

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

From the March 2026 Meeting

Planning Applications: There was just one planning application received from Maldon District Council (MDC) this month for the Members to consider, namely: 26/00064/FUL PP-14394554 Three Rivers Golf & Country Club, Stow Road: Erection of nine replacement driving range bays and ball machine canopy. The Members had no objections and no comments to make. But the Members also considered a planning application for a large development in North Fambridge, as this will impact on neighbouring villages, namely: 25/01119/OUTM PP-14574871 Land West of Hurndall Avenue North Fambridge: Outline application with all matters reserved other than access for the erection of up to 198 dwellings, provision for non-residential uses comprising of uses within use class E, F1 or F2, with associated open space, allotments and infrastructure. The Members recommended refusal for the following reasons:

This application for a housing development in North Fambridge will also impact on neighbouring parishes/villages, especially in regard to highways and infrastructure.

1. *Highways: as there is a limited train service and an even more limited bus service, potential new residents will be forced to travel by car with a minimum of 198 cars trying to join the single road access to leave the village and then enter the already heavily used Lower Burnham Road (B1012) – the only access road from The Dengie. Contrary to policy T2 (Accessibility) of the Maldon District Local Development Plan, the Maldon District Design Guide SPD and Government guidance as contained within the National Planning Policy Framework.*
2. *Infrastructure concerns: inadequate sewage facility already exists, as does health care provision within the Maldon District – existing practices are at capacity. There is no primary education within North Fambridge, so even young children would have to be transported by car to other village schools which are at capacity. The three nearby senior schools we understand are also at capacity due to new housing developments in this district and the approved large-scale development (c1,200 houses in South Woodham Ferrers) will further exacerbate the situation.*
3. *Environment Impact and effect on wildlife. Contrary to policies N1 & N2 (National Environment & Green Infrastructure) and D2 (Environmental Impact of New Development) of the Maldon District Local Development Plan, the Maldon District Design Guide SPD and Government guidance as contained within the National Planning Policy Framework.*
4. *Flood Risk: this area is projected to be below the annual flood level in 2050 due to climate change, sea level rising and coastal flooding (Source: Climate Central).*

Planning Decisions: technically there were no planning decisions directly relating to properties within the Cold Norton Parish council area for the period of w/e 6th February and w/e 6th March 2026, but below are planning applications that either Cold Norton PC was consulted on or are relevant to Cold Norton due to proximity or impact the proposed application could have on Cold Norton:

25/00432/OUT Eastholme Latchingdon Road Purleigh: Outline application with all matters reserved for a self-build replacement dwelling house. MDC approved this application (CNPC was consulted on this and recommended approval).

The next decision advised was for information only:

26/00047/NMA Land Adjacent Eastholm, Latchingdon Road, Purleigh: Application for non-material amendment following grant of Planning Permission 24/00742/FUL (Erection of 1no. dwelling with associated landscaping and ancillary works) Amendment sought: Amend the size of skylight above the front door to be smaller in size. MDC approved these amendments. The last decision advised for information was:

25/00926/SOR Land South West Of Hogwell Farm, Hogwell Chase, Stow Maries:

Request for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Opinion for residential development for up to 1,770 dwellings. MDC advised that an EIA is required. Cold Norton Parish Council did submit concerns re this proposed development (as included in the December Beacon report covering the November PC meeting available to view on the CNPC website; all comments from other Parishes and other consultees can be viewed on the MDC website)

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 Wiffen was unable to attend the meeting but had provided a report for February advising that MDC had agreed its 2026/27 budget, which would represent an average rise at Band D of 13p per week/£6.76 per annum. Cllr Wiffen pointed out that although MDC is responsible for collecting the entirety of the council tax, that the majority of these funds are allocated to other areas of local government. There will now be a more reliable and convenient way to recycle unwanted clothing and textiles with the introduction of a bookable doorstep collection service. There will be a banking hub in Maldon; its temporary home will be at MDC offices until Cash Access UK finalise the hub's permanent premises. The hub at MDC will be open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm and will provide counter services for customers of all major banks, cash withdrawals and deposits, balance enquiries, bill payments and change-giving for businesses. Bankers for different banks will also attend on set days to offer more specific account support.

County Councillor Report: Cllr Mrs Fleming was in attendance at the meeting; the Members and Cllr Fleming discussed the possibility of reviving the Cold Norton Speed Watch Group in conjunction with Stow Maries; the absence of 'bus flags' to indicate the official stops in Cold Norton and the condition of the footway opposite Londis. Cllr Fleming had also supplied a report for February that included information relating to free borrowable blood pressure monitors from local libraries, that ECC budget is proposing a 3.95% increase of which 2% goes to the Adult Social Care Precept with 1.95% general increase. Some of the other topics in the report include the 'Connect to Work Programme', apprenticeships, free SEND support and advice for parents with children needing extra support, more funding for buses and details of special social Broadband tariffs for eligible people. Cllr 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/>

Solar Panels at the Village Hall: a FIT payment of £277.44 was received for the period 1st October 2025 to 27th December 2025.

Village of the Year: 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 2025 Alex Romang was given the award for all his work over many years in the village, at the village hall and the parish council allotments. Alex is also responsible for ensuring that 'Tommy' is kept in good condition and put into position for Remembrance Sunday and other special anniversaries. The Members invite you to put forward nominations for the 2026 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 on Thursday 21st May. Nominations please to the Parish Clerk (details at end of Parish Report) by Monday 4th May 2026.

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.

TRUCAM/Speed Checks: these cover both the 30mph and 40mph zones in the village. In January eight offenders were recorded with a speed of 58mph recorded in a 40mph zone. In February there were three captures with an alarming 77mph recorded in a 40mph zone – the Police are aware of this particular case and will making additional speed checks. 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

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>

Parish Council Meetings in 2026

Wednesdays: 30th March (1st of April meeting had to be brought forward), 6th May, 3rd June, 1st July, 2nd September, 7th October, 4th November and 2nd December.

Annual Parish Meeting: will be held on Thursday 21st May 2026 at 8pm in The Les Barclay Room at the Village Hall. All Parish & Town Councils throughout England are required by law to hold an Annual Parish Meeting between 1st March & 1st June each year. The purpose of this meeting is so that the Parish Council can explain what it has been doing over the last year and it enables the electors to have their say on anything which they consider is important to the people of Cold Norton. Following the reports and question time, refreshments will be served to allow more time for individual discussion with the various representatives present and with your friends and neighbours from Cold Norton.

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 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>