

**News from Cold Norton Parish Council,**  
**including comments from the April 2005 meeting**

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS** received: - The following are the Parish Council's recommendations that went forward to the District Council: -

FUL/MAL/05/00245. 14 Howe Green Road, Purleigh. Mr B Baxter. Formation of dormers to provide room in roof space. Parish Council's response – not harmful – approval recommended.

FUL/MAL/05/00264. Gt Canney Farm, Hackmans Lane. Change of use of unit for ancillary storage in connection with the operations of the adjacent unit for sale and distribution of electronic components. The Parish Council recommended refusal of this one, because of concerns about the viability of the group of craft premises in that removing one would dilute that overall use - the remaining craft units may not survive without others around them; and also it was felt that this site, in its elevated position, is arguably the most sensitive site of Cold Norton.

TPO/MAL/05/00330. 19 Station Crescent. Fell Oak tree. The Parish Council did not approve of the proposal for felling an oak tree or any removal of the TPO, and so refusal of consent was recommended; but the Parish Council would have no objection to necessary maintenance work on the tree, reduction of the canopy, or removal of surplus and damaged branches.

AGR/MAL/05/00335. Land Off Burnham Avenue. Proposed storage barn for straw and hay. The Parish Council recommended refusal of consent for the proposed building in the location and of the size indicated. This is because of the proposed location, the apparent disproportionately large size of the building, and concern that the visual amenity of the area should be protected. However in discussions with the applicant it seemed that he would be amenable to changing the location of the barn within the field and this is likely to result in a more favourable view from the Council.

**HIGHWAYS MATTERS** - The Parish Council has been seeking a 40mph speed limit to the south of Palepit junction (Fambridge Road), to be consistent with the other three approaches to that junction and also to make safer the exits from minor roads on to the west side of Fambridge Road, where visibility is very limited. However the response from County Council confirmed that the road does not meet the County Council's scoring criteria for a speed limit, and that "*It is possible that, if the entire area that is currently subject to a 40 mph speed limit was scored in accordance with the current policies, then they would not meet the current criteria.*" The fact that this southern approach to the junction does not have a speed limit was clearly an omission dating from the time when the mini-roundabouts first went in. But clearly it is also a fact that the criteria for speed limits have changed since that time, and we obviously don't want to risk losing the speed limits on the other three approaches in our efforts to gain one on the southern approach. It is particularly important that the 40 mph limit stays in place on the western side, because of the fact that pedestrians use this road to walk from Cold Norton to our local shop and post office. Therefore a letter from the Parish Council has sought better warning signage for the junction of St Stephens Road with Fambridge Road, and also better management of the sight splays at that junction.

At a recent presentation done by County Council on the new "Traffic Management Strategy for Essex", the Clerk noted that this document says about county routes (which is the designation of our road through Cold Norton) - "*Upgrade all B roads to Quality Plan standard*" within 20 years. So Mary had asked is this mandatory – e.g. the parish councils may not want the county route through Cold Norton and Stow Maries to be upgraded. The answer came back that this road is adequate for its purpose. So Mary also asked about the possibility of traffic calming on such a road, since the Strategy says "*motorised vehicular traffic will generally take precedence over the other modes on these routes*". Response – there is flexibility on these Priority 2 routes, and traffic calming is already being done on some.

**THE PLAYING FIELD:** - Cold Norton has been pretty quiet on the vandalism front for some time now, but there were recent problems reported. The first relates to rather inconsiderate (and occasionally rude!) children, sometimes kicking footballs into the double doors which front onto the playing field, to the great disturbance of some village hall users, and then one or two of those children have even become abusive when reprimanded. And one other problem is that youngsters are playing golf on the playing field, which is contrary to the byelaws for obvious reasons of safety. Perhaps it would be a good idea if parents checked exactly how and where their youngsters are playing.

**RIGHTS OF WAY:** - A letter had been received from the Government's Planning Inspectorate, confirming that a public inquiry will open at 10 a.m. on Tuesday 24 May 2005 at Maldon Town Football Club, Park Drive, Maldon. This inquiry relates to the claim put forward by the Parish Council, and supported by the County Council, that the path along the disused railway line from Cold Norton to Stow Maries is a public right of way, having been used as such by many people ever since the railway line was closed.

Unfortunately we still haven't been able to find another **VILLAGE CARETAKER**, in place of Mr. Alec Paul, who has retired. An hourly rate is paid for this work. Please contact the Parish Clerk, as contact details below.

Final arrangements were agreed for Cold Norton's **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** at 8 pm on Tuesday 3 May. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May (despite the fact that this is election day – we will be using the committee room so will not be in the way). Parish Council meetings are held at 8 p.m. in the Committee Room of the Village Hall, and members of the public are warmly welcomed to hear the proceedings and to speak during the time set aside for that purpose.