



Maplestead Magna Carta

Great Maplestead Parish Council's Award-Winning Newsletter

Looking to improve the safety of roads in the Parish...

...for all users

The Parish Council has asked Essex County Council for a review into what measures could be taken to improve road safety in the Parish, with particular regard to those shared-use, National Speed Limit roads that lie outside the village's 30mph limit.

This request has been made as a result of recent safety-related incidents that have been reported on social media by concerned parishioners, and after a question was raised about pedestrian safety at a previous Council Meeting.

• Why is a review needed?

Most of the roads outside of the village centre are **shared-use** single carriageways, subject only to the **National Speed Limit** (60mph). They vary in width from about **4.6m** to less than **2.4m** at their narrowest, with no actual means of keeping the various types of users apart.



Users range from walkers, cyclists, horse-riders, private motor cars and light and heavy commercial traffic, to farm machinery and equipment, all of which need to be accommodated safely.



The different road space requirements of each of these groups – and the vast speed differentials between them – means that, in many places on these **NSL** roads, problems can be caused when users act without due

consideration. That could mean: walking on the incorrect side of the road; riding horses or bikes two-abreast; poor parking or driving too fast.

• Some examples of the problems:

There are a number of places where the **NSL** roads either **cross footpaths** or pass their entries/exits; the **partially concealed** nature of many of these intersections puts **walkers** at risk.



Other **NSL** roads pass through farm property where equipment, machinery and animals cross frequently. In some cases the **crossings** are hidden around bends or blind brows of hills, creating potential **points of conflict** with the road traffic.

On certain stretches of the **NSL** roads, and at some junctions, **poor sightlines** mean drivers are taking unnecessary risks when negotiating these sections, especially in adverse conditions.



As a corollary to this initiative, the **Council** has agreed to participate in **ECC's** pilot **Speedwatch** scheme, which is being introduced to allow **local monitoring and reporting** of traffic violations in areas where there are safety concerns.

The **Road Safety Review** request was submitted to **ECC** in **September** – more information and updates will be posted on the **Council's** Facebook page as they are received.

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Keeping the Foundation strong...

The **Council** was presented with its second **Foundation Award Certificate** at the recent **Essex Association of Local Councils AGM**.

The **Award** is in recognition of the **Council** meeting all the criteria and requirements for operating both **lawfully** and in accordance with **best practice** – it is valid for the next four years.



Don't be alarmed!

There have been complaints about the School alarm system being set off accidentally during holidays and weekends, causing long periods of noise nuisance for people living nearby.

Of particular concern was a lack of any information about how to have the alarm turned off or reset.

Arrangements with the School have now been made to deal with any new incidents: in future, should the alarm be triggered out of school hours, please contact either the **Parish Clerk** (460 216) or the **Council Chairman Martin Elms** (461 421).

They will contact one of the key-holders to ascertain whether the alarm has been set off accidentally and ask them to check and deal with the situation as quickly as possible to avoid any unnecessary nuisance.

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Last call for VETS...

The recent installations of Village Emergency Telephone Schemes (VETS) in Gestingthorpe, Little Maplestead & Pebmarsh leaves **Great Maplestead** as the only local parish without a functioning emergency response network.

The theft of the Parish's defibrillator focused the **Council's** thoughts, as part of its **Community Care** remit, on looking again at the need for **VETS** in the village, particularly in view of its potential life-saving advantages for an ageing population.

The replacement of the defibrillator in a **locking cabinet** means that such a scheme would now be viable – provided volunteer households can be found willing to participate.



VETS is designed to assist in a lone-rescuer situation, where someone aiding a person who has suffered a cardiac arrest has to stay with the patient but needs help in getting the defibrillator.



It works like this: after ringing the Emergency Services on **999**, the rescuer calls a memorable **VETS** number, unique to **Great Maplestead**, which then rings telephones in the volunteers' homes, until someone answers and can respond.

The rescuer tells the responder the location of the incident so that they can collect the defibrillator, take it to the patient and assist the rescuer until the Emergency Services arrive.

The scheme can also be used in other emergencies, such as when someone has a fall at home – calling the **VETS** number would enable much needed help to be summoned urgently.

To have people available to answer the phones at all times, **VETS** needs **at least 10 households** to volunteer – **five have already done so**.

If you would like to be a VETS volunteer, or would like to discuss joining the scheme, please speak to Peter Haylock (460 302).

Latest Planning News

The **Council** discussed the following planning matters at its meeting on **2nd October**:

Application Decisions:

- ✚ **APP/Z1510/W/19/3221214** Long Fen, Church Street. **Appeal dismissed.**

Decision date 16/9/19

Application Received:

- ✚ **19/01683/HH & 19/01684/LBC** Walnut Tree Cottage, Church Street. Retrospective application for the retention of 2 x garden sheds and erection of a replacement garden workshop following demolition of a third shed.

The agreed response was "No objections raised, no comment". For more comments/responses click on: http://www.braintree.gov.uk/info/200225/search_and_track_planning_applications, then go to 'View Current Applications', type in the **planning reference** and open the files.

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Forthcoming Events

You may wish to note the following village events (*at the Village Hall) for your diary:

- ✚ **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.
- ✚ **Sat/Sun 16/17th Nov: Bottle Collection** – round the village for the **Christmas Fair** – from **2.00pm**. Leave out **full, in-date** bottles only, please, or deliver them to Mossings, Lucking St.
- ✚ **Sat 23rd Nov*: Beaujolais Nouveau Challenge** - start time **7.00pm**. Enjoy a free glass of Beaujolais then a sumptuous Boeuf Bourguignon dinner. Table challenges, with a bottle of Beaujolais Nouveau for the winner. Tickets **£12.50 each** from Julie Ingram (463 637); e-mail: julie.chocolate@btinternet.com
- ✚ **Sat 30th Nov*: Christmas Fair** - from **10.30am** to **1.00pm**. Gifts; Tombola; Bric-a-brac; Raffle; Refreshments. Christmas table and floral arrangement demonstrations/ordering.
- ✚ **Sun 1st Dec: Village Christmas Tree Lighting/Dressing** – on the Church Street triangle **at 6.00pm** – bring baubles! Mulled wine and light refreshments afterwards.



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>