

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

From the October 2025 Meeting

Planning Applications: There was just one planning application received from Maldon District Council this month, not for the Members to consider, but just for information, namely: 25/00782/LDP PP-14288519 Dunromin, Fambridge Road: Claim for a lawful development certificate of a proposed excavation of a site to allow for the construction of an outbuilding housing a swimming pool within the cartilage of a residential dwelling.

Planning Decisions: there was just one planning decision relating to Cold Norton received from MDC for the period w/e 5th September to 26th September 2025: 25/00637/WTPO 26 Station Crescent: TPO 07/00 T24 Oak: Crown reduction by 3m. Prune lateral spread by 2m to balance and shape. Remove dead wood .50mm diameter. T19, T20, T23 Ash: Fell. MDC refused planning permission as there was insufficient arboricultural evidence in the form of a report compiled by a qualified tree surgeon to support the application (the Members had not raised any objections, but added a comment to say, *"providing they are in line with MDC's Tree Officer's recommendations."*).

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

District Councillor Report: Cllr Ms Wiffen was unable to attend this meeting but had supplied a written report for September which advised that MDC had successfully prosecuted a man from Burnham-on-Crouch for the illegal felling of six trees protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). The trees apparently had a combined Capital Asset Value for Amenity Trees (CAVAT) of £197,015. The man was fined £2,533 and ordered to pay a Criminal Courts Surcharge of £1,013 and costs of £1,769.99 – a total financial penalty of £5,315.99. In addition, suitable replacement trees must be planted. Also advised in the report was that the Maldon District Community Safety Partnership has officially rebranded to become the Safer Maldon Partnership. Established under the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act, the partnership has evolved significantly in both scope and focus. The new name reflects the activities and aims of the partnership today; it now works dynamically and strategically across a broader range of safety and wellbeing initiatives. The Safer Maldon Partnership brings together Maldon District Council, Emergency Services, NHS, Probation Service, and Voluntary Sector to tackle issues that affect the safety and resilience of our communities. Activities include tackling anti-social behaviour, supporting domestic abuse survivors, promoting fire safety and crime prevention, and coordinating responses to concerns and issues raised by residents.

County Councillor Report: Cllr Mrs Fleming attended this meeting but had also supplied a report advising Members that over the past year ECC has been using a new system called Roadmender to keep Essex roads free from potholes. Using a highly durable and flexible material, partially made from recycled lorry tyres to repair shallow potholes, this material can be applied up to four times faster than traditional repair methods and the process is also greener. Cllr Fleming's report also included a request to safely dispose of batteries to stop fires starting in bin lorries and at recycling centres. In 2023 batteries were cause of over 1,200 fires at recycling

centres and in waste vehicles. Please recycle batteries at specific battery recycling points i.e. at all ECC recycling centres, most Essex libraries and supermarkets. Cllr Fleming also advised that the Chelmsford Army & navy Roundabout Project has been approved by the Government; the £81million project is also being part funded by ECC and Chelmsford City Council. The report also included a reminder that land/homeowners are responsible for maintaining foliage on their land/property, so it doesn't restrict footways/pavements or reduce sight lines for road traffic.

As bird nesting season is over land/homeowners should carry out work such as:

- *removing overhanging branches that obscure the view of the road*
- *removing overhanging branches that lower the road's clearance for tall vehicles, such as double-decker school buses*
- *trimming or removing trees that are in danger of falling onto the pavement or road*
- *removing overgrown shrubs that block lighting or traffic signs*
- *removing trenches on private property to prevent flooding when it rains*

Another topic included in the report was the National Grid – Norwich to Tilbury Pylons and that ECC concerns remain as it now considers the proposal in detail.

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

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 - apologies the amount was omitted from the September PC report – it was £966.80

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). Many thanks to the residents who have signed the form.

TRUCAM/Speed Checks: these cover both the 30mph and 40mph zones in the village. In August two offenders were recorded with a speed of 48mph 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

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

Football Goal Post: the old goal post at the playing field has been removed but will be replaced ASAP.

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): next meeting is on 3rd November at Heybridge Town Council offices. For more information, please contact the Group's Secretary by email: mhtbug.secretary@gmail.com

Parish Council Meetings in 2025

Wednesdays: 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>