



Maplestead Magna Carta

Great Maplestead Parish Council's Award-Winning Newsletter

Making a contribution to help improve village life...

Taking responsibility...

The **Parish Council** is rolling-out a programme to encourage parishioners to volunteer to take personal responsibility for helping to maintain and improve the local environment.

The aim is to show that small individual actions – ones that anyone can undertake with just a little amount of effort – could have the beneficial effect of significantly improving conditions in the village.

The following are just a couple of examples of the sort of things that can make a real difference:

- **Picking up Litter:**

Although the **Task Force** undertakes regular Litter Picks during the year there is a sadly inevitable accumulation of rubbish in between times.



By selecting a particular footpath or road to keep tidy – following the excellent example being set by **Jo Green** and her children, who are picking up, bagging and recycling any odd pieces of litter they see in **Monks Lodge Road** – volunteers

around the parish could help keep littering nuisance in the village to a minimum.

- **Improving Facilities:**



The **Council** was recently notified about the poor state of the litter bin in the Children's Play Area. It was beyond repair so a pre-used replacement was procured, which

Sam Brown, who is new to the village, has kindly volunteered to refurbish and make fit for purpose.

It is heartening to see parishioners taking the initiative on matters like these, which benefit everyone in the village.

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The Maplesteads on Radio Essex...



In August the Maplesteads were featured on BBC Radio Essex's regular series about the county's village communities.

Presenter **Jodie Halford** (front) spoke to (in sequence from R-L) **Martin Elms, Liz Newton** and

Carol Brownlie about what it is that makes **Great Maplestead** such a special place to live.

Dealing with drugs...

A parishioner recently reported suspicions to the Council that drug dealing and/or using was taking place in the Playing Field car park.

A number of cars and young men had congregated on a couple of different evenings and, apparently, the smell of marijuana on these occasions was strong and unmistakable. The Halstead **CPT** were advised, resulting in an increase in police patrols.

So far there have been no subsequent occurrences of such incidents but anyone witnessing suspected anti-social activity such as this should, in the first instance, call **Essex Police** on **101**.

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Stepping out...

Considerable work has taken place during the last couple of months in maintaining and improving the footpath network.



The path across the boggy section at the Slype has been re-profiled and raised to create a 'causeway' that replaces the steps, bridge and the previous stepping stones.

The defective planks on the footbridge near the water meadows have been replaced and branches of the fallen bat-willow, which were blocking this path have also been cut back and removed.



The overgrowth on the steps at the bottom of Church Field has been cut back and the steps behind Buttercup Cottage on Church Street have been cleared, with the path from there towards

Lucking Street along the top of the bank widened and mowed.

And, following a report that the path from Dynes Hall Road to Hulls Mill was overgrown, the brambles have been cut back so the path is walkable again.

Local Plan Update

Braintree District's Local Plan was submitted to the Planning Inspector in October 2017 and public hearings were held in January and May 2018 to consider the first part of the Plan.

This **Strategic Section 1 Plan** is also shared with two other **North Essex Authorities**, Colchester Borough and Tendring District Councils, and examines policies for local developments in **North Essex**, including proposals for **three new Garden Communities**.

In June 2018 the Planning Inspector agreed that **716 homes** needed to be built in **Braintree District** each year until 2033. However, he considered that the **Section 1 Plan**, as submitted, **was not sound** and needed more work, particularly in relation to the **Garden Communities**, which were felt by the **NEAs** to be the best solution for protecting existing towns and villages against urban sprawl.

The three **NEAs** agreed to act in concert to carry out the further work required on the **evidence base** and **sustainability appraisal** and then submit **revised strategic proposals** for the Inspector's examination.

In December 2018 a pause in the planning process was announced to enable that work to take place.

During the early part of this year the **NEAs** undertook another **sustainability appraisal**, produced further work on the **evidence base** and made suggestions for **additional Local Plan amendments**.

After consideration by **BDC** these changes have now been put forward for **public consultation** before being resubmitted to the Planning Inspector.

The **consultation period** began on the 19th August and **runs until the 30th September**.

Online information on the amendments and changes can be found at www.braintree.gov.uk/NEAtechS1, where **consultation responses/comments** can be made. This information, and copies of the consultation documents, are also in **local libraries** so that people without internet access can respond and comment.

After this **public consultation** a report for the **NEAs** will be produced with the Inspector's conclusions and recommendations, including any further modifications to the **Local Plan**. Another public consultation will be needed before the Inspector's report is completed.

Section 2 of the **Local Plan**, which only contains site specific policies/allocations for **Braintree District**, remains with the Planning Inspectorate – it will only be considered once **Section 1** has progressed.

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A clean sweep...

The roads and gullies in **Great Maplestead** are due to be swept on **Tuesday 22nd October**.



parking on that day.

To avoid unduly compromising this important road-sweeping operation would everyone, and particularly the residents of **Church Street**, please ensure that there is **no road-side**

Latest Planning News

The **Council** discussed the following planning matters at its meeting on **28th August**:

Application Decisions:

- ✦ **19/000707/HH** *Es Cana, Lucking St. Single storey extension and detached cart lodge.*
Granted 12/7/19
- ✦ **19/00938/LBC** *September Cottage, Church Street. Repair/replacement of wall plate to sitting room & re-render of south gable wall.*
Granted 18/7/19

Application Received:

- ✦ **19/00198/TPO** *The Rectory, Church Street. Works to be carried out on a tree covered by a Tree Preservation Order.*

There were no objections to this necessary work.

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Forthcoming Events

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

- ✦ **Sat 14th Sep: Ride & Stride** - a sponsored tour of churches in the local area. 50% of donations goes to **Friends of Essex Churches** and 50% to the walker/rider's chosen church. Sponsorship forms available from Mary Elms (461 421).
- ✦ **Sat 21st Sep*: Jumble Sale** - starts **3.00pm**. Admission **30p**. Raffle and Refreshments. More details from Diane Smith (473 300), Doreen Faulks (460 727) or Liz Newton (461 308).
- ✦ **Mon 23rd Sep*: WEA Autumn Course** - the **seven-week** course is entitled '**The History and Culture of Italy**'. This **free-of-charge** first session starts at **6.30pm**. Course is **£54**.
- ✦ **Sat 5th Oct*: Charity Bingo Evening** - in aid of **Cystic Fibrosis**. Starts at **7.00pm**. For tickets contact Myra Jeggo (474 285) or e-mail m.jeggo@sky.com
- ✦ **Sun 6th Oct*: Harvest Village Walk** - meet at **11.00am**. Cost: **£2.50/person** – dogs & children **free**. Half-way drinks + refreshments.
- ✦ **Sat 26th Oct*: Quiz Night** - doors open **7.00pm** - start **7.30pm**. **Entry £5 per person**/maximum 12 teams of 6 people each. Book your team's entry by **19th October** by e-mailing ann66harris@gmail.com.

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**:

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