

## **PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

From the February 2026 Meeting

**Planning Applications:** There was just one planning application received from Maldon District Council (MDC) this month for the Members to consider, namely: 25/01093/FUL PP-13624930 Land South of Ferguslie, Honeypot Lane, Stow Maries: Erection of grounds maintenance barn and workshop with associated yard, vehicle parking, storage of materials and landscaping. The Members had no objections and no comments to make.

**Planning Decisions:** there was just one planning decision relating to Cold Norton received from MDC for the period w/e 26<sup>th</sup> December 2025 to 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026, namely: 25/00858/WTPO 24 Station Crescent: (TPO 7/00) T41 Pear - Lateral reduction by 2.5m and height reduction by 3m. Prune tree to balance the shape. T38 Pear - Crown reduction by 2.5m and prune tree to balance shape. MDC approved these works. The Members had not objected to this application.

**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](http://www.maldon.gov.uk)

**District Councillor Report:** Cllr Wiffen was unable to attend the meeting but had provided a report for January advising that the second phase of the 'Secret Garden' in Promenade Park in Maldon had been officially opened, with an additional play area, featuring interactive play boards, natural play elements and a dedicated sensory garden – providing a wider range of inclusive play options for children of all ages. Cllr Wiffen also confirmed that Phase 1 of development works at Blackwater Leisure Centre (BLC) had been completed and the new fitness suite was opened to the public on 2<sup>nd</sup> January – a brand new gym facility including new Pulse Inclusive Fitness accredited equipment, EGYM technology and Smartflex & Speedflex equipment. 50% of the equipment from the old gym is being donated to the Plume Academy. Phase 1 also includes a climbing facility, which will provide a completely new range of exercises, activities and challenges for all ages – fully accessible, plus Places Leisure who operate BLC will run tailored sessions for those with specific access needs. Phase 2 is expected to be completed in April will include the provision of two new group exercise studios, a cycle fitness studio and community space.

District Cllr Ms White was also unable to attend this meeting, but in view of the increase in the number of large planning applications in the Maldon District, had written to the Parish Council advising that the three main issues with fighting these big and contentious planning applications are Flooding/Surface Water, Highways and Ecology. Cllr White has provided some information to guide residents in the right direction to challenge planning applications with these issues. This information sheet can be viewed in the news section on the Cold Norton Parish Council website <https://www.cold-norton.org.uk> or email the Parish Clerk [clerk@cold-norton.org.uk](mailto:clerk@cold-norton.org.uk) for a copy.

**County Councillor Report:** Cllr Mrs Fleming was in attendance at the meeting and advised Members that there is a planning application for 195 new homes in North Fambridge, that the 'Love Your Bus' application for changes to the bus service had been submitted, that ECC will be setting its budget for 2026/27 and due to a shortage

of foster carers ECC is now opening its own children's home, but still need foster carers. Cllr Mrs Fleming also provided a report for January which includes news about ECC receiving a 'Green Rating' from Central Government for its road maintenance and repair; that Safer Essex Roads Partnership (SERP) is responding to concerns in the Maldon District re collision sites and speeding vehicles; that '100 IN 100' has been launched to give young people real insight into the world of work; that Essex has secured £375,000 grant for a community digital skills project. Some of the other topics included in Cllr Fleming's report include 'Social Broadband Tariffs', 'Youth Vaping', 'Driving with Confidence' (free course for older drivers), 'Poppins Bursary' (for new childminders). Cllrs Fleming's report can be viewed in full on the Parish Council web site: <https://www.cold-norton.org.uk/latest-news/ecc-update-january-2026/>

**Sensory Board for Younger Children's Enclosed Play Area:** the Parish Council has been successful in obtaining a Locality Fund Grant from ECC to install a Sensory Board. Thank you to Cllr Fleming who nominated the Parish Council to receive this grant.

**Inconsiderate Parking in St Stephens Road:** occurring at school start and finish times was reported to the Parish Council. The Local Police have been advised and will be making ad hoc visits to monitor and speak to drivers; the school regularly reminds parents/carers to use the village hall car park for parking when dropping off/collecting their children.

**New Residents:** if you have a new neighbour, do please let the Parish Clerk know, so they can be given a footpath map and a copy of the latest Village Appraisal.

**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.

**TRUCAM/Speed Checks:** these cover both the 30mph and 40mph zones in the village. In December four 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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>

#### **Parish Council Meetings in 2026**

Wednesdays: 4<sup>th</sup> March, 1<sup>st</sup> April, 6<sup>th</sup> May, 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 7<sup>th</sup> October, 4<sup>th</sup> November and 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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>