

## **PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

From the December & January Meetings

**Pedestrian Crossing:** to recap this had been put on hold from last summer pending investigation into proposed location & the necessity of the installation of VAS signs, issues of which had been the subject of concerns from local residents. At the end of November Cllr Bass advised PC Members that advice from safety engineers, coupled with research from similar sites in the county, has led to the recommendation that a pedestrian crossing cannot be installed without traffic slowing devices also being installed i.e. VAS signs & signs warning of zebra crossing together with red tactile paving either side of the crossing, also that the original proposed site is the only one suitable. The members were reassured that the VAS signs do not emit light from the sides, which was a concern of the residents near whose homes these will be located, likewise the Belisha Beacons will be hooded. The Members were advised that the budget was not available to carry out this work at present and that it would be included for consideration from the new budget; therefore the PC Members agreed that this information would be reported on to the Parish at the Annual Parish Meeting and that the situation should be reported in The Beacon (apologies from the Clerk that it was not possible to have a report in the January Beacon).

However, prior to the 11th January meeting the PC was advised that the project had been officially signed off to proceed, but that it was still not known when budget would be available. So it came as some surprise when notification was received late on 16<sup>th</sup> January that work would commence on 6<sup>th</sup> February, as monies had been made available out of this year's budget. Works are scheduled to take two weeks from 6<sup>th</sup> February (although some EDF work has already started) so the crossing should be fully operational by w/c 20<sup>th</sup> February when the children return to school after the half term break. This represents a 6 year campaign initiated by requests from residents in the village appraisal and the Safer Journeys to School programme.

**Vandalism:** there have been two cases of vandalism in the children's playground, plus the theft of the bark chippings, which are put down in the playground for obvious safety reasons. Have you noticed anyone wheeling bark chippings up your road?

**New Dog Waste Bin:** costs etc have now all been received; the next step is to meet with the MDC official to find the most appropriate site near to the Church as requested by dog walkers.

**Dates of the next Parish Council meetings:** the forthcoming monthly meetings are scheduled for Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February & 8th March 2006 at 8 p.m. in the Committee Room of the Village Hall; members of the public are warmly welcomed to hear the proceedings & to speak during the time set aside for that purpose. To contact the Parish Council please write to: The Parish Clerk (Maria Dyer) at Exordium, 30 Latchingdon Road, Cold Norton, Chelmsford, Essex. CM3 6JG. E-Mail to [mariadyer30@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mariadyer30@yahoo.co.uk) or phone (Monday to Friday before 5 pm please) 01621 829566.