

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

From the January 2025 Meeting

Planning Applications: There was just one planning application received from Maldon District Council for the Members to consider this month: 24/00962/LDE PP-13603276 Caravan at Wayback Farm, St Stephens Road: claim for a lawful development certificate for the existing static caravan property that is a residential dwelling and had been used as such for over 10 years. The Members were minded to oppose (recommend refusal) this application as it was understood that this 'caravan' had only been granted temporary permission of three years pending review of the farm business to ascertain its sustainability and then if proven an application for a permanent dwelling would be considered. As the business was proven to be viable planning permission was subsequently given for a permanent dwelling to be built and it is understood that this family occupy the new dwelling and not the caravan. The Members questioned why the caravan was not removed once the permanent dwelling was built.

Planning Decisions: there were two decisions received from MDC relating to Cold Norton for the period from w/e 6th December to w/e 3rd January 2025 and both related to works with Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs), namely:
WTPO/MAL/24/00823 Elber 28 St Stephens Road: T1 Oak (T36 on TPO 15/96) - Crown lift to 3.5m from ground level by pruning to suitable growth points, remove epicormic regrowth. Crown thin by 30% and remove any deadwood. MDC approved these works. The Members had not objected to these works, subject to the opinion of the MDC Tree Officer. WTPO/MAL/24/00835 35 St Stephens Road: (TPO 15/96) T1 Ash (T26 on TPO) - Remove lowest limb over property. Cut back by 2m to a suitable growth point. Reduce the adjacent branches by 2m. Remove deadwood. MDC refused these works. The Members had not objected to these works, subject to the opinion of the MDC Tree Officer.

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 2025-2026: 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 £47,301 - an increase of £2,337 (5.22%) over last year's precept. For a Band D property, the portion of the Council Tax for Cold Norton for the year 2025/26 will be £92.22 as opposed to £87.93 the previous year (an extra 36p per month per home).

Vacancy for a Councillor: there is a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. It is proposed to fill this vacancy by co-option at the Parish Council meeting on 5th March 2025. This vacancy is for a position on the Council until the next local Council elections which are scheduled to take place in Spring 2027. Applications are invited from those interested aged 18 years or over, living or working in the Parish, who are concerned about what goes on in and around the village and is prepared to take an active role. Please contact the Clerk for full details of eligibility to be a Parish Councillor and if you would like any information about the role of a Councillor; would suggest that if interested you attend some Parish Council meetings to gauge what is involved. Applications to the Parish Clerk by Friday 28th February 2025.

TRUCAM/Speed Checks: the number of approved TRUCAM sites has been increased by the Police, now covering 30mph and 40mph zones in the village. In December six offenders were recorded during five patrols over a period of three hours. During these sessions, a speed of 34mph was recorded in a 30mph zone and 48 in a 40mph zone. Offenders will either receive three points on their licence and a £100 fine or be offered a speed awareness course at a cost of c£100.

Speed Watch: thank you to the volunteers who have joined the Cold Norton Speed Watch Group to check the speed of drivers coming through the village. NB TRUCAM will continue to operate in the village.

County Councillor Report: Cllr Mrs Fleming was unable to attend this meeting, but has supplied a report which can be viewed on the Parish Council website: <https://www.cold-norton.org.uk> which includes details of the ECC Budget for 2025/26, call for fosters carers (which can be for as little as one weekend a month), details of apprenticeships, how to apply for a 'Love Essex Fund' grant to reduce waste and encourage reuse and repair in our village and a call for school governors.

Football in the Village: please contact the Parish Clerk if you are interested in playing football on the playing fields – children or adults.

Streetlights: If you spot an issue with any of the streetlights on Latchingdon Road, please report to the Parish Clerk.

Village Hall: the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) is responsible for running the Village Hall including maintenance and fund raising. If you would like to be involved in organising a fund-raising event or would like to join the team to assist with managing the hall – please call Mrs Chris Edwards on 01621 828475 or email: chrisedwards7@hotmail.co.uk

Cold Norton Neighbourhood Watch Group: Mrs Jackie Ralph the co-ordinator for Cold Norton's Neighbourhood Watch (NhW). 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.

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

Maldon District Council 2024 Conservation & Design Award Winners: The winners of the 41st Maldon District Conservation and Design Awards include the conversion of a redundant police station, a handsome new shopfront, a stunning museum extension, a remarkable landscaped garden, and the first house in the Maldon District to receive 'passivhaus' certification because of its exceptional energy efficiency. Follow this link to view the winners: https://www.maldon.gov.uk/news/article/6917/2024_conservation_and_design_award_winners_announced

Cowpiece: Works to the dipping pond platform have been suspended whilst water levels are being monitored to ascertain if the pond would be a suitable breeding ground.

Dogs are not permitted on the Playing Field: there is a Byelaw in place to enforce this. (All play sites fall under a Maldon District wide Public Space Protection Order [PSPO]. This means dogs aren't allowed in play sites). 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 (all details please, including car number plates etc if applicable). Unfortunately, there are some people who are ignoring this Byelaw and when reminded are being rude to the residents who have pointed out the signage. The Community Police have been advised.

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: during Pre School operational hours there will be a box outside the village hall door with these bags available for residents to collect – please only take one of each at a time. Many thanks to Pre School Staff for facilitating this service. Please note that Maldon District Council will no longer be providing green food waste bags. The village shop, Londis, is also a stockist for these, or please follow this link for details of other places in the district where recycling bags are available:

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

Purple Sacks for Plastic Bags & Wrapping: Maldon District Council has advised that as this hasn't been rolled out to the whole district, they are having to manage the delivery of additional sacks. Purple sacks can be ordered via: [Plastic bags and wrapping recycling pilot | Maldon District Council](#) Copy this link to the page for this trial into your computer search engine and click on the 'order them here' for a very short form to complete. If you are unable to do this online, please call Maldon District Council on 01621 854477.

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>

Party in the Park 2025: due to the success of the 2024 Party in the Park it is proposed to bring the village together again in 2025 on Saturday 28th June. If you would like to be part of the team organising this, please contact the Parish Clerk in the first instance.

Parish Council Meetings in 2025

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