

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

From the January 2024 Meeting

Planning Applications: There were three planning applications received from Maldon District Council (MDC) for Cold Norton this month. The first considered was: 23/01201/PACUAR PP-12665008 Land adjacent to Norton Hall, St Stephens Road: Prior notification for the change of use of agricultural buildings to 5 dwelling houses (Use Class C3) and for associated operational development: the Members recommended refusal for the following reasons:

- *It is outside the Development Boundary (S8 – Settlement Boundaries & the Countryside)*
- *Local infrastructure is poor: single track country lane. No footways, unlit narrow road. Traffic access not considered. (T2 Accessibility)*
- *Development out of character with rural surrounding area. The proposed development would be remote and disconnected from local services and facilities by reason of its location.*
- *The proposed development would substantially alter the character of the area and have an unacceptable visual impact on the countryside though the urbanisation and domestication of the site – anti landscape protection (S3 Place Shaping)*

The second application was: 23/01240/HOUSE PP-12692301 Toad Hall, Station Road: Two storey side and single storey rear extension following demolition of an existing conservatory: the Members had no objections to this extension and no comments to make. The final application was: LAWFUL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE: 23/01130/LDE PP-12617825 Doreen, Latchingdon Road: claim for lawful development certificate for an existing rear extension: as this was for a Lawful Development Certificate the Members had not been asked to comment on the planning merits, but only to submit any information that supports or contradicts the submitted evidence; the Members had no information to submit.

Planning Decisions: three decisions were received from MDC relating to Cold Norton for the period from w/e 8th December to w/e 5th January 2024, namely: AGR/MAL/23/00993 Wayback Farm, St Stephens Road: Prior notification for the erection of a Class 2 agricultural building. MDC refused this as the proposed development does not fall within Schedule 2, Part 6, Class A of the Town and Country Planning General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) as the proposed development cannot be considered to be reasonably necessary for the purposes of agriculture within the site. Planning permission is therefore required for the building proposed (the Members had not been required to comment on this AGR). The second decision advised related to: FUL/MAL/23/00491 Land Adjacent Thornfields, Purleigh Grove: The erection of 2No. 4/5-bedroom detached dwellings, both with carports and private amenity, with the construction of a new access road. MDC approved these new houses; the Members had recommended refusal. The last decision advised was: FUL/MAL/23/00988 Great Canney Court, Hackmans Lane: Addition of new building containing four flats to existing building containing flats and associated works. MDC refused this application; the Members had recommended approval of the building of four flats.

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 2024-2025: 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 £44,694 - an increase of £3,094 (7.44%) over last year's precept. For a Band D property, the portion of the Council Tax for Cold Norton for the year 2024/25 will be £87.93 as opposed to £82.74 the previous year (an extra 43p per month per home).

Neighbourhood Watch: Mrs Jackie Ralph, the co-ordinator for Cold Norton's Neighbourhood Watch (NhW), attended the Parish Council meeting and updated the Members, advising that there are now 150 members of the Cold Norton NhW and that door and wheelie bin stickers are available on request. If you would like information about Neighbourhood Watch or want to join the Cold Norton NhW, please contact Mrs Ralph via email: coldnorton.nhw@gmail.com There is also a NhW WhatsApp Group – again please contact Mrs Ralph for details.

'Let's Talk' Police Meeting: following on from the December 'Let's Talk' meeting a further one was held Saturday afternoon 20th January. This was attended by c40 residents and the PCSO in attendance talked to the group about home security measures, including:

- Don't leave tools in back gardens
- Install security lights
- Lock front/back doors and close windows when you go out and set the alarm if you have one; if you don't insurance companies won't pay out
- Photograph all your jewellery and hide jewellery or other valuables in places not obvious; small safes are available that can be screwed into the floor
- If you notice any suspicious vehicles make a note of the number plate and phone the police on 101
- Whilst most entries are made via the rear of a property, generally burglars avoid homes with CCTV or 'ring/recording doorbells', but NB legally if you have CCTV or a recording doorbell you must have a sign up to say 'Recording Taking Place'. If your recording doorbell didn't have such a sign supplied with it these can be purchased very inexpensively online
- DO NOT PUT YOURSELF AT RISK if you come face to face with a burglar
- For keyless cars don't leave fobs near front door take up stairs/store in Faraday pouches so codes can't be 'read'

The PCSO answered questions from those present and to individuals at the end of the session. Just to remind you there is lots of advice on the Essex Police Website: <https://www.essex.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/> And there is also 'Dispatch' the Essex Police Weekly Update Newsletter; to receive this follow this link: <https://www.essex.police.uk/police-forces/essex-police/areas/essex-police/au/about-us/dispatch/>

This 'Let's Talk' session evolved into a group discussion, but please note that one of the objectives of 'Let's Talk' is that you can speak one-to-one to the Police on issues that concern you. However, the next 'Let's Talk' session will also include a talk and advice about fraud and scams – see below. The plan is that the 'Let's Talk' sessions will be held once a month at different times/days to accommodate everyone, so for March it is proposed that this will be held in the evening.

