

Chairman's Report – November 2024

Areas of Responsibility

Footpaths

❖ Report:

- Clearance of the fallen tree blocking the access of FP29 from Dynes Hall Road was carried out by the landowner at the end of August and the clearance of the lower section of FP23 was carried out in mid-September.
- The condition of the footbridge in the Slype Copse on FP26 has been causing concern for a while, with some decking planks becoming loose and unable (due to rotten ends) to be safely re-fixed. ECC have inspected it but cannot schedule any repairs until after March 2025. However, we have been offered a 'repair kit' (new bearers, planks and fixings) to enable a Task Force fix – this material is due to be delivered on Thursday 28th November.

❖ Action Plan:

- Arrange a work party to effect repairs/replacement of decking on the FP26 footbridge in early December.
- Monitoring checks continue on FPs11 & 15 to determine when action needed.

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Communications

1. Website/Facebook

❖ Report:

- There has been Government recommendation that, to improve security, all levels of Local Government, including Parish Councils, should adopt a '.gov.uk' identification for their websites and e-mail communications. Although not currently mandatory, this will need consideration. A separate briefing paper has been prepared for discussion.
- Since the last meeting the website's **News** page has been updated with information and details about:
 - **ECC's Household Support Fund** – with links to various help resources
 - **GMPC's** full response to the recent **Local Plan Consultation** (a summary of which was also included in Parish News and MMC).
- The **Local Bus Service** page has also been updated to include the latest on **Central Connect's** continuing, paid-for, provision and fare information.
- Links to the **Maplestead Magna Carta** continue to be posted on both the **Council** and **Maplestead Mates** Facebook pages, for widest local coverage.
- The Council's Facebook page has also been used to keep people advised of the **DaRT 3** bus changes, the **Local Plan** timeline and the **Household Support Fund** information – shared on Maplestead Mates for the widest possible coverage.

❖ Action Plan:

- Further investigation to be carried out as to the implications/practicalities/costs of the '.gov.uk' suggested mandate.
- 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 59** is scheduled for publication **w/c 18th November 2024** (tbc).
- Editorial content for this issue is suggested to include:
 - Peter Haylock – an appreciation
 - DaRT3 update – service/fares
 - Household Support Funding
 - Christmas Crime prevention
 - Slype Bridge repair
 - Warm Room reminder
 - Planning News
 - Forthcoming events
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- Links to an online version will also be published on the **Council & Maplestead Mates** Facebook pages