



Maplestead Magna Carta

The Official Newsletter of Great Maplestead Parish Council

What a Load of Rubbish! – Littering Now a Big Concern...

Picking Up The Pieces...

The **Task Force** undertook an early-season Litter Pick in late February, due to concerns about the accumulating volume of rubbish being noticed on verges and in hedgerows.



The clean-up operation netted a wheelie-bin full of landfill items, 5 sacks of re-cyclables and a tubful of bottles – by far the largest amount of rubbish collected in any recent litter-pick.

Dynes Hall Road, closely followed by **Monks Lodge Road**, were the worst areas for sheer volume of litter, with food wrappers and drinks cans being the main items recovered.

Unfortunately, just a couple of weeks later a further cache of cans and wrappers was discovered fly-tipped (right) near the **Hedingham/Alderford Farm Road** junction.



Nearby was a set of four worn car tyres, neatly stacked beside a hedge...

It is clear that localised dumping in such quantity is a deliberate act, rather than just casual thoughtlessness – so, to combat this unsavoury trend, a network of **Volunteer Observers** is being recruited to monitor and report fly-tipping and other littering activity across the Parish.

In the meantime, if you notice any suspicious activity locally, it would help if you could notify the **Parish Clerk** – in complete confidence; any information you can provide on cars/locations, perhaps with photo evidence of the litter, will be forwarded to the police for follow-up action.

The standard penalty for a littering offence is £150, although persistent offenders can be fined up to £2,500.

Field of Dreams

The **Parish Council** have applied for funds to renew and replace some of the ageing and worn equipment/matting in the children's play area on the Village Playing Field.

At the same time consideration is being given to installing a new **Trim Trail**, for adult use, near the hedge-line at the rear of the field.

This will give parishioners the opportunity to stay fit and healthy without needing expensive, and sometimes under-used, gym membership.



The plans also allow for the provision of two new benches – one by the play area, another by the **Trim Trail** – and it has been suggested that parishioners may, either jointly or individually, wish to sponsor them as a community asset.

Artist's impressions of the proposed **Trim Trail** and new equipment will be on display at the **Parish Assembly**, when the **Council** will be consulting with residents and inviting comments.

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Getting it Together...

This year's Parish Assembly is being held in the Village Hall on 13th April at 7.30pm.

Everyone is invited to come along to this informal gathering, hear what has been happening in the Village during the last 12 months and comment and consult on future developments.

The Council's Taxing...

As a result of local Government funding cuts Braintree DC have had to raise Council Tax, after a number of years of zero increase.

The overall rise for 2016/17 is **3.8%** which, on a typical Band E property, equates to £71/year.



Cllr. John O'Reilly-Cicconi indicated at the last **Parish Council** meeting that, even with this uplift, the 44% cut in Government subsidy means that **BDC** still needs to make £1.4m of additional savings.

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Latest Planning Application News

The **Parish Council** considered the following Applications at its last Meeting:

Application Decisions:

- ✚ **15/01544/FUL & 15/01545/LBC** Installation of 16 photovoltaic solar panels on outbuilding. **Hosdens Farm, Hosdens Lane, Great Maplestead CO9 2QU.**

Permitted 18/02/16

- ✚ **15/01605/FUL** Erection of a new exemplar, off-grid Passivhaus in south side of garden. **Long Fen, Church Street, Great Maplestead CO9 2RJ.**

Withdrawn 10/02/16

The withdrawal of the **Long Fen** application followed a **Planning Committee** report that was critical of a number of aspects of the proposed development. The full report can be found at: http://www.braintree.gov.uk/info/200225/search_and_track_planning_applications, by clicking on 'View Current Applications', typing '**Long Fen**' into the 'Search' box and then opening the 'Committee Report' folder.

Applications Received:

No **Planning Applications** were received prior to the last **Council** meeting.

However, a request has been received seeking appropriate **Parish** suggestions for naming the access to the recently approved development at **Highview** (formerly **Treeways**).

The developers have suggested the access road be called **Treeways**. The **Council**, however, consider that there are a number of alternative names that might be more appropriate – one suggestion being **Cracknell Close**.

It is proposed to solicit other suggestions from residents during the **Parish Assembly** in April before submitting a formal reply.

First-Aiders Required

The Council's plan to enable the village to be able to provide an emergency response to local incidents requires the services of **First-Aid** volunteers.

Funding for **First-Aid training** and the purchase of a **First-Aid kit** is being sought, so the **Council** is currently looking for volunteers who would be prepared to undertake such training and act as first-responders to any incident.

No commitment is needed at this stage – just an expression of interest, preferably e-mailed to the **Parish Clerk**.



As part of the overall emergency response plan, the Council is also considering the purchase of a **heart defibrillator**, in a secure cabinet. To this end, a community fundraising initiative is being formulated, which will look to all parish organisations – School, Church, Village Hall, community groups – to help achieve this worthwhile objective.

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Forthcoming Events

During the next few months there are a number of events in the Village Hall* that you may wish to note for your diary:

- ✚ **Wed 13th April* Annual Parish Assembly** – starts **7.30pm**. An informal meeting for village organisations and groups to report their past year's activities and promote future events.
- ✚ **Sat 30th April – Sun 1st May* Fourth Annual Great Maplestead Beer Festival** – open **3.00pm to midnight** (Sat); **11.00am to 3.00pm** (Sun). Wide range of local beers and ciders to sample. Music (Sat) & Morris Men (Sun). Advance tickets: **£8** (Sat, inc. free glass and first drink)/**£4** (Sun) from Julie Ingram (01787 463 637).
- ✚ **Sat 11th June The Maplesteads' Celebration of The Queen's 90th Birthday** – more details in due course.

Further details on these, and other events, 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)
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