Fraud and Scam Advice: from Essex Police on Tuesday 20th February 2024 at 11am in The Les Barclay Room at the village hall. If you plan to come along to this, please let the Parish Clerk (contact details at end) or the Neighbourhood Watch Co-

ordinator (details above) know just so we have some idea of numbers in advance and can change to a larger room if necessary.

County Cllr Report: Cllr Mrs Jane Fleming updated Members talking about pressure on budgets and adult social care, children's social care and home/school transport. Cllr Fleming also talked about bus services and that there is to be an audit of all stops in Maldon. Please see the website <https://www.cold-norton.org.uk> for Cllr Fleming's January ECC update for the Maldon Division.

Maldon Parish & Town Council Forum: the Clerk had attended this in December. Topics covered included an update on the Local Development Plan and that the seven development options had been reduced to three. The update from the NHS Alliance majored on St Peters Hospital and the recent changes that had been implemented due to safety and compliance issues with the building which had opened in 1870; there were also updates regarding the doctors surgeries in Maldon, Danbury, Burnham and Southminster. There was a presentation about the 'Rural England Prosperity Fund' which is there to provide business support for new and existing rural businesses and to support and improve community infrastructure. The final presentation covered the activity of the T23 Tourism group and the Volume and Value of Tourism to the district; lots of day visitors to the district, but 'tourists' don't stay due to lack of hotels/B&Bs. 'Screen Tourism' impacts on visitor numbers (e.g. Shire Hall used in 'Mr Bates Vs The Post Office'; 'The Essex Serpent' starring Tom Hiddleston and Claire Danes) residents can register their properties for use in films etc via: <https://essexfilmoffice.co.uk/>

Maldon District Services Community Guide 2023: provides information and advice on community services that can be accessed in the Maldon District. Sections cover tips for keeping well, energy saving tips, financial support and further information and support available. View on the Cold Norton website: <https://www.cold-norton.org.uk>

Maldon Market: in Butts Lane Car Park Thursdays from 9am to 2pm, relaunched under new management with a wide variety of stalls including cakes, bread, coffee, fresh fish, biodynamic vegetables, cheese, pies, haberdashery, fashion, things for the home and lots more.

Village Hall: if you have a celebration coming up – birthday, anniversary, wedding, christening, the village hall is available to hire – variety of rooms available, a fully equipped kitchen and plenty of parking. For details phone 01621 828475 or email: chrisedwards7@hotmail.co.uk

Dogs are not permitted on the Playing Field: there is a Byelaw in place to enforce this. This area is used by children and adults for recreation and sporting activities. If you witness dog(s) in this area, please inform the Parish Council. Additional signage is being considered.

TRUCAM/Speed Checks: during the 3 hours/5 sessions of TRUCAM/Speed Checks conducted during December, four speeding offences were recorded. All offences are forwarded to the Police for processing. Drivers will either receive 3 points on their licence and £100 fine or be offered a speed awareness course at a cost of £100.

Village Foodbank Drop Off Point: for those in the village who are able to help others, there is a foodbank box at St Stephens Church to support people less well off in this district. All non-perishable goods required.

Pink Recycling Bags/Green Food Waste Bags: please follow this link for details of places in the district where recycling bags are available:

https://www.maldon.gov.uk/info/20043/recycling/9266/recycling_sack_stockists

Highways or Public Right of Way (Footpath) Issues: residents can report issues relating to footpaths or other highways issues (e.g., potholes, road signs, vegetation etc.) direct to highways via: <https://www.essexhighways.org/tell-us/problem-check>

Footpath Map: there is a full colour map which shows all the Public Rights of Way in our Village. If you would like a copy, please contact the Clerk. Copies of the map are also available from The Norton Public House. Or the map is available to view on the Parish Council website by following this link: <https://www.cold-norton.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/C139237.pdf>

Parish Council Meetings in 2024

Wednesdays: 7th February, 6th March, 3rd April, 1st May, 5th June, 3rd July, 4th September, 2nd October, 6th November and 4th December

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: clerk@cold-norton.org.uk (NB new email address) or phone 01621 829566. Please note the Clerk works part time and will respond as soon as possible.

Parish Council website: <https://www.cold-norton.org.uk>