

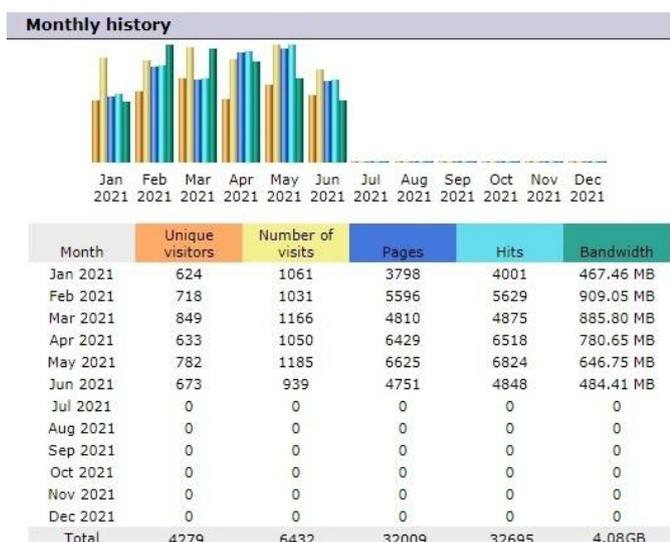
Cllr Harris Report/Action Plan – July 2021

Communications

1. Website/Facebook

❖ Report:

- During the first half of the year activity on the website has picked up slightly from the previous 6 months: the number of unique visitors was up 18% and visits were up 17%. Fewer pages were viewed (-11%) but the average viewing time per page was nearly 3mins, up by 20%.
- Information on the Church page (new service times/contact details/link to KH Facebook page) has been updated in line with a request by Rev. Beverley Vincent.



- The Council's Facebook page continues to be a valuable asset; the 26 posts so far this year have reached 4241 people, an average of 163 per post – the most viewed/commented on was Simon Last's starring role on BBC Essex Quest, reaching 647 people, although the combined fly-tipping ones run a close second... These figures do not include all the Council posts shared on Maplestead Mates – although the five shared during the last month reached a further 1053 people.

❖ Action Plan:

- Regular updating of the website will continue in 2021.
- 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 audience.

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

❖ Action Plan:

- **Issue 39** is scheduled for publication **w/c 26th July 2021** (tbc).
- Editorial content for this issue is suggested to include:
 - Playing Field Fun(d) Day
 - PF Development Project update
 - Pizza Van reminder
 - Any interesting County/District news
 - Road Safety update (?)
 - Planning news
 - Forthcoming events

Footpaths

❖ Report:

- Maintenance of scheduled footpaths was undertaken by the new contactor at the beginning of June. A couple of machinery access problems were identified and some rectification work is being arranged.
- FP 11 was re-cut prior to the Village Walk because of the speed of growth – further work was undertaken by a running group before using it for an event.

❖ Action Plan:

- A second round of maintenance is scheduled for the autumn – in the meantime interim checks and problem rectification will continue on an *ad hoc* basis.

Playing Field Fun(d) Day

❖ Report:

