

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

From the September 2025 Meeting

Planning Applications: There was just one planning application received from Maldon District Council for the Members to consider this month, namely: 25/00699/WTPO PP-14222958 St Stephens Church, St Stephens Road: (TPO 10/24) T1 Oak – lateral reduction by 2m: the Members had no objections but added the 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 were two planning decisions relating to Cold Norton received from MDC for the period w/e 4th July to 29th August 2025: 25/00490/HOUSE 19 Ferris Avenue: Demolish existing garage & construct a single storey rear extension with fenestration alterations MDC approved these works (the Members of the Parish Council had not objected). 25/00566/WTPO 19 Station Crescent: TPO 4/89 T1 Oak – Crown lift by 2m, crown reduction by 3m and thin crown by 30%. MDC approved these tree works (the Members had not objected).

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

The Planning & Infrastructure Bill: as requested by the Cllrs the Clerk had written to Sir John Whittingdale, the local Member of Parliament regarding this:

“The Cllrs at Cold Norton Parish Council have asked me to write to you regarding The Planning & Infrastructure Bill’ that we understand is making its way through Parliament and would take away the opportunity for local views to be considered.

My Cllrs believe it is very important that local knowledge is taken into account when planning applications for individual or multiple properties are being considered. This is very important in relation to all aspects of planning and especially in regards to larger developments that green spaces are maintained, that the character of local neighbourhoods is respected and the impact of increased traffic is taken into account. Another consideration that may be lost with the proposed bill is when local knowledge isn’t utilised and the local authority involved that the quota for affordable homes or social rented homes and infrastructure (medical facilities, schools etc) is not carried through.

The current system using local planning committees gives local people the opportunity and the right to speak to elected councillors about developments that would impact on their local area.

Please take into account the above when the bill is being debated”

Sir John Whittingdale replied as follows:

“Thank you for your email. I recognise your concerns about calling in planning applications as I agree that it is important that local voices are not ignored.

In general, it is the responsibility of local planning authorities – who know their local area best – to make decisions on planning applications in their area. However, there are times when the Secretary of State, or a Planning Minister on their behalf, considers it necessary to ‘call in’ a planning application and make a decision themselves. This power has previously been

used sparingly, although it can be exercised at any time up to a formal planning decision being issued by a local planning authority.

Called-in planning applications typically raise issues of more than local significance. Once the decision has been taken to call in a planning application, it will typically be subject to a public inquiry overseen by an independent planning inspector who will make recommendations to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State will then decide whether to grant or refuse planning permission, depending on the facts of the case.

I am concerned, however, at the Government's insistence on moving power towards Whitehall and away from local voices. The Government's Planning and Infrastructure Bill has already set out plans for the focus to shift away from local people, and I remain concerned that this trend of greater powers for Whitehall will only continue. I shall watch this matter closely and continue to hold the Government to account on ensuring local communities have their voices heard."

District Councillor Report: Cllr Ms Wiffen was unable to attend this meeting as there was a meeting at MDC, but had supplied a written report for August, which covered the launch of a new community grants funding scheme 'Where Quality of Life Matters Fund' running until 30 November 2025 to support town and parish councils, registered voluntary community or charitable organisations and registered social enterprises in the district. Aim of the scheme is to empower local groups to deliver projects that enhance the wellbeing and quality of life for residents across the district. The report also covered Love Parks Week and free film screenings in Promenade Park in Maldon and Riverside Park in Burnham-on-Crouch.

County Councillor Report: Cllr Mrs Fleming was unable to attend this meeting but had supplied a report advising Members that government funding had been confirmed for the Army & Navy Sustainable Transport Package in Chelmsford. The report also advised changes to funded childcare; that Beaulieu Park Station will be opening earlier than expected in the Autumn; that pothole reports have fallen drastically following major investment in the county's road network (759 pothole reports in June 2025 – lowest since 2022 – 1,637 in January 2025 and 4,049 in January 2024). Also included in the report details of affordable business space at Essex Libraries for businesses of all sizes and the proposed measures to improve road safety on the A414; plus, updates on the proposed new mayoral combined county authority in 2026 and that ECC has confirmed a preference for three unitary councils in Greater Essex in the future.

