

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

From the April 2009 Meeting

**Affordable Housing for Local People:** at the February meeting the Councillors had a presentation from the Rural Housing Enabler from the RCCE (Rural Community Council of Essex), including how to ascertain firstly if there a need, and to then take the appropriate action to try and work towards meeting the need identified, working with the local authority and a housing association. At this meeting the Councillors having now considered the literature supplied by the RCCE have decided to proceed to the next stage, which will involve each household in the village being given a questionnaire to complete and return in a pre-paid envelope to the RCCE, who will analyse the responses given; the results of this survey will show if there is a need for affordable housing in the village – therefore all households are encouraged to complete this confidential and anonymous questionnaire. If anyone would like to see the literature supplied to the Councillors please contact the Clerk for a copy.

**Planning Applications:** the Councillors considered three applications at this meeting. (NB the following is only a summary of each application and the Parish Council's response to Maldon District Council, where the final decision is made – if you wish to view the actual plans and all relating correspondence to these or any planning applications please visit the MDC web site on [www.maldon.gov.uk](http://www.maldon.gov.uk) or the District Council offices in Maldon). The first application related to Blue House Farm, Hagg Hill proposing demolition of the existing dwelling and a replacement dwelling – the Members objected to this application as it is outside the village development boundary, is too large in scale, not reflecting the size of the current dwelling it is planning to replace and because of its prominent location the size of the proposed dwelling would be an intrusive feature on the landscape. The second application related to construction of replacement boundary wall and gates at St. Andrews, Station Road – the Members had no objections to this proposal. The final application considered related to emergency services access way at The Aerodrome, Hackmans Lane – the Members objected to this because of the 'open road' situation that exists from Crows Lane, the proposal in the application would still allow access via local farms from Crows Lane onto the site; the Parish Council repeated it's request that access to, and exit from, the site should only via Hackmans Lane.

**Highways Matters:** the water on Latchingdon Road near No.46 was found to be a leak and has now been rectified by Essex Water.

**Village Hall:** the Councillors gave permission for the Village Hall Management Committee to have a display of classic/interesting cars on the playing field as part of the Train Event in June. Mr Guppy gave an update on the situation to date regarding the Lottery/progress to tender stage and that local contractors are invited to submit their details to the Parish Council if they wish to be considered for works involved in the extension etc of the hall. Mr Guppy also confirmed that during works to the hall the playing field would still be accessible.

**Essex Youth Bus:** this visited the village hall car park on 21<sup>st</sup> March – the youth leaders considered the visit a success and children attending indicated that they would like to see it there on a regular basis. The Councillors agreed to a trial. (NB at time of writing this report dates/times were still to be confirmed – details will be put on notice boards when advised.)

**Parish Council Meetings:** Scheduled or provisionally scheduled for 2009: Wednesdays 13<sup>th</sup> May, 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 7<sup>th</sup> October, 4<sup>th</sup> November and 2<sup>nd</sup> December. All meetings start at 8 pm in the Committee Room at the Village Hall. Members of the public are warmly welcomed to hear the proceedings and to speak during the time set aside for that purpose.

**Annual Parish Meeting:** is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2009 at 8pm in the Village Hall. Included on the agenda for this meeting are reports from the Chairman of the Parish Council, the District Councillor, the Police and the Village Hall Project Team. This is your opportunity to talk to elected local government representatives. The meeting will be preceded at 7.30pm by the Annual General Meeting for the Village Hall Management Committee. All residents are invited to attend either or both these public meetings.

**To contact the Parish Council:** please write to: The Parish Clerk (Maria Dyer), at Exordium, 30b 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.