

# Great Maplestead

## Our Playing Field Development Project Needs Your Support, Now!

**The Parish Council is looking to raise £50,000 during 2021 to fund a major re-development of the Village Playing Field, its equipment and facilities.**

### Why are we doing this?

We want to broaden its appeal, encourage greater use by residents, their children, grandchildren and the school and ensure that this valuable asset can, safely and sustainably, meet the village's needs well into the future.

During lockdowns, many enjoyed using this amenity for fresh air, exercise and recreation. Residents also appreciated having such a safe and freely accessible outdoor space in the heart of the village for social events and gatherings. **We want to sustainably improve this amenity for the benefit of all – so we are asking everyone for contributions to a concerted, community fundraising effort.**

### What are we planning to do?

1. Update and redesign the playground, including a complete renewal of most of the existing equipment (it's over 25 years old and increasingly expensive to maintain), providing a refreshed, modern play area offering long-term sustainability and low maintenance costs.
2. Plant a wildflower 'mindfulness garden', a place for quiet relaxation and socialising that, as well as mental health benefits, could be used for joint school and village environmental schemes.
3. Install new field drains to alleviate water-logging after heavy rainfall.
4. Install a Boules Court and two extra picnic benches to provide a new adult recreational and social facility – scheduled for later this year,

### How much will this cost?

In total, around **£55,000**. We've already set the ball rolling, allocating **£5,000** from an ECC Grant and some Council reserves to get the project started, so **a further £50,000 is now urgently needed**.

We are seeking finance through grant requests to local/national funding agencies but, to succeed, match-funding is usually required.

**It is therefore vital we also secure financial backing from individuals, local businesses and parish institutions.**

### You can help by:

- Supporting organised community events (e.g. Autumn Show; walks etc.)
- Organising/attending social events (e.g. Quiz/Race/pub nights etc.)
- Devising specific fund-raisers (e.g. tea/open garden parties; car washing etc.)
- Setting up a crowd-funding initiative (e.g. Just-Giving etc.)
- Providing local business/individual sponsorship/donations

***We'd welcome all your fundraising suggestions – every penny counts!***

**A Playing Field Fun(d) Day** is being held on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> August**, from **2.30-6.00pm**, as a **family fun fundraiser** to mark the **official launch** of this ambitious project.

Meanwhile, please help us get the fundraising underway by donating (anonymously, if you'd prefer) **now**:

**Cheques made out to 'Great Maplestead Parish Council' and sent to The Clerk, New House, St Giles' Close, Church St, Gt Maplestead, CO9 2RW or contact [anncrisp@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk](mailto:anncrisp@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk) for BACs payment details.**