

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

From the March 2025 Meeting

Planning Applications: There was only one planning application received from Maldon District Council for the Members to consider this month, namely: 25/00158/WTPO PP-13792817 9 Henney Close: T1, T4, T5, T6, T7, T8, T10, T11, T12, T13 T14, T16 - Maple Trees - Crown reduction by 3.5m, T2, T3, T15 - Ash Trees - Crown reduction by 3.5m, T9 - Maple Tree - Remove. The Members had no objections to these works but added the following comment: *"The Parish Council raises no objections to these works providing they are in line with MDC's Tree Officer's recommendations"*.

Planning Decisions: there was just one decision received from MDC for the period from w/e 7th February to w/e 28th February 2025, namely: 24/00962/LDE Wayback Farm, St Stephens Road: Claim for a lawful development certificate for the existing static caravan property that is a residential dwelling and has been used as such for over 10 years. MDC refused this claim as insufficient evidence had been submitted to substantiate the applicant's claim that on the balance of probability that the static caravan has been used as a residential dwelling for a period in excess of 4 years prior to the date of this application. 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

County Councillor Report: Cllr Mrs Fleming spoke to the Members about Devolution, advising that the UK government has confirmed that Essex will be part of its Devolution Priority Programme. This includes Essex County Council, Southend-on-Sea City Council and Thurrock Council. The UK government has also confirmed that the elections scheduled for May this year for Essex County Council and Thurrock Council will be suspended. It is likely that the Mayoral election will be in May 2026 along with Councillor elections.

Devolution: is the transfer of powers and funding from UK government to local authority level, therefore decisions are made closer to the local people, communities and businesses they affect. Devolution would provide greater freedoms and flexibilities for councils to work more effectively to improve public services and outcomes for residents and businesses. For more information please go the ECC web site: <https://www.essex.gov.uk/about-council/plans-and-strategies/our-vision-essex/devolution-and-local-government-1>

A Greater Essex devolution consultation has been launched by the Government to seek views on a proposal to form a Mayoral Combined County Authority for the local government areas in Essex, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock. All those who live and work across Greater Essex are invited to share their views on:

- the proposed geography
- the effect of establishing a Mayoral Combined County Authority in Greater Essex
- how the Mayoral Combined County Authority will make decisions

Link to the consultation:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/greater-essex-devolution>

The consultation will run until Sunday 13 April 2025.

TRUCAM/Speed Checks: these cover both the 30mph and 40mph zones in the village. In February seven offenders were recorded during four patrols over a period of three hours. During these sessions, a speed of 42 mph was recorded in a 30mph 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.

Co-option to the Parish Council: Congratulations to David Myers who was co-opted onto the Council. The Members look forward to welcoming Cllr Myers to his first council meeting.

Villager of the Year 2025: this award was created in 2011 and is an annual award made to an individual, the exception being in 2020 when it was awarded to 'All Cold Norton Residents' as everyone pulled together as a village during COVID lockdowns helping neighbours in a wide variety of ways. There was no award in 2021. In 2024 Jackie Ralph was given the award for setting up the Cold Norton Neighbourhood Watch Group, all whilst she was actually away on a family holiday abroad!! Jackie also set up a dedicated NhW WhatsApp and keeps everyone updated with information and advice from the Police. The Members invite you to put forward nominations for the 2025 title for them to consider at the May Parish Council meeting. The person nominated must live in the village. The presentation will be made at the Annual Parish Meeting in May (date to be confirmed). Nominations please to the Parish Clerk (details at end of Parish Report) by Thursday 1st May 2025.

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

Village Hall: a full conditions survey report of the building was supplied to the Members and a programme of works will now be undertaken on this village amenity.

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

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.

Cowpiece: The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) along with some village residents spent the day at the nature reserve, clearing the paths and cutting back vegetation above the pond, which now has a decent level of water in it; ducks were making good use of the pond, a newt was spotted and a variety of birds were heard singing – altogether a very pleasant and productive day for all the volunteers – thank you to all who helped.

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.

20mph speed limit in St Stephens Road by School: this is now in force.

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 | 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: 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>