



Great Maplestead Parish Council

Actions Undertaken – May 2019/April 2023

Playing Field:

- **Traveller Incursion**
 - o Successful negotiation and removal of travellers within 24 hours in June 2020 (working with key stakeholders, Essex County Council, Essex police and St Giles' School).
- **Security Measures**
 - o vertical wooden posts, a gate, security post and earth bund, seeded with wildflowers, installed to guard against traveller incursions
- **Covid**
 - o Put in place measures to prevent use of children's play area during lockdown, in line with government guidelines
- **Car Park**
 - o Surface maintained to remove potholes and prevent flooding
- **Boules Court/additional Picnic Benches**
 - o funded by a grant and installed to improve recreational amenities
- **Play Area**
 - o waste bin repaired
- **Terms of Use Notice**
 - o re-installed at car park entrance
- **£110,000 Development Project**
 - o initiated in March 2021, funded by local events and donations/the National Lottery Community Fund and completed in spring 2023
 - new field drainage installed
 - ageing playground equipment removed
 - new play equipment, meeting children's current play criteria, installed
 - recreational and social amenities improved
 - new pathway for school's Mile-a-Day programme and to improve access for people of all abilities constructed.

Footpaths:

- **Water Meadows Footbridge 1**
 - o new bridge installed across brook on path to Reyes Hill
- **Water Meadows Footbridge 2**
 - o defective planks replaced on bridge across brook on path to Lucking Street
- **Slype Copse**
 - o loose/missing footbridge planks refitted/replaced
 - o steps and stepping stones replaced by raised path to overcome difficulties crossing marshy ground
- **Church Field Steps**
 - o risers repaired/replaced
- **Hulls Mill Footpath**
 - o collapsed fence blocking path re-sited
 - o overhanging tree branches blocking path removed

- **Dog Waste Bins**
 - o two additional bins installed on popular walking routes (St Marys & Gestingthorpe Road), bringing Parish total to seven.
- **Service Level Agreement with ECC**
 - o extended in order to continue access to County funding for the local undertaking of ongoing maintenance and repair tasks

Communications:

- **Council Website**
 - o moved to a new, free hosting platform in February 2020
 - o content expanded and regularly updated with village information
 - o average annual activity:

▪ unique visitors	10,380
▪ visits	15,350
▪ pages viewed	75,890
- **Council Facebook Page**
 - o created in spring 2020 to further improve dialogue with, and feedback from, parishioners
 - o linked to Maplestead Mates for additional coverage
 - o average activity (exc MM):

▪ posts/year	62
▪ reach/post	150
- **Consultations**
 - o parish survey carried out on telecommunication mast plans
 - o householder survey on Cost-of-Living Crisis

Highways:

- **Lucking Street Drainage Project**
 - o initiated with ECC summer 2017
 - o completed October 2019
 - o additional drain clearance work required in October 2021
 - o need for kerb channel repair
 - reported December 2021
 - rectified November 2022
 - o more recent damage to kerbing awaiting inspection.
- **Road Safety Programme/Signing**
 - o initiated with ECC September 2019
 - o work undertaken and new signing installed March 2022
 - o 'Quiet Lane' proposal still awaiting budget/under review by ECC
- **Litter Picks**
 - o zonal bi-monthly litter picks by volunteers introduced during Covid and now ongoing
 - o sponsorship of 2 volunteers working for a Bronze Award on the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme
- **Potholes**
 - o reports to ECC as and when necessary

Community Projects/Actions:

- **Community/Emergency Information**
 - o website and leaflets regularly reviewed/updated
- **Community Policing**
 - o liaison established and regular contact with new PCSOs
- **Defibrillator**
 - o stolen original replaced/improved security measures undertaken
- **CPR/Defibrillator Training**
 - o 2 refresher courses organised/held

- **Parish Assembly**
 - o held annually each April (2020 cancelled due to Covid/2021 held on Zoom) to provide a platform for first-hand reporting of information from and about various village institutions and the organisers of social activities and events
- **Covid Village Support Group**
 - o set up/sponsored by PC to help mitigate effects of the pandemic
- **Platinum Jubilee**
 - o funding of festive fizz for the celebrations
- **Cost of Living Crisis/'Warm Haven'**
 - o support and sponsorship provided for both initiatives to help vulnerable parishioners during the winter

General:

- **Foundation Award Certificate**
 - o PC awarded second certificate in 2019 in recognition of meeting all criteria and requirements for operating **lawfully** and in accordance with **best practice**.
- **Emergency Standing Orders**
 - o introduced during Covid to enable work to continue during lockdown
- **Council Meetings**
 - o held successfully on Zoom during lockdown
- **Policies**
 - o annual review of all existing policies & introduction of new policies – where appropriate
 - o new policies introduced:
 - Documentation Retention/Destruction
 - Unauthorised Encampment
 - Reserves
 - Safeguarding
 - Whistleblowing
- **Planning Applications**
 - o 47 considered – all commented on/9 objected to
 - o 3 consultations on proposed location of new mobile telephone mast and substation (1 x Toldishhall & 2 x Little Lodge)
- **Local Development Plan**
 - o continued involvement
- **Annual Audit**, which covers finances, processes and procedures
 - o New internal auditor appointed, annual audits all completed in timely fashion and approved without comment
- **Financial Accounting/Budgeting**
 - o new procedures/more efficient systems adopted and implemented
- **Parish Council Finances**
 - o economies and savings made, where possible/reserves maintained at a satisfactory level.
- **Training**
 - o Clerk and Councillors made use of appropriate training to help further development/knowledge. Much of this via Zoom driven by needs of pandemic but also to keep costs down