



Maplestead Magna Carta

Award-Winning Newsletter of Great Maplestead Parish Council

Local Bus Services are Facing the Axe – Have Your Say...

Be sure to share your views...

Buses serving **Great Maplestead** and many surrounding villages are under threat of being axed when the current operator contracts expire in September 2017.



Essex CC has undertaken a thorough review of the financial support for its currently funded local bus services across the County. It is now running a **Public Consultation** on

routes it subsidises, due to concerns about the cost to the taxpayer.

ECC's maximum subsidy allowance is £5/passenger – on some routes the actual cost is over £10/passenger, which is unsustainable in the longer term.

Among the services under review, it is being proposed that **Regal Buses 11, 12 and 13** from Halstead to Sudbury – the ones directly affecting **Great Maplestead** – be withdrawn and replaced by a **Demand Responsive Transport** system, where passengers book journeys with the operators in advance.

Naturally, there are concerns that such a system will not be as suitable or convenient for many elderly residents, seriously reducing their independence; it could also result in greater car numbers on rural roads.

Bus users are therefore being encouraged to share their views on these proposals and participate in the Consultation by completing and submitting the one-page questionnaire, hard copies of which are available in St Giles' Church.

Questionnaires can also be obtained from **ECC** libraries; phoning: 03457 430 430; or online at: <https://surveys.essexinsight.org.uk/BusConsultation>.

The Public Consultation closes on the 28th September, so make sure your views about the proposed changes to this community amenity are properly taken into account.

Award-Winning News

Maplestead Magna Carta has won 'Best New Entry' in the 2015 Essex Life Community Magazine Awards, promoted by the Rural Community Council of Essex.



The award, presented by **Roger Morris**, the Bishop of Colchester, was received on behalf of the **Parish Council** by **Steve Harris**, at a presentation ceremony held in the West Street Vineyard, Coggeshall, on 20th July.

The **Council** has also received the following feedback from the **RCCE** on the village's recent success in the **2016 Essex Village of the Year Competition**:

"Your entry showed how active a community Great Maplestead is... The panel noted how volunteers support many initiatives, including not only the running of clubs and events but also churchyard maintenance, litter picks and digging a drainage ditch. The Judges were impressed by the local farm's involvement... and community information, which makes a huge difference in a small rural community."

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Bottling things up...

To minimise noise and undue disturbance to people living near the Bottle Bank...

...please deposit your bottles there only between **8.00am** and **8.00pm**. If the bank is full, **do not fly-tip** – if necessary, use an alternative site.

Waste not – want not...

Difficulties are being caused by the illegal dumping of construction and DIY waste at Essex recycling centres.



In order to address this problem **Braintree Recycling Centre** will, from the **31st October**, be placing strict limits on the amount of this sort of waste that it will accept.

Construction and DIY waste is considered to be any material resulting from building or demolition work in a home or garden. There is no duty on a local authority to accept or dispose of this sort of waste from residential properties.

From the end of October **BRC's** acceptance of construction and DIY waste materials will be subject to the following per household limits:

In any 28-day period:

- three wheelbarrow loads (one car boot full) of soil and hardcore
- one wheelbarrow load of tiles

and, in any six-month period:

- three large ceramic items e.g. toilet or wash basin
- one uPVC or wooden window frame
- one uPVC or wooden external door
- three wooden internal doors
- any elements of a built-in kitchen

If you are unsure whether the **Recycling Centre** will take your waste, or whether you will need to rent a skip for larger home improvement projects after 31 October, you can check more details at <http://www.recycleforessex.com/>.

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Latest Planning News

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

- ✚ **16/01103/FUL** Erection of a single storey side extension. **Laundry Cottage**, Monks Lodge Rd.
- ✚ **16/01307/FUL** Proposed new access driveway for Highview. **April Cottage**, Monks Lodge Rd.
- ✚ **16/01348/FUL** Repairs to walls below floor level in matching materials and techniques. **Walnut Tree Cottage**, Church St.

A safety concern was raised about the Highview access driveway exiting onto the route taken from the school's car park by the **Walking Bus**. It was agreed that the response to the others should be "No objections raised, no comment".

See other responses & comments by clicking on: 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.

Community Grants

MiCommunity grant funding has been discontinued and BDC Councillors now control community project funding.



At the last **Council** meeting **Cllr. John O'Reilly-Cicconi** indicated that he will have **£750** available for projects in this **Parish** in 2017.

<http://www.essexinfo.net/gtmaplesteadpc/latest-news/> has more details.

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Neighbourhood Development Plan

After feedback from a training session to assess the practicalities...

...of preparing an **NDP** for **Great Maplestead**, the **Council** unanimously decided to postpone any immediate action in order to study, and learn from, processes being adopted by other villages.

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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:

- ✚ **Sat 10 September* Jumble Sale** + raffle and refreshments. Opens **3.00pm**, admission **20p**. Contributions please to Doreen Faulks (01787 460 727) or Diane Smith (01787 473 300).
- ✚ **Sat 10 September Ride & Stride** – for the **Friends of Essex Churches**. Sponsorship forms from Gill Peskett (01787 462 786) or Jill Newton (01787 463 893)
- ✚ **Sun 25 September Harvest Lunch** – a *Bring and Share* event in **St Giles' Church: 11.00am**
- ✚ **Sun 2 October* Harvest Village Walk** – meet at **10.30am**. Entry **£2 per person**/children and dogs **free**. Refreshments at half-way + end.
- ✚ **Sat 15 October* Quiz Night** – doors open **7.00pm** – start **7.30pm**. Entry **£5 per person**/maximum 12 teams of 6 people each. Tickets from Philippa Mills (01787 460 578).
- ✚ **Sat 29 October Pub Night** – at **Barretts Hall**.

More information and details about these events are on 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: www.essexinfo.net/gtmaplesteadpc/