



Maplestead Magna Carta

Award-Winning Newsletter of Great Maplestead Parish Council

Funding Available for New Projects, Ideas and Services...

Supporting Local Communities

Essex County Council has set up a new Local Services Fund to provide revenue and other grants to Parish and Town Councils and other local community organisations across the county.



Administered by the **Essex Association of Local Councils**, this fund will give communities, working through their local **Parish** or **Town Councils** or other formally constituted groups, opportunities to bid up to four times a year for grants to provide, enhance, develop and grow local projects and services. Information about making an application is at <http://www.ealc.gov.uk/local-services-fund/>.

Grants of up to £10,000 per bid, or £15,000 over 3 years, are available to match existing funding.

Taking a Chance



The **Essex Lottery** is another new source of local funding set up by **ECC**, who are inviting charities and good causes based in Essex, and providing services or initiating projects that benefit Essex residents, to participate. There is **zero cost** to participants, who will get **60p** from **every £1 ticket sold**.

Full terms and conditions for participating can be found at essexlottery.co.uk/good-causes/terms.

Tickets can be bought at essexlottery.co.uk and players will be able to pick their preferred cause from the participants registered on the website. The first of the weekly draws takes place on **25 November**, with a jackpot of **£25,000** and guaranteed raffle prizes to be won.

Crowd-Surfing

A new local **crowd-funding platform**, which helps great ideas become realities, was officially launched by **ECC** at the beginning of October.

The **Essex Crowd** enables originators of good ideas to get the backing of local businesses, neighbours, friends and anyone who likes their scheme by pledging support through a donation.

As well as funding available through the platform <https://www.spacehive.com/movement/theessexcrowd/about>, **ECC** has created a new £500k fund which will put up to £5,000 of matching funding into the coffers of any ideas which will help make a difference locally.

Speaking at the launch event, **ECC** Leader Cllr **David Finch** said: "*The **Essex Crowd** offers a great way to bring people together behind projects and to help good things happen...*"



"Good ideas can come from anywhere and – when an idea captures the imagination of the wider community – great things can happen."

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A Litter-ally Disgusting Problem

Following the autumn verge cut, which exposed a large volume of rubbish on the roadside and in hedgerows, the Task Force undertook a Litter Pick in mid-October.



This clean-up operation netted a huge amount of landfill items and several sacks of recyclables, including bottles – by far the largest amount of rubbish collected in any recent litter-pick.

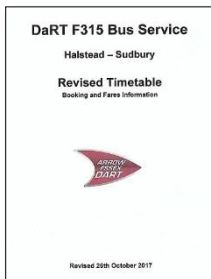
Hedingham Road and **Dynes Hall Road** were once again the worst areas for sheer volumes of litter – of great concern was a concentration of cans and broken bottles in the clearing at the top of the sunken lane leading to Alderford Farm. This was not just unsightly but was posing a positive injury danger to people and animals.

It would help the **Council's** attempts to tackle this littering problem if you would – in complete confidence – e-mail the **Parish Clerk** should you notice any rubbish-strewing activity. Information that you can provide on cars and/or locations and, ideally, photo evidence of the litter will then be forwarded to the police for follow-up action.

On the Buses

Since the August Bank Holiday introduction of the F315 bus service there have been a number of changes to the familiarisation-period timetable and fare scheme.

The latest timetable and fare information is at: <https://greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk/local-amenities/local-bus-service/> which also has links to the relevant page of the **ECC** website and answers to some **Frequently Asked Questions** about the new service.



For parishioners' convenience the **Council** has produced some printed timetables, containing fares and booking details, which are available in the Church.

As a reminder, once the familiarisation period is over **DaRT** users **will have to**

book a seat at least two hours before travelling.

Booking can be done by phone **01621 874 411** or e-mail: bookings@essexandsuffolkdart.co.uk

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A brighter future...

In October **Great Maplestead's** old sodium street lighting was replaced by a brighter, more efficient **LED** system.

This will not only significantly reduce future running and bulb replacement costs but the improved lighting also offers night-time safety benefits.



A **BDC** grant was used to fund the replacement units which, as well as coming with a 10-year guarantee and a life-expectancy of 30 years, are also more eco-friendly, use far less energy and virtually eliminate undesirable 'light-scatter'.

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Looking after the triangles...

An initiative for environmentally improving parts of the Parish has seen the three road-junction triangles being 'adopted'.



The custodians - **Howard Davis, Brian Chambers,** and **Simon Last** - have each volunteered to look after their respective triangles, to prevent these essentially

public spaces becoming untidy and overgrown, thereby improving the visual aspect for both villagers and visitors.

Latest Planning News

The **Parish Council** noted the following decisions at its meeting on 25th October:

Application Decisions:

- ✦ **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. Granted 28/09/17**
- ✦ **17/00314/TPO** - St. Giles School, Church Street - Removal of all dead wood from 1 oak and reduce by approx. 1 metre of selected branches overhanging neighbouring property. **Granted 19/10/17.**

View other planning applications by clicking on: <http://www.braintree.gov.uk/info/200225/search-and-track-planning-applications>, then clicking on 'View Current Applications' 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:

- ✦ **Fri 1st Dec/Sat 6th Jan 2018 Village Christmas Tree Trail** - starts with dressing and lighting the **Village Christmas Tree** on the triangle at the top of Church Street **at 7.00pm** - bring baubles! Mulled wine in the **Village Hall** later. Contact Julie Ingram (01787 463 637) for more information about the Trail and to book a date for lighting up your own Christmas tree.
- ✦ **Wed 20th Dec* Carols Round the Village** - meet at **7.00pm**. Mulled wine and light refreshments afterwards.
- ✦ **Wed 27th Dec* Christmas Village Walk** - meet at **10.30am**. Cost: **£2.50 per person** - dogs & children **free**. Drinks at half-way + refreshments at end.
- ✦ **Weds 10th Jan 2018* Keep Fit** - new 10-week term starts. **9.30-10.30am**. Contact Judy Cowell (01376 561 757) for more details.
- ✦ **Sat 17th Feb 2018* Cards & Curry Evening** - advance notice. More details nearer the time.

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)

E-mail: anncrisp@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk

Website: <http://greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk>