



# Maplestead Magna Carta

Award-Winning Newsletter of Great Maplestead Parish Council

## The Bottle Bank – welcome facility or noisy nuisance?

### Recycling complaints...

Residents living adjacent to the Playing Field car park location of the Bottle Bank have expressed concerns on a number of occasions about noise issues associated with its use.



The **Council** advised the complainants that, since the facility is part of a district-wide **BDC** initiative to meet **district recycling targets**, any noise or excessive use objections should initially be addressed to **BDC**, requesting that an independent study be carried out to assess the true scale of any alleged nuisance.

Once the facts were established the **Council** could then consider any necessary actions, based on **BDC**'s recommendations.

It was made clear however that, in dealing with this matter, the **Council** was obliged to consider the views of **all** parishioners, 84% of whom, in the 2014 **Village Design Statement** study, said they made use of the glass re-cycling facility.

### • Getting some information...

One complainant's private monitoring of Bottle Bank use during June (which covered, on their estimate, about 70% of the time the facility was open for use between 8.00am-8.00pm), recorded:

- **220** visits (192 by car/28 on foot).
- **2678** bottles heard\* being deposited (2325 brought by car/ 353 by people on foot).

\* No qualitative noise measurements were undertaken. This equates to about **a dozen** audible bottle drops/visit.

Extrapolating these figures to an estimated full month would indicate that this facility is visited, on average, about **10 times a day**, or less than once an hour. An empirical study has determined that the time taken to deposit a dozen bottles is just under **2 minutes** so, assuming all dozen were audible, the average daily noise disturbance would seem to be of the order of **20 minutes** or so.

As advised by the **Council**, an independent study and an approved qualitative noise assessment would need to be requested from, and carried out by, **BDC** to determine whether the actual scale of use and noise impacts are excessive.

### • Providing feedback:

A petition instigated by one of the complainants, calling for the removal of the Bottle Bank, has resulted in a flurry of e-mails and letters to the **Council**, all of which support, or argue strongly for, the retention of what is a long-established and well-used facility.



Concerns were expressed that its removal would exacerbate levels of glass litter around the parish and cause non-car owners' unnecessary inconvenience. It was felt by others that driving to utilise other District recycling facilities would negatively impact on carbon footprint and pollution, as well as increasing costs.

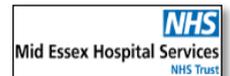
**Anyone wishing to comment on this matter who has not already contacted the Council can make their views known by e-mailing the [Parish Clerk](#).**

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### Hospital Trusts to merge...

**Plans are being drawn up to merge the three NHS Trusts which cover the majority of Essex.**

This will mean that **Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust (MEHT)**, based in Chelmsford,



which includes Broomfield, Braintree Community Hospital and St Peter's in Maldon, will be joining with the trusts in Basildon and Southend.

Governors will be needed to represent the people of the Mid Essex region in the new trust; these can only be elected by and from those who are registered as members of **MEHT**.

Details about becoming a trust **member** can be found [here](#) and **all local residents** are eligible to sign up as members. There is **no cost** and **no obligation** in doing so, but only **MEHT** members will be able to vote when the election for Governors takes place.

**Nick Alston, Chairman of MEHT**, is keen to encourage residents who are concerned about their local communities and are prepared to take some responsibility, not only to sign up as members but also, when the time comes – in the early autumn – to consider standing as a Governor of the newly merged Trust. More information about the role can be found [here](#).



## Stepping up...

**Parishioners have expressed concern about their safety when using the footpath steps at the bottom of Church Field.**

The bank on which they are situated is quite steep and, particularly in inclement weather, the steps (which are just earth packed behind riser boards, and not continuous up the whole slope) become slippery and difficult to negotiate unsupported.

This means that people are tending to use the marker post at the top of the steps as a means of support, with the result that the mounting is constantly being loosened.

The post becoming uprooted when someone uses it to steady themselves could have serious consequences.



So, earlier this year the **Council** asked **Essex CC** for a safety handrail to be installed on the left-hand side of the steps (looking up the slope).

This request has been acknowledged and, following a site visit by an **ECC** Inspector, the **Council** was informed that repairs to the steps and the installation of a new hand-rail would be scheduled for the early part of the current financial year.

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## Noticing the changes...

**The Notice Boards by the Church entrance and at the Toldishall Road end of Lucking Street have been given a make-over.**



Their backing sections, which were starting to rot and give way, have been renewed and re-mounted.

Although the Boards are available for village event notices, residents are reminded that, to keep things up-to-date, any promotional material must be removed from the Boards as soon as an event has taken place.

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## Not this year...

**Having won awards in the Village of the Year Competition run by the Rural Community Council of Essex in each of the last three years...**

...hopes were high that a similar success could be achieved in 2018. Unfortunately, this time the village was only able to qualify through to the first round of judging.

The **Council** has however received a response from the **RCCE** complimenting the village on its range of activities and commendable volunteer work.

## Latest Planning News

**The Council noted the following planning decision at its meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> July:**

### Application Decision:

- ✚ **18/00629/FUL & 18/00630/LBC** Hulls Mill Barn, Hulls Mill Lane. Proposed replacement of existing modern garage/outbuilding to provide a 2-storey/2-bed annexe. **Granted 25/06/18**

An **Application Received** after the agenda was issued, and therefore could not be discussed, was:

- ✚ **18/01208/FUL** Long Fen, Church Street. Erection of a new Passivhaus dwelling.

**BDC** refused an earlier Passivhaus application and an appeal was dismissed in July 2017 but, following a recent court ruling against **BDC, Section Notice 70A** ('an application cannot be validated for at least two years following an appeal dismissal') no longer applies. **The application must therefore be considered;** comments deadline is **13<sup>th</sup> August**.

To see other comments on this application click on: [http://www.braintree.gov.uk/info/200225/search\\_and\\_track\\_planning\\_applications](http://www.braintree.gov.uk/info/200225/search_and_track_planning_applications), then click on 'View Current Applications', type in the **planning reference** and open the files.

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## Forthcoming Events

**During the next few months there are some events at the Village Hall\* for your diary:**

- ✚ **Fri evenings to end of Aug: Boules** – on the **Playing Field**. Make the most of those warm summer nights! Starts around: **6.30pm**. Bring your own drinks, snacks & chairs.
- ✚ **Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Sept\* Jumble Sale** + raffle and refreshments. Opens **3.00pm**, admission **30p**. Contributions to Diane Smith (01787 473 300) at the **Village Hall** on the **Thursday** morning, all day **Friday & Saturday** morning **only**.
- ✚ **Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Sept\* Maplesteads' Autumn Show** – for **schedule and show** details contact Carol Brownlie (01787 461 527).
- ✚ **Mon 17<sup>th</sup> Sept\* Maplesteads' WEA Autumn Course** starts – for more details contact Jean Bowers (01787 460 181)

**More information about these and many other village activities 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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