

Chairman's Report – January 2024

Areas of Responsibility

Footpaths

❖ Report:

- As agreed at our last meeting, a letter of engagement has been sent to Tony Hume outlining our requirement for him to carry out maintenance on certain paths on an *ad hoc* basis. [**Agenda Item 9.3**]
- As previously advised, Tony will be given specific guidance as to which paths to work on and when, with the proviso that he submits an invoice that covers both his time and material expenses; these costs can then be met from ECC's SLA grant. The Council's insurance will cover Tony while he carries out any work.

❖ Action Plan:

- Work is to be undertaken shortly to clear further overgrowth and a fallen tree on FP23 (Purles Hill to Hulls Mill), which has recently reported by a parishioner.

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Communications

1. Website/Facebook

❖ Report:

- There has been no move to date by the website host to remove the current style format in 2024, as was intimated in the middle of last year
- Since the last meeting, the **Home** and **News** pages of the website have been updated with information and details about:
 - **Local Bus Service** – the decision on changes to provision
 - **What 3 Words** – ECC's new reporting scheme for potholes etc.
- Links to the **Maplestead Magna Carta** continue to be posted on both the **Council** and **Maplestead Mates** Facebook pages, for widest local coverage.

❖ Action Plan:

- The Facebook page will continue to share relevant posts with Maplestead Mates in order for its information to reach the widest possible local audience.

2. E-newsletter (Maplestead Magna Carta) [Agenda Item 12]

❖ Action Plan:

- **Issue 54** is scheduled for publication **w/c 29th January 2024** (tbc).
- Editorial content for this issue is suggested to include:
 - Bus Service changes
 - EV Charger - update
 - Budget/Council Tax information
 - Mitigating Light Pollution
 - Car Park Plans
 - Planning News
 - Forthcoming events
- Online versions will also be published on the **Council & Maplestead Mates** Facebook pages

3. Parish News

The **Parish News Steering Committee** have expressed their gratitude for the Council's donation towards funding the publishing of last year's Christmas double issue. Strenuous efforts by this team in recent weeks to attract advertisers have generated funding to allow 10 full issues to be published, in colour, during 2024.

General

Essex Electric Vehicle Charge Point Strategy [Agenda Item 9.3]

❖ **Resumé/Report:**

- The Council is currently considering a proposal by EV Charger supplier **Believ** to supply and install a **fully-funded EV rapid charger**, capable of charging two vehicles at a time, in the Playing Field car park.
- **Believ**'s offer includes free planning and connection to the nearest suitable mains power source, installation of all the necessary equipment and signage and the long-term maintenance and operation of the charge point – there will apparently be no charge to the Council or any need for us to seek additional funding.
- **Believ** this week advised that they have now received a quote from UK Power Networks, who conducted a survey and have confirmed that the installation of a **50kW rapid chargepoint** in our Playing Field car park will be viable.

❖ **Action Plan:**

- **Believ** now require the Council to sign an commercial NDA and grant a 20-year lease on the area within the car park required for their equipment (but **not** the parking space for the vehicles being charged), for which the Council will receive a monthly/annual rental.
- A more detailed response from **Believ** will be provided once they have received the signed NDA, which will enable their full commercial proposal to be considered at our March meeting.
- **Believ** are prepared to do a presentation to the Council – and to any members of the public who may be interested – at our next meeting in March.

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Playing Field Car Park [Agenda Item 9.4]

❖ **Report:**

- Over the past few months the car park's condition has deteriorated dramatically, which raises serious concerns about the Council's potential liability for pedestrian safety should nothing be done.
- Also, considering all the time, effort and money that has been invested in improving the playing field's facilities over the last couple of years, the car park's condition is a serious blight on these.
- It is increasingly evident that past 'make-do-and-mend' attempts at maintenance have not satisfactorily resolved the ongoing deterioration; a more permanent solution needs to be found.
- An example of the costs for providing an easy to install, robust and more durable surface that will neither deteriorate significantly in the longer term nor require constant maintenance and repair and will be suitable to cope with the increasingly frequent use the car park is now getting, is on the following page.
- Over half of a **Car Park Surface Replacement Project** could already be funded from remaining playing field development money plus partial use of our reserves.



❖ **Action Required:**

- An agreement to investigate obtaining the necessary remaining funding for the materials needed and to carry out the work necessary to make the car park a safe, maintenance free area that is commensurate with the playing field's new facilities.

Car Park Surfacing Information

Car Park Size: 34m x 18m = 612m²

A Proposed Surfacing Solution Example:

TrueGrid Porous Ground Paving Grid

Paver Panels – Black

- Panel size: 500x500x40mm
- 4 panels = 1m²

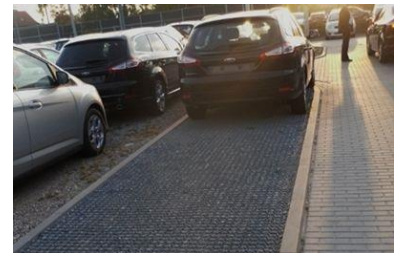


Material

- Manufactured from 100% recycled material
- Lightweight, slip resistant, crack proof, frost and UV resistant
- Weatherproof and environmentally friendly
- Surface reinforcement with natural drainage
- Minimal maintenance, prevents gravel migration

Specification

- Up to 16 tons axle load
- 35mm ground spikes to resist lateral forces caused by vehicles
- High strength (up to 160 t /m²)



Unit Cost

- **£2.77/panel** (exc Vat) – free delivery

Total Cost of Materials: 4 x £2.77 x 612 = **£6,780 nett**

Extras (?): Planings/Gravel: 8.5 tonnes @ £34.50/tonne = £293.25

Labour (?): Grid laying estimate – 100m²/hr/man = 3¼ hrs for 2 men
= 2 hrs + for 3 men
= 1½ hrs for 4 men

Budget: £7-8,000