- The Council's **Playing Field Development Working Party** is planning an official launch of its ambitious re-development plans by holding a **summer afternoon fête** on the field, from **2.30-6.00pm** on the afternoon of **14th August**.
- This is intended to be a low-key but enjoyable, inclusive and fun occasion for everyone in the village, with participation events, competitive entertainments, children's games, a range of refreshment options and so on.
- Whilst primarily intended as a fundraiser, this '**Playing Field Fun(d) Day**' will also be a way of generating greater awareness of what's being planned and why.
- There will be a display of the initial proposals for the field's re-development, which residents will be able to study and discuss how to become involved in helping to raise money by organising other community-led or social events.
- All proceeds from the **Fun(d) Day** will go towards the **Development Project**, to help boost match-funding for other grants which are currently being sought.
- A dedicated Council bank account for the **Development Project** is being used to handle the income and expenses of this event.
- Preparations for the **Fun(d) Day** are now in hand. The underlying idea is that individual organisers will be responsible for arranging, setting up and running their own activities in whatever way they feel will work best, with the WP only being involved in co-ordinating the schedule for the overall event.
 - Current plans include:
 - A central arena for:
 - 🚧 A fun dog show
 - 🚧 Morris Dancing
 - 🚧 Various competitive team/individual activities
 - A number of children's activities, including:
 - 🚧 Outdoor games:
 - Coconut Shy/Bat-the Rat/Football Challenge etc.
 - 🚧 Competitive events:
 - Sack/Egg & Spoon/'Wheelbarrow' races etc.
 - 🚧 A water-pistol firing range
 - 🚧 Face/pebble painting
 - Refreshment provisions, including a WI-run tea and cakes area and a beer tent – an ice-cream van is also under consideration
 - Arrangements will be made for parking/litter disposal/signage.
 - A publicity and advertising programme is being formulated, to include:
 - Flyers for household hand-delivery and school distribution, to include Dog Show Schedule
 - Posters in all the usual places
 - Press release for:
 - Halstead Gazette
 - BBC Radio Essex – also perhaps a presence on the day...
 - Information/posters on local websites and Facebook pages
 - Sponsorship is being considered from local businesses to both support the event and raise additional funds.

❖ Action Plan:

- A co-ordination meeting with the various participants will be held shortly – meanwhile members of the WP are following up on already agreed actions and investigating other ideas of potential interest; there are some that are speculative at this stage; there are also others which people may still want to put forward.

Playing Field Boules Court [Agenda Item 8.2]

❖ Report:

- Funding for this element of the re-development project has been previously agreed and is in place.
- After much chasing the following responses have now been received to the Council's requests for quotations from three suppliers:

1. Stewart Landscapes

To supply and install Petanque court, 4m x 15m.
Excavating out base and retaining material on site
Install 150x75mm timber edging to surround.
Install 125mm of compacted type 1 sub-base and 50mm of Breedon Gravel compacted in layers.

£3721.50 + VAT

Installation: 1 week

Timing: by 1st week of August, if go-ahead given shortly

2. Marvan's Landscapes

Excavate area 4m x 15m 100mm in depth using digger – leave excavated material on site.
Install 200x100mm pine sleepers level with ground, with flat support brackets joining each sleeper to each other with stakes to support sleepers upright buried into the ground.
Add terram to sub soil, back fill with 50mm layer MOT type 1 and whacker plate.
Screed area with 10mm sharp sand to create flat surface and then whacker plate
Add a further 40mm of granite dust and rake level – but not too compact.

£2958.00 + VAT

50% non-refundable deposit on acceptance

Installation: 2-3 days

Timing: November – but maybe earlier if staff will agree to work on a weekend.

3. Colne Valley Groundcare

"Thank you for the opportunity to quote for this work. This is not something we have done before and after a lot of research and speaking to a few fellow landscapers we feel it's not something that we are able to quote on".

4. D & L Landscapes – no response to either initial or chasing e-mails

- It looks as though **Stewart Landscapes** (who did the Castle Hedingham playground landscaping) and **Marvan's** are the only two local suppliers who are capable of, and prepared to quote for, doing the work to a suitable standard.
- There is a **£760** difference in **Marvan's** favour – but, if they are unable to carry out the work until November, adverse weather and poor playing field surface conditions might prevent work on the installation until next year.
- **Stewart Landscapes** would be able to install in the next 4 weeks, if given the go-ahead now, which would allow the court, and possibly the picnic benches, to be in place for the **Fun(d) Day**. This would send out a positive visual message to residents that the re-development work is underway...

❖ Action:

- **Marvan's** have been contacted to see if they can get their staff's agreement to do the installation work on one of the four weekends remaining before the **Fun(d) Day**, as per the comment accompanying their quote, but that may of course cost a bit more and not be possible anyway.
- **A decision therefore needs to be made and agreed as to how to proceed.**