

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

From the January 2020 Meeting

Planning Applications: There were three planning applications considered at this meeting: they were: 19/01009/HOUSE PP-08169021 14A Latchingdon Road, Cold Norton: first floor extension, raising the roof of the dwelling, rear and side single storey extension and open porch; 19/01279/HOUSE 30A Latchingdon Road, Cold Norton: single storey rear extension; 19/01147/HOUSE PP-08265885 1 Victoria Road, Cold Norton: Replace plastic clear corrugated roof Perspex with lightweight Tapco tile system. Members had no objections to any of these applications.

Planning Decisions: (covering the period w/e 6th December 2019 to w/e 3rd January 2020): there were two decisions advised by Maldon District Council, namely: HOUSE/MAL/19/00970 14 St Stephens Road: Retrospective planning permission for a first floor side extension, including a rear balcony and WTPO/MAL/19/01192 Four Corners, 10 St Stephens Road: T54 Horse Chestnut -Crown reduce by 3 metres in height and 2 metres in width to previous pruning points and shape, crown lift to 2.5 metres; G1 4 x Field Maples - Crown reduce by 2 metres in height and 1 metre in width and shape, crown lift to 3 metres. Remove Ivy (exempt). MDC approved both these applications (the Parish Council had not objected to either of them).

Planning applications and decisions: if you would like to see full details of any planning application, please contact the Maldon District Council offices on 01621 854477 or visit the web site www.maldon.gov.uk

Precept 2020-2021: The Councillors having initially considered budget figures at the December meeting reviewed the revised figures presented at this meeting. It was agreed to set the Precept at £31,083 - an increase of £3,383 over last year's precept. For a Band D property the portion of the Council Tax for Cold Norton for the year 2010/21 will be £62.26 as opposed to £56.69 the previous year (i.e. an increase of 46p per calendar month or 56p if you split your Council Tax payments over 10 months). The main reason for the increase is to improve the condition of the roadway access to the Village Hall and the Playing Field (Cherry Blossom Lane) – both available for all residents to use.

District Cllr Reports: District Cllrs Ms White and Mrs Fleming both attended the meeting and reported that the transformation programme is progressing at Maldon District Council; that together with ECC, MDC is planning to reduce the amount of single use plastic, through all businesses – information will be available on the MDC web site; that the MDC accounts have been signed off by the Auditor and that the public inspection period will be 4th June to 13th July 2020.

County Cllr Report: Mrs Penny Channer reported to Members that Cllr Bentley is urging residents to continue to report potholes; that some works have been carried out on the Army & Navy Flyover and that the Government has been asked for funding towards these works; that the Essex Energy Switch Programme had been launched and residents in the past had saved an average of £250; visit: www.essex.gov.uk/energyswitch NB close date for registration is 10th February 2020; that Essex Records Office are running a series of very interesting talks, visit: <https://www.essexrecordoffice.co.uk/events/> for details; that ECC will be starting budget discussions shortly – the Government contribution is not yet known, but

priority areas for ECC will include social care, crime and disorder and road safety; and that climate change is a major concern to ECC.

Essex Playing Fields Association: Best Kept Playing Fields Awards 2019:

Cold Norton received a Silver Award for the playing fields and a Certificate of Merit for the football pitch.

Tree Charter: As Cold Norton Parish Council is now signed up to the Tree Charter, Members agreed to apply for a pack of 15 free saplings from the Woodland Trust for supply/planting in November.

Affordable Housing for Local People: Cold Norton Housing Needs Survey:

as house prices and rents continue to rise, often beyond the means of those wanting to leave home and set up independently, or stay close to family, work or schools, it is becoming increasingly difficult for people to get on the housing ladder or to obtain a home at a market rent. In Cold Norton Parish there is the opportunity to identify whether local people here have a housing need and if so whether an affordable housing scheme could be developed to help address that need.

This type of scheme is only available to small parishes (less than 3000 population) and for local people (or those with a connection to the Parish) in perpetuity. Homes are mostly affordable rent or shared ownership, although there can be a small element of affordable housing for sale if required. Schemes are only built if there is a proven need and this type of housing is known as exception site affordable housing. This is not large scale development, but small in numbers, typically ranging between 4 – 8 homes.

RCCE is an independent charity working across rural Essex and their role is to help support the parish, firstly by undertaking a **Housing Needs Survey**. This survey will be delivered to every household in the parish and the results (all anonymous, only a report with recommendations goes to the Parish Council) will inform the Parish Council as to what the housing need in the Parish might be. This is not a survey to justify large scale or open market developments and cannot be used for that. The Parish Council will then use this information to inform the shape and tenure of the scheme. These properties cannot be sold or transferred into totally private ownership and would remain in perpetuity for people with a strong local connection to the parish, either through family or work.

When a Housing Needs Survey questionnaire arrives at your home, please complete fully and return it (in the pre-paid envelope provided) by the date specified. Even if you do not have a need for alternative housing, we do urge you to complete and return Part 1 of the survey so that your views may be taken into account.

Thank you very much for your support. If you have any questions regarding this survey, please do contact the Parish Council in the first instance.

Parish Council Meetings: Meetings start at 7.30pm in The Les Barclay Room at the Village Hall. Meetings in 2020: Wednesdays 5th February, 4th March, 1st April, 6th May, 3rd June, 1st July, 2nd September, 7th October, 4th November and 2nd December. 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.
Email: mariadyer30@yahoo.co.uk or phone 01621 829566. Please note the Clerk works part time and will respond as soon as possible.