

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

From the April 2026 Meeting (NB held on 30<sup>th</sup> March)

**Planning Applications:** There were two planning applications received from Maldon District Council (MDC) this month for the Members to consider, namely:

26/00138/OUTM PP-14674327 Land South of Threeways and 45 The Street

Latchingdon: Outline planning application with all matters reserved except for means of access, for up to 140 no. dwellings (Use Class C3) including 40% affordable housing; new site access and internal access roads; a new village centre (Use Class E()); flexible employment space (Use Class E); car and cycle parking; landscaping; sustainable urban drainage systems; public open space and footpaths; community woodlands and allotments; together with associated infrastructure. The Members noted that this is a resubmission of planning application 24/01004 which was refused by MDC and then the planning appeal was dismissed and outline planning permission was refused by The Planning Inspector. The Members recommended refusal citing the same concerns as for the application submitted under reference 24/01004, namely:

*Concerns relating to the following which need addressing/considered by the developer:*

1. *Traffic*
2. *School places*
3. *Drainage*
4. *Health facilities*
5. *Education*
6. *Local transport*

*Concern is that with the 92 x new homes already approved in the village, that these proposed 140 homes will bring the total to potentially 232 new homes and, even conservatively only allowing for two people per new home, this will increase the population in Latchingdon by 41% to 1,602 based on 2021 Census figure of 1,138. This increased number will put considerably strain on existing infrastructure and use of services not only in Latchingdon, but in the surrounding villages and Maldon i.e., school places, access to doctors and other essential amenities.*

*As is the norm with applications like this, access to public transport has not been realistically reported – public transport in the area is an extremely limited service by bus and the nearest train station is a bus or car drive away. Therefore, use of private vehicles, potentially up to 464 (two per each new house), will add to the already congested single lane road through Latchingdon and then flowing through the neighbouring villages which also have single lane roads.*

*Members would also welcome more detail from the developer on what is meant by 'flexible employment space' and what their definition of 'affordable housing' equates to - as it is proposed to make up 40% of the development.*

The second application considered was: 25/00157/FUL PP-14750211 Caravan at Toad Hall, Station Road: proposed new 3 bed dwelling with associated parking and landscaping. The Members recommended refusal for this application as it is outside the development boundary and is plot splitting.

There was a third application considered by Members which was received from Chelmsford City Council: 26/00330/REM Land North of South Woodham Ferrers, Burnham Road, South Woodham Ferrers: Application for the approval of reserved

matters (layout, scale, appearance, and landscaping) pursuant to outline planning permission 22/00311/OUT, comprising 190 residential dwellings (Use Class C3), internal roads, public open space (including children's play space and SuDS), allotments, and a pumping station, together with associated landscaping and car parking. Members recommended refusal as in conjunction with other developments in the area, will further exacerbate the already concerning issues relating to transport, healthcare and infrastructure and that Willow Close is not suitable for traffic

**Planning Decisions:** there was just one planning decision advised by MDC relating to properties in the Cold Norton Parish Council area for the period of w/e 13<sup>th</sup> March and w/e 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026, namely: 25/00993/FUL Three Rivers Golf & Country Club: Erection of steel posts to support raised safety netting along pre-existing fence line forming driving range boundary. MDC approved these 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](http://www.maldon.gov.uk)

**District Councillor Report:** Cllr Ms Wiffen was in attendance at the meeting, the Members and Cllr Wiffen mainly discussed planning issues. Cllr Wiffen had also submitted a report for March advising that dredging at Hythe Quay started mid-March to remove build-up of silt to enable safer access to the Quay for all vessels. This work is expected to be completed in mid-May, subject to weather and tide conditions. To facilitate the dredging work the visitor pontoon will be removed and taken away for maintenance works. Once the dredging work is completed the pontoon will be reinstated. The report also confirmed that the banking hub at MDC Offices was now fully operational. There is now a 'Bleed Kit' at the MDC Offices. Works continue at Blackwater Leisure Centre to provide upgraded and improved facilities for the public; during this time there will be temporary changes to opening hours. MDC has formally renewed its commitment to supporting the Armed Forces Community by signing its new Armed Covenant Pledge. The Armed Forces Covenant is a nationwide promise ensuring that those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces and their families are treated fairly and face no disadvantage in their daily lives. It brings together local authorities, businesses, charities and communities to recognise and value the contribution of serving personnel, reservists, veterans and their families.

**County Councillor Report:** Cllr Mrs Fleming was in attendance at the meeting and advised that Maldon Town Council are preparing a Neighbourhood Plan, successful outcome of the Bus Grants and the Government's decision that Essex is to have five Unitary Authorities. The Members raised the issue of the large number of homes being imposed upon Essex by the Government and questioned what ECC is doing regarding this as there are serious infrastructure implications especially in relation to Highways matters. It was suggested that concerns are raised with local Members of Parliament Sir John Whittingdale and Dame Priti Patel.

Cllr Fleming had also supplied a report for March that included information relating to 'Supported Lodgings' – for residents who can offer a spare room for a young person 16+ to help them gain essential life skills including budgeting, cooking and planning for their future. For more information email: [fosterrecruitment@essex.gov.uk](mailto:fosterrecruitment@essex.gov.uk) or telephone: 0800 801 530. ACL Essex Poppins Bursary can help with startup costs and training for new childminders; email: [poppinsbursary@essex.gov.uk](mailto:poppinsbursary@essex.gov.uk) to find out

more. Also, in the report what to do about flooding, how to report a blockage in a water course and how to become a Riverwatch volunteer. Information relating to COMMUNITY 360 SOCIAL CAR SCHEME – a volunteer led transport service which connects local volunteer drivers with people in their communities who need help getting to essential appointments etc. Volunteers use their own cars and are fully supported under the COMMUNITY 360 umbrella, with training, insurance cover and mileage costs are paid. If you want to use this service or want to become a volunteer driver, contact the COMMUNITY 360 Transport team on 01206 216600 or email: [ct@community360.org.uk](mailto:ct@community360.org.uk)

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/>

**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 21<sup>st</sup> May. Nominations please to the Parish Clerk (details at end of Parish Report) by Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

**Buses 'Love Your Bus' Grant:** the two applications that will benefit Cold Norton residents were both successful with the extension to the No.99 service providing a through service to South Woodham Ferrers (ASDA, Railway Station and SWF Medical Centre). Provisional timetable and route map will be posted on the Cold Norton Parish Council website within the news section.

**Public Footpaths:** due to events at Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome certain Public Rights of Way will be temporarily closed from 24<sup>th</sup> May to 13<sup>th</sup> September 2026. Paths involved are Cold Norton FP3, FP4 and FP5 and Purleigh footpaths FP11 and FP13 – full details will be posted on Cold Norton noticeboards and on the website within the news section.

**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 March two offenders were recorded with a speed of 38mph recorded in a 30mph zone and 46mph 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)

**Village Hall Management Committee AGM:** Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026 11.45am.

**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: 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.

**Annual Parish Meeting:** will be held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> March & 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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>