

Chairman's Report – May 2025

Areas of Responsibility

Footpaths

❖ Report:

- The prolonged recent dry spell means the ground condition of the majority of footpaths in the parish is good. The concern now is that the rapid growth of nettles and overhanging foliage is making walking on some of the paths difficult.
- Tony Hume is regularly monitoring overgrowth and dealing with those parts of the network where maintenance is most needed.
- The damaged footpath sign at the Lucking Street end of FP8 has still not been replaced.



❖ Action Plan:

- Carry on with maintenance as required.
- Chase replacement of the FP8 fingerpost.

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Communications

1. Website/Facebook

❖ Report:

- The Government recommendation that, to improve security, all levels of Local Government, including Parish Councils, should adopt a **`.gov.uk`** identification for websites and e-mail communications is an item for the **2025/26 Action Plan**.
- Since the last meeting the website's **News** page has been updated with information and details about:
 - **BDC's Local Plan Consultation** – The **Local Plan Sub Committee meeting** to consider the sites put forward for **Great Maplestead** will be held on **19th June**.
- 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:

- Further investigation to be carried out as to the implications/practicalities/costs of the **`.gov.uk`** suggested mandate, with a view to implementation in 2025.
- The Facebook page will continue to share relevant posts with Maplestead Mates in order for its information to reach the widest possible local audience.

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2. E-newsletter (Maplestead Magna Carta) [Agenda Item 17]

❖ Action Plan:

- **Issue 62** is scheduled for publication **w/c 26th May 2025** (tbc).
- Editorial content for this issue is suggested to include:
 - Clerk Retirement
 - New Clerk appointment
 - VE80 Anniversary Celebration report
 - Mindfulness Garden update
 - Audit sign-off
 - Halstead U9s training
 - Planning News
 - Forthcoming events
- Links to an online version will be posted on the website and also be published on the **Council & Maplestead Mates** Facebook pages.