

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

From the February 2025 Meeting

Planning Applications: There were two planning applications received from Maldon District Council for the Members to consider this month: the first was: 25/00044/LDP PP-13704573 Beacon Hill House, Latchingdon Road: claim for lawful development certificate for proposed single storey front extension to existing outbuilding: the Members had no objections or comments regarding this LDP. The second application considered was: 24/01004/OUTM PP-13623594 Land South of Threeways and 45 The Street, Latchingdon: Outline planning application with all matters reserved except for means of access, for up to 140 no. dwellings (Use Class C3) including 40% affordable housing; new site access and internal access roads; a new village centre (Use Class E(a); flexible employment space (Use Class E); car and cycle parking; landscaping; sustainable urban drainage systems; public open space and footpaths; community woodlands and allotments; together with associated infrastructure. The Members recommended refusal for the following reasons:

Concerns relating to the following which need addressing/considered by the developer:

1. *Traffic*
2. *School places*
3. *Drainage*
4. *Health facilities*
5. *Education*
6. *Local transport*

Concern is that with the 92 x new homes already approved in the village, that these proposed 140 homes will bring the total to potentially 232 new homes and, even conservatively only allowing for two people per new home, this will increase the population in Latchingdon by 41% to 1,602 based on 2021 Census figure of 1,138. This increased number will put considerably strain on existing infrastructure and use of services not only in Latchingdon, but in the surrounding villages and Maldon i.e., school places, access to doctors and other essential amenities.

As is the norm with applications like this, access to public transport has not been realistically reported – public transport in the area is an extremely limited service by bus and the nearest train station is a bus or car drive away. Therefore, use of private vehicles, potentially up to 464 (two per each new house), will add to the already congested single lane road through Latchingdon and then flowing through the neighbouring villages which also have single lane roads.

Members would also welcome more detail from the developer on what is meant by 'flexible employment space' and what their definition of 'affordable housing' equates to - as it is proposed to make up 40% of the development.

Planning Decisions: there was just one decision received from MDC for the period from w/e 10th January to w/e 31st January 2025 relating to a property technically in Purleigh, but very close to the boundary between the two Parishes, namely: 24/00742/ FUL Land Adjacent Eastholm, Latchingdon Road, Purleigh: Erection of 1no. dwelling with associated landscaping and ancillary works. MDC approved this new dwelling with a large number of conditions. The Members had recommended refusal.

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

TRUCAM/Speed Checks: these cover both the 30mph and 40mph zones in the village. In January seven offenders were recorded during six patrols over a period of three hours. During these sessions, a speed of 54mph was recorded 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> and includes details of a 'Country-wide campaign to reduce fly tipping and its impact'; 'Advice from Essex Trading Standards, so you can buy with confidence'; 'Devolution & Local Government Reform'; and how to get FREE paint

Air Quality Consultation: a public consultation on a new Essex Air Quality Strategy is now live. More than one in 20 deaths in Essex are estimated to be linked in some part to air pollution and it is the largest environmental risk to public health in the UK. The new strategy has been jointly developed by councils across Essex, Southend and Thurrock through the Essex Air Quality Consortium. It sets out actions to improve air quality and help reduce the impacts of air pollution on people's health. Have your say on the draft Essex Air Quality strategy before Sunday 2 March 2025. The best way to find out more about the strategy is by visiting: www.essexair.org.uk/strategy. Or go straight to the online survey at: <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/essex-highways/essex-air-quality-strategy>

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

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 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>