

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

From the July 2026 Meeting

Planning Applications: there were details of only two planning applications received from Maldon District Council (MDC) this month. The first was 26/00360/LDE PP-14936639 Beacon Hill House, Latchingdon Road: claim for a lawful development certificate for retention of an outbuilding for use as a hobby room incidental to the existing residential dwelling. MDC had advised that the District Council, in determining this application, will not be able to consider the planning merits of the development, i.e. in context of the policies of the Development Plan, but solely whether the applicant can prove that 'on the balance of probability' the factual evidence available demonstrates that the development is lawful for the required period. The required period for a use/activity, breach of a planning condition, for operational development or occupation of a building as a single dwelling house is 10 years. Unlike normal planning applications, the planning merits of the use, operation or activity are not relevant. As the Parish Council does not have any knowledge that supports or contradicts the submitted evidence, no comments have been submitted to MDC. The second application received was: 26/00157/FUL PP-14750211 Caravan at Toad Hall, Station Road: Subdivision of land into two plots; northern plot for re-siting of caravan (Class C1 use) and the creation of a new vehicular access onto Station Road, southern plot for erection of a new dwelling (Class C3 use) with associated parking and landscaping. This application had been amended by the submission of revised proposal and plans/information documents. MDC had advised that the previous comments that the PC had made would be taken to apply unless the PC advised otherwise. The Members were all in agreement that the original recommendation of refusal remains as reasons were still valid, i.e. that it is outside the development boundary and plot splitting. Therefore, no further comments were submitted to MDC.

Planning Decisions: there were three planning decision advised by MDC relating to properties in the Cold Norton Parish Council area for the period of w/e 5 June to w/e 26 June 2026, namely: 25/01093/FUL Land at Three Rivers Golf & Country Club, Stow Road: Erection of grounds maintenance barn and workshop with associated yard, vehicle parking, storage of materials and landscaping, accessed from Honeypot Lane. MDC approved these works with twenty conditions (the Members had not objected). The second decision advised related to: 25/00649/FUL Land at 15 Latchingdon Road: demolition of existing outbuildings; erection of new dwelling with associated parking and landscaping. MDC refused this application (the Members of Cold Norton Parish Council had recommended refusal). The last decision relating to a property in the Cold Norton Parish Council area was: 26/00254/WTPO 26 Station Road: (TPO 07/00) T19 & T20 Ash - Fell to ground level. T3,T6,T8,T10,T25 Ash - Crown reduction by 3.5m. MDC approved these works (the Members had not objected). In addition, there was another decision that technically comes under Purleigh Parish Council, but is for a property along Latchingdon Road, namely: 25/01002/RES Land at The Brambles, Latchingdon Road: Reserved matters application for the approval of access, appearance, layout and scale on approved planning application 25/00186/OUT (Outline application with all matters reserved for the erection of 1no dwelling). MDC refused (the Members had not commented on 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

Climate & Nature Crisis - People's Emergency Briefing: in November 2025, the National Emergency Briefing brought together leading UK scientists and experts to present the latest evidence on the climate and nature crisis to politicians and other influential people in Westminster and its effect on extreme weather, food security. Biodiversity loss, health and cost of living. The film 'People's Emergency Briefing' is based on the National Emergency Briefing and sets out the risks facing the nation and the credible, positive responses available, in a clear and accessible account. The film, with appearances from Chris Packham, Deborah Meaden, Jennifer Saunders and a range of people from across the UK, is being shown all over the country - visit the website for details of local screenings <https://www.nebriefing.org/the-film> and also to read the briefings from the experts presented in full as part of the public record.

The Parish Council is keen to find ways that Cold Norton can do its bit to help nature recovery. There are many simple tasks that individuals, household and communities can do that will make a difference detailed in a leaflet called THIRTY FOR 30 to encourage taking actions between now and 2030. Please contact the Clerk for a copy.

District Councillor Report: Cllr Ms Wiffen's report for June advised that MDC has announced that UFest will return to Promenade Park on Friday 14 August 2026 – UFest is a FREE community festival to celebrate life, health and wellbeing with a day full of entertainment, activities and chances to learn something new. An event for all ages, open to all in the Maldon District – live music, interactive stalls, games, sports and activities run by local groups and organisations. Cllr Wiffen's report also advised that there had been a public survey to gather views on the future of the Maldon Museum and the potential development of an Arts & Culture Centre at Promenade Park. The Maldon Museum is an important part of the district's heritage, but it requires investment and updating to increase its relevance and appeal to visitors. Additionally, as part of the Council's wider consideration of options for the site, they are also exploring whether an Arts and Culture Centre could provide a flexible space for; exhibitions, workshops, performances, public talks and community-led displays, complementing the Museum's core offer.

FREE Children's events in Cold Norton: Green Space Games will be bringing physical activities, outdoor games and arts & crafts to Cold Norton on Thursday 6th August and Monday 17th August 10am to 12noon. Sessions are open to all families with children aged 3-11 years old. Places for children must be booked and there are only 50 child spaces per session (nearly half of which had already been booked at time of writing this report on 17 July) You can bring as many adults as you like to stay and play with you! Details on booking, dates, locations and timings can be found on the Maldon & District Community Voluntary Service events page - <https://maldoncvsvs.org.uk/events>

Vacancy on the Parish Council: there is one vacancy for a Parish Councillor caused by the resignation of Mr Brian Haydon. If no requests for a by-election have been received by 24th July 2026, (this report was written on 17 July) the vacancy will be filled by co-option at the Parish Council meeting in October 2026. This vacancy is

for a position on the Council only 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 strongly suggest that if interested you attend the next Parish Council meeting on 2nd September to gauge what is involved and to meet the Councillors.

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.

TRUCAM/Speed Checks: these cover both the 30mph and 40mph zones in the village. In June ten offenders were recorded with a speed of 53mph 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. The members of the current committee all stood down at the end of July after many, many years – grateful thanks to Alex Romang, Chris Edwards and Sue Garnham for all their hard work. The five roles to be filled are: Chairman, Treasurer, Booking Clerk, Secretary and 100 Club Organiser (some of the roles can be combined as at present, but this is very flexible). For more information, please contact Mrs Joanne Luck on 07871 167634 or email: joanneluck@gmx.com

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 Mrs Joanne Luck on 07871 167634 or email: joanneluck@gmx.com

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: the village shop, Londis, is a stockist, 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.

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: 2nd September, 7th October, 4th November and 2nd December.

To contact the Parish Council: please email the Parish Clerk (Maria Dyer) at 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>