

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

From the June 2012 Meeting

At the start of the meeting there were two presentations/discussions. The first was from Master Jack Hine, accompanied by his Father Mr Danny Hines - Jack had come along to ask the Parish Council to consider extending /changing the existing skate board ramps in the Playing Field at Cherry Blossom Lane. Jack had consulted with other boys in the village about what equipment would be desirable so that they don't have to travel to other villages where the parks have more extensive skate boarding facilities. Jack showed the Cllrs pictures of the type of ramps etc. that they would like and explained the names for the different areas. The Cllrs were not opposed to changing the area, as updating of the equipment in the playing field had come up in the village survey, but will need to see costs involved, so Jack and his Father will come back to a future meeting with costs.

The second presentation/.discussion was from Mr Paul Walker and Mr Mike Smith from Woodham Radars Youth Football section. A couple of Woodham Radars Youth teams played their home games here for the season 2011/12. As this worked well and the teams enjoyed playing here, Woodham Radars would like to establish the pitch on Cold Norton as a home ground for 2 or 3 of the Youth teams (under 8's) and are prepared to invest in the site by providing fixed goals and would hope in future to run football training schools in Cold Norton with qualified coaches during the school summer holidays. Other items discussed will now be checked to see if they are possible/workable and a long term relationship can therefore be established to be mutually beneficial.

Planning Applications: At the June meeting there were four planning applications for consideration: the first was FUL/MAL/12/00310 The Poplars, Cherry Blossom Lane – change of use of site for the siting of three additional caravans with separate bath and utility room for occupation by Gypsy Families. The Council resolved to object to the application and below is an extract from the Council's letter to MDC:

"The Council has sympathy with the applicant and the Parish Council may be minded to take a different view if a personal application were submitted. However it must be pointed out that Cold Norton is not suitable for an expanded Traveller Settlement as advised in response to the application submitted in 2011, because of the following factors:

- *Education: Cold Norton Primary School is currently oversubscribed and has a waiting list*
- *Health: there are no health facilities in Cold Norton. All health requirements are met by travelling elsewhere*
- *Shop: the village shop suffers from vehicular congestion. Pedestrians are served by a narrow poorly maintained footpath alongside a busy minor road prone to speeding traffic*
- *Transport: the village bus service is poor.*
- *Employment: there are very limited opportunities within Cold Norton hence most residents have to commute to work. Plus the industrial site which had provided some local employment has now closed.*

In addition the proposed site is along a road that is in need of development, requiring it to be made up and fully maintained.”

The second application considered was: FUL/MAL/12/00237 Little Cooks Farm, Lower Burnham Road - demolition of outbuildings and barn, conversion of former milking stable to form 2 bed dwelling with associated extension; the Council's response to MDC was agreed as follows: *“Whilst this property is outside the development boundary, Cold Norton Parish Council has NO OBJECTIONS to the works proposed within the above application because the scale of development is modest. However, whilst it is noted that not all the demolition proposed in the application is necessary for the creation of this new modestly sized dwelling, the Parish Council feel it is essential that demolition of all the redundant buildings on the site detailed in the application (outbuildings, barn etc.) be listed as a condition if planning permission is granted.”*

The third application was: OUT/MAL/12/00234 Stow Garage, The Street, Stow Maries – development of 8 houses. The Cllrs agreed the following response to MDC: *“Cold Norton Parish Council OBJECTS to the proposal contained within the above application and recommends that Maldon District Council REFUSE CONSENT. The reason for the Council's objection is that there is insufficient parking for the scale of the development. However, if the parking issue were resolved the Council would be minded to submit a ‘no objections’ response”*

The final application considered was: OUT/MAL/12/00286 Site adjacent former Stow Bullocks Public House, The Street, Stow Maries – outline application for 4 x 2 bed dwellings. The following response was agreed: *“Cold Norton Parish Council has NO OBJECTIONS to the proposal outlined within the above application, subject to detailed plans. The village survey recently undertaken in Cold Norton suggests the need for smaller properties such as above.”*

Planning Decisions: There were two decisions from MDC advised to the Council this month: the first was FUL/MAL/11/01058 Barn Lea, Lower Burnham Road - erection of small barn and retention of the storage container for a temporary period until November 2012 - MDC had approved this application. The Parish Council had not submitted an opinion on this application as the response by date fell between scheduled Parish Council meetings and it had not been possible to call an Extraordinary Parish Council meeting. The second decision relevant to Cold Norton was FUL/MAL/12/00119 Lower Burnham Road, North Fambridge - The proposal seeks permanent road widening works for the purpose of facilitating access for abnormal load deliveries to the proposed wind farm at Turncole Farm. The new highway created will be fenced or similar to allow access to the abnormal loads only and not all traffic. The works will take place at the two road junctions between Lower Burnham Road and Fambridge Road near Cold Norton. The works will result in a change of use from residential and agricultural land to form new highway. (Resubmission of Previous Application FUL/MAL/11/00806). MDC refused the application; Cold Norton PC had objected to this application.

Pre School Outdoor Play Area: work on this has been completed and Pre School staff and children are making good use of the new area.

Village Sign: has been renovated and was back in situ in time for the Jubilee Celebrations.

Jubilee Celebrations: these were a great success and thanks were recorded to Mrs Sue Garnham and her team for organising three days of a wide variety of events to cover all ages and tastes of residents in the village; these culminated in the lighting of the beacon on Monday evening at the allotted time of 10.15pm as part of the national beacon lighting event to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Queen's Jubilee Mugs: The Parish Council had agreed to give all children at school (primary or senior) or younger a commemorative mug. Forms were distributed with the Annual Parish Meeting notice to register for the mugs. If you mislaid your form or 'forgot' to collect your child's mug please contact the Clerk (details below) to arrange completion of a form/receive a mug. Surplus mugs are also available to purchase via the Clerk at £3 each.

Oil Buying Scheme: Cllrs were given details of how this can be organised in the village, whereby villagers group together to 'bulk buy' and save money. Details will be posted on the village notice boards or please contact the Clerk.

Footpaths: handrail at FP15 (Bridleway) at bend in St Stephens Road has been reinstated and way mark post replaced. FP20 Crown Road gate - now operational. FP14/FP19 near Church – gate is inoperable/propped open as temporary measure. ECC Public Rights of Way officer aware and arranging repair. Purleigh Byway 32 (Howe Green Road) in process of being downgraded to a bridleway – ECC Legal Department processing paperwork.

Parish Council Meetings: Scheduled or provisionally scheduled for 2012:
Wednesdays: 4th July, 5th September, 3rd October, 7th November, 5th December.
Meetings start at 8 pm in The Norton Meeting 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.

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 or phone (Monday to Friday before 5 pm please) 01621 829566.