



# Maplestead Magna Carta

The Official Newsletter of Great Maplestead Parish Council

## A Village Emergency Hub – Expecting the Unexpected...

### Being Prepared for the Worst...

The Council's **Community Working Party** has been developing a plan to ensure that the village can provide a satisfactory initial response to any serious local incidents that might adversely affect residents.

The plan involves the setting up of a **Village Emergency Hub**, located in the Village Hall, which would be fully equipped for handling any village or local incidents until the appropriate emergency services can become involved.



Such incidents could range from severe weather events to long-term power outages; major traffic accidents to individual medical emergencies.

In order to be able to cope independently with the unexpected, the **Emergency Hub** will have a stand-alone electricity generator, for lighting and heating, and a separate gas supply and cooker to enable basic food preparation.

The **Hub** will also contain a range of First Aid materials and equipment, including a heart defibrillator, for incidents of a medical nature.

Funding is required for both equipment and back-up training in order to implement the plan.

An application was submitted to **MyCommunity** – which co-ordinates the grant programmes funded by the **Department for Communities and Local Government** – at the end of October, so fingers crossed...

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### Working on Going Green

Braintree DC is part of a consortium backing **The Green Team**, a local employment project for young people.



**16-24 year-olds**, keen to work outdoors and who would like to improve their job prospects, can sign up to get

experience in a number of **outdoor activities**, including landscaping, horticulture, construction, and planting.

The project is **fully supervised** by experienced landscape professionals and includes 12 weeks of voluntary training (which does not affect other benefits), the prospect of gaining up to 4 **City and Guilds** qualifications, health and safety training and the opportunity to work locally.

Other benefits include the chance to improve abilities in maths and English and the choice of a course of car or motorbike driving lessons.

The project starts **25<sup>th</sup> November** – to find out more contact Chris Houghton on **07889 755 981** or e-mail [chris.houghton@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:chris.houghton@groundwork.org.uk).

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### Laying the Foundation

**Great Maplestead PC was presented with its Foundation Award Certificate at the recent Essex Association of Local Councils AGM.**



The Award demonstrates that the **Parish Council** meets the requirements for operating lawfully and in accordance with standard practice.

The presentation was made to the **Parish Clerk** by the **EALC President**, Cllr. John Jowers.

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## Bridging the Gap

The parish's footpaths are now nearly all walkable, with just one case of possible obstruction currently being addressed.



The bridge at the north-west end of The Slype (FP 26, left) has now had its missing plank replaced, whilst the one at the junction of FPs 16, 18 & 19, in the Water Meadows has been scheduled for complete replacement at a future date.

If you wish to check the current condition of the Parish's footpath network, you can click on: <http://www.essexinfo.net/gtmaplesteadpc/footpaths/> and follow the instructions on the page.

Should you come across, and wish to report, any footpath problems, please notify the **Parish Clerk** in the first instance.

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## Latest Planning Applications

The Council received the following Planning Applications at its last Meeting:

- ✚ **15/00914/FUL** Revised plans for replacement dwelling for High View and erection of 2 new dwellings. **High View** Church Street Great Maplestead Essex CO9 2RG.
- ✚ **15/01309/ELD** Change of use of stable building to joinery workshop. **New Barn Farm** Alderford Street Sible Hedingham Essex CO9 3HZ.

It was considered that the revised plans for the **High View** (formerly **Treeways**) development were essentially cosmetic and failed to address the large number of Planning Policy, social and environmental objections previously made.

The Council agreed to submit a **modified response** to now also include the possible adverse environmental impact of development in this area on neighbouring properties.

This Planning Application hearing is due to be heard by **Braintree DC** on **8<sup>th</sup> December**.

Concerns about increased noise and traffic that were submitted about a previous application to the change of use of the stable at **New Barn Farm** were felt to be still relevant.

The Council's responses to both these planning applications can be found in full by clicking 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 clicking on 'View Current Applications', typing in the **planning references** and opening the files.

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## Twenty's Plenty

A 20mph scheme around the School is due to be implemented in the New Year.



This complements the Council's on-going drive against parents' poor parking practices, to improve safety by reducing potential accident risks for children.

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## Bon Viveurs' Bottling It

The Bottle Bank on the Village Playing Field is a very well-used amenity, but...



...the demand is such that, even though the bins are emptied fortnightly on Tuesdays, they are sometimes full beforehand. If so, please don't dump bottles around the base; it is not just unsightly – glass presents a real risk of injury to users of the field.

Instead, report any over-full bins to Martin Elms on **01787 461 421**, who will arrange emptying.

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## Forthcoming Events

Between now and the end of the year there are a number of events in/from the Village Hall\* to note for your diary:

- ✚ **Tues 1<sup>st</sup> – Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> Dec. Advent Windows Spectacular** – contact Julie Ingram (01787 463 637) for more details.
- ✚ **Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Dec\* Christmas Bazaar** – from **2.00 – 4.00pm**. Gifts, toys, cakes, decorations and much more. Raffle and refreshments provided.
- ✚ **Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> Dec. Carol Service** in the **Church** – starts **7.30pm**.
- ✚ **Sun 20<sup>th</sup> Dec\* Carol Singing around the Village** – starts **7.00pm**.
- ✚ **Mon 28<sup>th</sup> Dec\* Winter Village Walk** – meet at **10.30am**. Cost **£2 per person** – children & dogs **free**. Refreshments at half-way + end.

Further details on these events, and others, can be found on the **Parish Council website**.

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## Contacting the Council

Any enquiries, 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](mailto:anncrisp@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk)

**Website:** [www.essexinfo.net/gtmaplesteadpc/](http://www.essexinfo.net/gtmaplesteadpc/)

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