Cllr Mrs Fleming's full report is available to read on the Cold Norton Parish Council website.

Vacancy for a Councillor: there is one vacancy for a Parish Councillor caused by the resignation of Mr Alex Romang. As no requests for a by-election were received, it is proposed to fill the vacancy by co-option at the Parish Council meeting in November 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 the next Parish Council meeting to gauge what is involved.

Party in the Park 2026: Should there be one? If you were at the 2025 event, do you have any comments or suggestions, or if you weren't there what would you like to see at a future village summer event? Any comments or suggestions can be emailed to the Parish Clerk (or phone) - your details can be kept anonymous. Or come along to the PC meeting on Wednesday 1st October 7.30pm to have your say. Would you like to be involved in the event?

Cold Norton Neighbourhood Watch Group: as reported Cold Norton no longer has a dedicated co-ordinator for Cold Norton's Neighbourhood Watch (NhW). And that temporarily the NhW co-ordinator for Purleigh has very kindly offered to also act as the NhW co-ordinator for Cold Norton. It would be preferable if Cold Norton had its own village-based co-ordinator. If you could take on this role, please contact the Clerk.

Speed Watch: Likewise, there is no longer a co-ordinator for the Cold Norton Speed Watch Team. Can you help with this very important role? Contact the Clerk in the first instance.

Solar Panels at the Village Hall: a FIT payment was received for the period 23rd March to 22nd June 2025.

Flagpoles: at the July Parish Council meeting a resident asked: *"Do flagpoles need planning permission?"*. This query was raised with MDC and the response from the Planning Department was: *"It is advised to submit a Lawful Development Certificate if they want written confirmation from the Planning Department. If the lawful development is refused, they would need formal planning permission."*

Footway opposite Londis: Cllr Mrs Fleming has arranged for this damage caused by lorries etc parking on the footway to be repaired. In order for this not to be damaged again an application will be submitted to South Essex Parking Partnership (SEPP) for double yellow lines to be installed in that area. For the best chance of success, we need to show resident support (by way of your name, address and signature on a form). Please contact the Clerk to make arrangements to sign the petition form (someone can bring the form to your home).

TRUCAM/Speed Checks: these cover both the 30mph and 40mph zones in the village. In June twelve offenders were recorded with a speed of 38mph recorded in a 30mph zone, and 56mph recorded in a 40mph zone. In July ten offenders were recorded with a speed of 55mph 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.

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 or come along to the Village Hall AGM (details above) to have an informal chat.

Village Hall Availability: 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. The main hall and the two other rooms are also available for clubs, classes, indoor sports, lessons – the options are endless. During school term time the main hall is available Friday evenings and all day Saturday and Sunday; during school holidays the main hall is also available during the day and most evenings. The St Stephens Room is available during the day/evening Monday to Friday and weekends, and The Les Barclay Room is available daytime on Fridays and day/evening at weekends. For full details phone 01621 828475 or email: chrisedwards7@hotmail.co.uk

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

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: 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. 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
Please note that Maldon District Council no longer provide green food waste bags.

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>

Maldon & Heybridge Transport & Bus Users Group (MHTBUG): meetings 6th October at Maldon Town Hall and 3rd November at Heybridge Town Council offices. For more information, please contact the Group's Secretary by email: mhtbug.secretary@gmail.com

Supported Local Bus Services Consultation: Essex County Council (ECC) is reviewing its support for 46 local bus services and wants your help to ensure that our future bus network is ready to meet new levels of passenger demand and is providing value for money. ECC is therefore carrying out this public consultation

regarding these local bus services. As set out in the questionnaire, ECC is undertaking a review of local bus services which are paid for by Essex taxpayers. It does not cover services/journeys operated commercially by transport providers. This review covers all 12 districts in Essex with the view of assessing whether to continue providing the service. Please complete the survey online, which closes on Sunday 26th October 2025, by visiting:
<https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/iptu/localbus2025>

Parish Council Meetings in 2025

Wednesdays: 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>