

Chairman's Report – March 2025

Areas of Responsibility

Footpaths

❖ Report:

- The condition of the majority of footpaths in the parish during the early part of this year has been poor. Due to an extended period of wet weather the paths have been muddy, slippery and needed to be used with care
- The improvement during the last couple of weeks means that Tony Hume will now be able to access some parts of the network where maintenance is needed.
- During the recent verge cutting and ditch clearing work in Lucking Street the footpath fingerpost sign at the end of FP8 was impacted by machinery and snapped at the base. BDC Streetscene were notified and the sign has since disappeared – whether taken by BDC or nefariously is a moot point...



❖ Action Plan:

- Carry out whatever post-winter maintenance is required.
- Organise replacement of the FP8 fingerpost.

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Communications

1. Website/Facebook

❖ Report:

- The Government recommendation that, to improve security, all levels of Local Government, including Parish Councils, should adopt a '.gov.uk' identification for their websites and e-mail communications is still being considered and may now have to be put on hold until a new Clerk is in post.
- Since the last meeting the website's **News** page has been updated with information and details about:
 - **BDC's Waste & Recycling Consultation** – on a proposal to make changes to its household waste and recycling collection service by introducing two additional wheelie bins per household and a complex 8-week rota of collections, which closed on 2nd March.
 - **BDC's Local Plan Consultation** – on the '*Issues and Options*' stage of the process, which ended on 7th March
 - **GMPC's Clerk Vacancy** – which closes for applications on 14th April
- Links to the **Maplestead Magna Carta** continue to be posted on both the **Council** and **Maplestead Mates** Facebook pages, for widest local coverage.

❖ Action Plan:

- Further investigation to be carried out as to the implications/practicalities/costs of the '.gov.uk' suggested mandate will be held over for now.
- The Facebook page will continue to share relevant posts with Maplestead Mates in order for its information to reach the widest possible local audience.

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

❖ Action Plan:

- **Issue 61** is scheduled for publication **w/c 24th March 2025** (tbc).
- Editorial content for this issue is suggested to include:
 - Clerk Vacancy
 - Car Park re-surfacing
 - VE80 Anniversary Celebration
 - Parish Assembly
 - Quiet Lane completion
 - Council Meeting Dates 2025/26
 - Planning News
 - Forthcoming events
- Links to an online version will be posted on the website and also be published on the **Council & Maplestead Mates** Facebook pages

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General

Playing Field Car Park

❖ Report:

- The work to re-surface the car park was finally carried out during the school's spring half-term break, in order to minimise village parking disruption.
- The Council sincerely wishes to thank the enthusiastic team of willing volunteers, who, with rakes, spades and an aptitude for Lego, fuelled by coffee and cake – and with a Manitou, a whacker, a small grader and a digger – managed to spread and level some 50 tons of sand, piece together and lay nearly 5670 interlocking plastic grid panels and spread some 50 tons of small stones across the 630m² of the car park in just under 4 days...
- This magnificent effort was a great advertisement for what can be achieved with the right community spirit and people working together for the common good.
- The playing field now has a car park befitting a valued village amenity that has been well-patronised since its redevelopment – to the benefit of all its users.



From this:



to this:



via this:

