



Maplestead Magna Carta

Award-Winning Newsletter of Great Maplestead Parish Council

Getting Things Done – the Council’s Half-Term Report...

Making a difference...

The present **Parish Council** is just over half-way through its allotted term of office – an opportune time to review the projects that have been undertaken, since it was elected, to improve life in **Great Maplestead**.

One of its immediate priorities in 2015 was to look at ways of improving communications with Parish residents. As a consequence, this regular e-newsletter was introduced – and extensive and on-going improvements made to the quality, range and currency of the information provided on the **Council’s** website.

Other 2015 projects included:

- Installing railings for the children’s play area.
- Reinstating Lucking Street’s old drainage ditch (right).



In 2016 the **Council** took control of footpath maintenance and installed ‘stepping stones’ in The Slype. In addition, it provided extra dog waste bins in new locations.

The Playing Field car park was also extended, in an attempt to improve the parking situation at School drop-off and pick-up times; most parents, encouraged by the School, are now using the car park instead of the road.



Council projects completed so far in 2017 have included the Village Hall defibrillator installation (and carrying out the associated CPR training), the provision of school ‘wig-wag’ 20mph hazard signs and the production and distribution of a Community Information leaflet.

Items on the agenda for the remainder of the 2017/18 financial year include renewing and introducing new equipment in the children’s Play Area; further improving surface water drainage in Lucking Street; installing a Village Information Board; creating and distributing an Emergency Information document, and installing LED street lights for improved lighting efficiency and greater bulb longevity.

A drain on resources...

For many years Lucking Street has suffered from poor rainwater drainage, with water cascading down the hill from the culvert by the Village Hall.



That has meant an on-going problem with verge erosion and water and sediment flowing down the hill during heavy rainfall, strewn stones and debris across the road.

The problem is exacerbated by a ‘missing link’ between the Village Hall culvert and the re-instated drainage ditch across from The Forge.

A £2500 feasibility study is being undertaken by Essex Highway’s Flood Partnership Co-ordinator and a Project Design Engineer to see if the work needed to link the culvert to the ditch:

- is something that should be dealt with as part of ECC’s drain management programme
- qualifies for a **Flood Partnership Grant**

If it’s the latter, there is the possibility of work being started during the next 12/18 months...

In preparation for the study, the **Task Force** recently cleared the culvert entrances/exits and the drainage ditch of vegetation overgrowth.



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Ready to respond...

To ensure the Parish is well-equipped to cope with any local emergencies...



...an **Emergency Information** document is being produced – a quick-reference guide, listing the people to contact and the facilities and resources within the village to help deal with such events.

The document will be available on the **Council** website shortly, and as a leaflet later in the year.

Tell me more...

Businesses and people living within Braintree District are now able to sign-up for a new BDC community service.



'**Tell Me More**' provides e-mail updates on a wide range of topics – from refuse re-cycling, street cleaning, local planning

news and health and well-being tips to events, job vacancies or even emergency alerts.

BDC is promoting this to show how it is working with technology to improve its services.

Residents and businesses subscribe by going to <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKBRAINTREE/subscriber/new> and choosing from their preferred range of topics. They will then receive e-mail updates and alerts about:

- District news and events
- Job vacancies /apprenticeships
- Emergency alerts
- Refuse recycling and street cleaning
- Horticulture
- Planning
- Environment
- Business
- Braintree Town Hall

BDC is also offering a business e-mail newsletter as a source of information specifically targeted towards the district's business people.

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Emergency Telephone Scheme



In the last MMC, comments were invited regarding the feasibility of having a Village Emergency Telephone Scheme (VETS) for Great Maplestead.

Since no comments have been received by the **Parish Clerk**, either for or against the setting-up of such a scheme, the **Council** has decided not to pursue this proposed project any further.

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Making a clean sweep of it...

The roads and gullies in Great Maplestead are due to be swept, as part of the regular cleaning schedule, on Monday 25th September.



To avoid unduly compromising this operation would everyone, and particularly residents of **Church Street**, please ensure that there is **no road-side parking** on that day.

Latest Planning News

The Parish Council considered the following applications at its meeting on 30th August:

Application Received:

- ✚ **17/01433/FUL** – *Erection of part ground & first floor/part first floor extensions to front of existing building, including roof alterations to raise ridge height of existing roof. **St Mary's, Toldishall Road.***

It was agreed that the response to this should be "*No objections raised, no comment*".

See other responses & comments by clicking on: http://www.braintree.gov.uk/info/200225/search_and_track_planning_applications, then clicking on 'View Current Applications', typing in the **planning reference** and opening the files.

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Forthcoming Events

During the next few months there are a number of events at the Village Hall* that you may wish to note for your diary:

- ✚ **Sat 30th Sept* Charity Bingo Evening** – in aid of **Cystic Fibrosis**. Tickets £10 (for a book of 10 games) from Myra Jeggo (01787 474 285). Refreshments available, for a 'donation'.
- ✚ **Sun 1st Oct* Harvest Village Walk** – meet at **10.30am**. Cost: **£2.50 per person** - dogs & children **free**. Refreshments at half-way & end.
- ✚ **Sat 14th Oct* Great Maplestead Quiz Night** Starts at **7.30pm**; doors open **7.00pm**. Entry **£5 per person**/maximum 12 teams of 6. Tickets/info from Angela Davis (01787 460 519).
- ✚ **Sat 21st Oct Bottle Collection** – for '**Get Set For Christmas**' – from **2.00pm**. Leave out full bottles only, please!
- ✚ **Sun 22nd Oct Pet Service** - at **St Giles' Church**; starts **11.00am**. All animals welcome.
- ✚ **Sat 4th Nov* 'Get Set for Christmas' Coffee Morning** – from **10.30am** to **1.00pm**. Gifts; Tombola; Bric-a-Brac; Raffle. Refreshments by the WI. Christmas table and seasonal floral arrangement demonstrations/ordering.

Much more information can be found on the 'Events' page of the Parish Council website.

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Contacting the Council

Any comments, requests or correspondence should initially be made to the Parish Clerk:

**Ann Crisp, New House, St Giles Close
Great Maplestead, CO9 2RW**

Tel: 01787 460 216 (4-6pm Mon-Thurs)

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