



# Maplestead Magna Carta

The Official Newsletter of Great Maplestead Parish Council

## Littering – help us stamp it out!

### Litterers are on the loose!

Littering and fly-tipping are anti-social, inconsiderate acts that have a detrimental, destructive impact on the environment in which we all live.

These activities are now becoming a **serious problem** for **Great Maplestead** – one that's both unpleasant and time-consuming to deal with.

Over the past few months the **Parish Council** has been made aware not only of an **increasing amount of roadside litter** apparently discarded from cars, but also what appears to be **deliberate acts of bulk rubbish fly-tipping**.

A recent **Task Force** litter-pick netted a **wheelie-bin full** of landfill items, **five sacks** of re-cycleables and a **tubful** of bottles – by far the largest amount of rubbish collected in any previous clean-up.



**Hedingham 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 carelessly discarded.

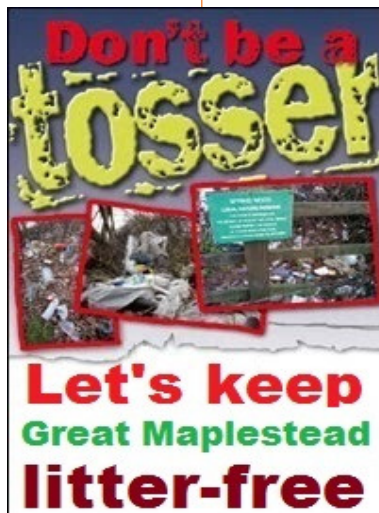
A cache of cans, wrappers and tyres was discovered later fly-tipped near the **Hedingham / Alderford Farm Road** junction, with more on the track up to **Rangers Hall**.



The standard penalty for a littering offence is **£75**, although persistent offenders can be fined up to **£2,500**.

### It's Time for Action...

Cuts to Local Authority budgets mean that the initiative to tackle this growing problem will need to be actioned and implemented at Parish level.



The initiative will not just be about **clearing up after** fly-tippers and **litterers**; it will also be about actively helping to **reduce the incidence of littering**, asking all residents to both look out for and report offenders, enabling them to be **traced, charged and fined**.

**Braintree District Council's Environmental Officer** is of the opinion that getting parishioners involved in **monitoring and reporting littering** and other fly-tipping activities across the Parish will achieve tangible results.

The **Parish Council** will, as a result, shortly be introducing an **Anti-Littering and Fly-tipping Campaign**. This will give everyone the opportunity to report such incidents to the authorities both **anonymously and safely**.



The aim of the **Campaign** is not only to **create local awareness** of the true scale of the littering problem but also to ensure that potential perpetrators appreciate that there will

be a **greater risk of prosecution** should they litter or fly-tip within the **Parish** boundaries.

This **Campaign** is intended to help you help **Great Maplestead** become a pleasant, and litter-free, place to live once again.



# Don't Turn A Blind Eye Fly-Tipping Report It!

## Reporting Offenders...

The **Parish Council** have developed a simple form to allow you easily to record and report instances of littering or fly-tipping.

### Great Maplestead Littering Report Sheet



Where incident occurred	
Date	Time
Vehicle Make/Model	Vehicle Reg.

What was deposited?

Food Packaging	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drink Carton	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cigarette Butt	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Reported by\* \_\_\_\_\_

Signed\* \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.\* \_\_\_\_\_

\* This information is only required so that you can be contacted for additional information about the incident, if required. **You will not be identified** when details of the incident are passed to the authorities for action.

If you witness fly-tipping, report the incident while it's happening:  
by phone: 01787 461 421 or by email: [martinelms@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk](mailto:martinelms@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk)

Copies of the form are being distributed with this **Special Issue** of the **Magna Carta**, to ensure that everyone is equipped to participate in the **Anti-Littering and Fly-tipping Campaign**.

Fill in the information required whenever you spot anyone throwing something from a car, or see any suspicious littering activity locally.

Completed forms should be submitted to the **Campaign Co-ordinator – Martin Elms** (Hunters Wood, Church Street) – in complete confidence. Alternatively e-mail the information to: [martinelms@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk](mailto:martinelms@greatmaplesteadpc.co.uk)

Your information, along with any additional details you can provide, such as photo evidence, will then be forwarded to **Braintree District Council** for follow-up action.

## Reinforcing the Message...

The **Anti-Littering and Fly-tipping Campaign** will be supported by a range of actions to increase awareness and involvement.

There will be prominently positioned '**This is a Litter Watch Area**' warning signs and '**No Fly-tipping**' reminders on the bottle bank.

It is also planned to involve the **local press**, **getting the message out** to neighbouring communities. This will ensure that **potential offenders** are fully aware there is a reasonable chance of them **being traced, charged and fined** due to the **Council's** proactive stance in addressing the **Parish's** littering issues.

If successful, it is hoped that the **Campaign** will act as an exemplar that other **Parishes** may wish to adopt.

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## Forthcoming Events

During the next few months there are a number of **Village events** for your diary:

- 📅 **Sat 11<sup>th</sup> June The Maplesteads' Celebration of The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday.**
- 📅 **Sat 16<sup>th</sup>/Sun 17<sup>th</sup> July Shakespeare's 'The Tempest' at Magpies, Church Street**

Full information on these, and other events, can be found on the **Parish Council website**.

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## Receive MMC by e-mail...

**MMC** is published regularly to keep you fully informed about matters of interest in the **Parish**. To subscribe to further issues, send your e-mail address to the **Parish Clerk**:

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