hoc* basis.
- Publication of a Parish Footpath Map and Guide is still to be investigated.

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Playing Field Development Project [Info. for Agenda Item 8.1]

❖ Report:

- Since the last Parish Council meeting:
 - A **CIF Grant** application for **£10,000** has been submitted to **Essex CC.**
 - A generous donation of **£10,000** has been received from the Trustees of Great Maplestead's Village Hall.
 - Our **County Councillor** has agreed to provide some financial support.
 - A **National Lottery Grant** application for **£40,000** has been completed and, subject to Council's approval, will be submitted for consideration prior to the **November** deadline.
 - A couple of parish **fundraising events** have also been held:
 - The **Harvest Village Walk**, which raised **£75**
 - The **Quiz Night**, which raised **£518**
- The **current total** of funds received/pledged is **just under £30,000**, about half-way towards our target figure.
- A **tender document** for the manufacture and supply of natural playground-style equipment is in the process of preparation.
 - As this will be a public works contract with a value of **£25,000 or more**, the Council must comply with Regulations 109-114 of the **Public Contracts Regulations (2015)**. These require that the **Contracts Finder** website is used to advertise contract opportunities, set out the procedures to be followed in awarding new contracts and publicise the award of new contracts. The Regulations also state: '*Councils shall not be obliged to accept the lowest or **any** tender, quote or estimate*'...
- A request has been made to Stewart Landscapes for a **disabled access path** cost estimate to see what effect that additional item will have on the Project's budget.

❖ Action Plan:

- A request will be made to update the 'current funds raised' figure shown on the '**Totaliser Tree**', which publically displays the fundraising progress to date.
- Other approaches to grant providers are actively being investigated.
- Further **local fundraising events** are also being considered/planned:
 - **Boxing Day Boules** – an informal lunchtime social event on Sunday 26th December, using the new Boules Court (weather permitting).
 - **Christmas Village Walk** – on Monday 27th December (lieu Bank Holiday).
 - **Greyhound Race Night** – (late Jan/early Feb)