



# Great Maplestead Parish Council

## Actions Undertaken – 2015/19

Action	Why Required?
<b>Playing Field:</b>	
Children's Play Area: fenced	To prevent dog waste contamination risk to play area users
Play Area equipment: improved/replaced	To meet latest/current safety standards and comply with RoSPA recommendations
Car park: extended	To provide more easily-accessible parking spaces and address an on-street parking problem that was creating a danger to children at school drop-off and pick-up times
Recycling facility: re-sited	To reduce the noise impact for the new-build housing development bordering the playing field
Village Information Board: installed	To provide visitors and villagers with information about the village, local points of interest and suggestions for walks
New Terms of Use: revised/agreed/published	To make public the legal framework for playing field use and provide a reference document for organisations/bodies wishing to use the facility
Terms of Use notice: installed at the car park entrance	As above (The sign was vandalised in autumn 2018 and is currently awaiting re-installment)
<b>Footpaths:</b>	
Dog waste bins: additional ones provided/existing ones re-sited	To address parishioner concerns about the dearth of these facilities on popular walking routes
Footbridges at the Water Meadow and Slype Copse: damage reported/repaired	To address parishioner safety concerns about loose planking/danger of slipping
'Stepping stones' at the Slype Steps: installed	To make this permanently boggy part of the footpath safe and negotiable even in wet weather
Service Level Agreement: set up with ECC for Parish control of footpath maintenance	To benefit from a financial grant that also gives the Council control of the number/extent of vegetation cuts required to keep the footpaths walkable all year
New handrail and repair to steps at the bottom of Church Field: requested/installed	To address parishioner concerns about negotiating the steep bank safely, especially in inclement weather
<b>Communications:</b>	
'Maplestead Magna Carta' e-newsletter: a new Council communications initiative	To make Council business transparent and provide parishioners with regular information about/feedback opportunities for Parish affairs/village events. (Winner of 'Best Newcomer' in the Essex Life 2015 Community Magazine Awards)
Parish Council website: format revamped/currency and range of information broadened/content regularly updated	To provide the Parish with a modern looking, up-to-the-minute 'one-stop' information source for Council matters, village events and activities – one that can be successfully accessed across a variety of platforms

## Action

## Why Required?

### Highways:

Existing Parish drainage system: located and mapped

To update/provide information to help with flood prevention/locating blocked gullies etc.

20mph 'wig-wag' warning lights: installed on school approaches

To help reduce traffic speed and improve the safety of the roads near the school at pupils' drop-off and pick-up times

Broken railings at Chelmshoe Bridge: reported/repared

To rectify a dangerous structure and properly delineate the roadside outer edge on this blind corner

Old sodium street lighting: replaced with LEDs

To improve lighting levels and reduce light pollution, bulb maintenance and operating costs

Litter-picks: regularly undertaken by the Task Force

To improve the Parish environment

Pothole reporting/maintenance

To improve road safety throughout the Parish

Lucking Street: new drainage channel excavated by the Task Force

To reduce the flash-flooding that commonly occurs in this location after heavy rain

Major drainage project for Lucking St: initiated with ECC

As above (This project is at an advanced planning stage and scheduled for implementation in the 2019/20 FY)

### Community Projects:

'Adopt-a-Road Sign'/'Adopt-a-Triangle' schemes: launched

To keep the roadside triangles tidy/signs clean and encourage parishioner involvement in improving their village environment

Defibrillator purchased/installed at the Village Hall + CPR training courses run

To ensure an appropriate emergency response for coping with heart attacks (This project is potentially Stage One of configuring the Village Hall as an Emergency Hub)

Environmental Conservation Management scheme: introduced

To help increase species diversity and fauna habitats in the local area (This project is being run in conjunction with local landowners, the Church and the school)

Community Information Leaflet: produced/provided

To provide information to residents/newcomers about how to access the many services and activities in the Parish

Emergency Information Leaflet: produced/provided

To ensure residents are well-equipped with information to cope with most local emergencies...

### General:

Essex Village of the Year Competition: annual entry

To foster community responsibility and pride in the village. (Winner of Merit award in 2015 and 1st Prize/£150 in 2016)

Annual Parish Assemblies: four hosted

To provide a platform for village organisations and groups to report on their activities and publicise future events

Planning Applications: over 40 cases considered

To respond to **all** Planning Application submissions, as pledged. (Only one case has so far been approved by **BDC** against Parish Council objections)

Local Development Plan: continued involvement

To ensure parishioners' wishes, concerns and ideas are fully represented

New Regulatory Audit Process: transitioned to and adopted

To simplify administration and reduce Council audit costs

GDPR: compliance undertaken/ revised Privacy Notice and new Data Consent form introduced

To comply with new Data Protection legislation introduced in May 2018

Parish financial reserves: increased successfully

To improve the financial stability of the Parish, particularly in light of the withdrawal of the Local Support Grant