



Maplestead Magna Carta

Great Maplestead Parish Council's Award-Winning Newsletter

Improving Parish Life – what the Council has done...

...to make a difference (Part 2)

The current **Parish Council's** 4-year term of office will shortly be coming to an end and some of its more notable accomplishments to improve life in **Great Maplestead** were reviewed in **Issue 24**.

However, in addition to the general routine of **Council** business, there have been a number of other objectives, less immediately apparent but perhaps just as important for the **Parish**, that have been undertaken during the last four years.

Some of these have been achieved, such as...

- **General Data Protection Regulation:** the work necessary to ensure compliance with with new Data Protection legislation, introduced in May 2018, was carried out, a revised Privacy Notice developed and a new Data Consent form introduced.
- **Village Playing Field:** the Terms of Use were revised, agreed and published to make public a legal framework for the Playing Field's use and to provide a definitive reference document for organisations/bodies planning to use it.
- **New Regulatory Audit Process:** this was adopted to simplify administration and reduce the **Council's** audit costs.

...while other actions, like those below, will need to be carried on by the incoming **Council**:

- **Scheme for Environmental/Conservation Management:** a new ecological initiative to help increase species diversity and fauna habitats in the local area, being run in conjunction with local landowners, the Church, Essex Wildlife Trust and the School.
- **Local Development Plan:** a continuing involvement to ensure parishioners' wishes, concerns and ideas are fully represented.
- **Local Council Award Scheme:** compliance with various administrative and operational stipulations to ensure the **Council** maintains its **Foundation Level** accreditation, which recognises that it meets a minimum set of standards and delivers proper and effective **Parish** governance.



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The Council needs you...

If the next **Parish Council** is to evolve and help make **Great Maplestead** an even better place to live, it needs to comprise of people with enthusiasm and new ideas.

On **Thursday 2nd May**, depending on the number of candidates standing, there may be an election for the seven **Council** positions. There are big challenges ahead – greater financial constraints, more devolved powers and so on.

If you have the time, and are able to make the commitment, then this is a great opportunity to get involved in the village's future and become a part of its history.

How do you stand for election?

Download a **Nomination Pack** from BDC's website (www.braintree.gov.uk/elections) – this contains all the information and forms you need. Completing and submitting these statutory **Nomination Papers** is the **only** way to apply to be a candidate – **but be quick...**

The nomination period is **9.30am to 4.00pm** on **working days only** from **Wednesday 27th March** until the **close of nominations at 4.00pm on Wednesday 3rd April**.
This deadline will not be extended – for any reason.

Completed **Nomination Papers** must be **hand-delivered*** to the Returning Officer at Causeway House, Bocking End, Braintree CM7 9HB.

***Neither electronic nor Royal Mail postal deliveries are permitted nomination submission methods.**

Voting in the election

BDC is taking part in a **Cabinet Office** scheme to test ways of protecting your vote. In order to cast your vote at the **Village Hall** on **2nd May** you will need to show either...



- **1 piece of photo ID:** e.g. a passport or a driving licence
 - **2 pieces of non-photo ID:** e.g. a polling card and a utility bill with your name/address
- ...before you are given your ballot paper.

Further information and details can be found at: www.braintree.gov.uk/VoterID

Essex Village of the Year

Great Maplestead has entered the 2019 Essex Village of the Year Competition, run by the Rural Community Council of Essex.



As previous winners, it was felt that the continuing initiatives and enterprise shown by parishioners in providing events and activities for people of all ages – helping to limit social isolation – and the new facilities such as a superfast broadband and the enhanced amenities on the Playing Field and in the Village Hall, were worthy of recognition.

Judging takes place between **25th March** and **15th May** – once the specific date is known it will be notified on the website.

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Dogs on the Playing Field

It has been brought to the Council's attention that, on more than one occasion, bagged dog waste has been discovered dumped in a privately-owned horses' field close to its boundary with the Playing Field.

This extremely anti-social action is concerning on a number of levels, not least because ingesting the plastic could cause the horses severe harm.

Dog waste can also contain toxocarasis, a round-worm infection that has serious consequences for any humans exposed to it.



Legislation exists to report and prosecute owners who fail to deposit their bagged dog waste in the Playing Field bin. Concerned residents who would like to report irresponsible owners, can use the information at:

<https://www.braintree.gov.uk/forms/form/306/> or contact the **Dog Warden: 01376 552 525**

Anyone with information about the above incidents should contact the **Parish Clerk**.

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Latest Planning News

At the Council meeting on **13th March** an **Application Decision** by BDC was noted ...

- ✦ **18/01782/LBC** Chelmshoe House Farm, Monks Lodge Road. Fitting of double-glazed heritage windows. **Refused 17/01/19**

...as well as an **Enforcement Notice** from **BDC**, effective **01/03/19**, requiring that the unauthorised vehicular access created to land adjacent to Long Fen should have its pavers removed and the area returned to grass within four months of the effective date...

...plus the lodging of the following **Appeal**:

- ✦ **APP/Z1510/W/19/3221214** Long Fen, Church Street, Appeal made to the Secretary of State following **BDC's** refusal of application **18/01208/FUL**.

Getting it together...

This year's **Parish Assembly** is being held in the Village Hall on **10th April** at **7.30pm**.

In addition to reports from the various **Parish** organisations, the **Church** and the **School** about their activities during the past twelve months, invitations have also been extended to the new **Local Community Policing Team**, to introduce themselves, and **County Broadband**, to provide an update on the village's fibre-optic programme.

The possible need for further defibrillator training as well as implementing a **Village Emergency Telephone Service** will also be on the agenda.

Everyone is invited to come along to this informal gathering, hear about what's been happening in the **Parish** and take the opportunity to comment and consult on future developments.

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Forthcoming Events

The following are some forthcoming village events (*those at the Village Hall) that you may wish to note in your diary:

- ✦ **Wednesday Mornings* Keep Fit** – from **9.30-10.30am**. Contact Judy Cowell (01376 561 757) for more details.
- ✦ **Thursday Mornings* Pilates** – weekly sessions for men/women of all ages/fitness levels. **9.30-10.30am & 10.45-11.45am**. Cost **£40** for **5 classes** (or **£5** for the first one). Call Catherine Pawsey (07814 459 683) for details.
- ✦ **Friday Evenings, occasionally* Pub Nights** – from **7.30-9.30pm**. Informal social evenings, playing a game or having a chat. Bring your own drinks/nibbles! **See website for opening times**.
- ✦ **Thurs 4th Apr* Maplesteads' WI Open Meeting** – starts **7.30pm**. The talk: **History of the Maplesteads** by Jim Davis. **Men/Guests†** welcome (†**£4** including refreshments).
- ✦ **Wed 10th Apr* Annual Parish Assembly** – starts **7.30pm**. An informal meeting for village organisations/groups to report past activities and discuss future events and developments.
- ✦ **Mon 22nd Apr * Easter Village Walk** – meet at **11.00am**. Cost: **£2.50/person** – dogs & children **free**. Half-way drinks + refreshments

Further 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)

E-mail: anncrisp@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk

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