

NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held at Park View School, Lombard Drive, Chester-le-Street on Tuesday 19th April 2016.

PRESENT: Chairman: Cllr. David Snaith.
Councillors: Margaret Caygill, Elsie Forrester, Maureen May,
Carole Walton, Colin Noble-Nesbitt, John Waugh.

County Councillor: Peter May.

Clerk: David Murrell.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm with the Chairman welcoming everyone.

Item 1. 16/35 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Jackie Martin and Dennis Hall.

Item 2. 16/36 Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Margaret Caygill declared an interest as a Governor of Park View School.

Item 3. 16/37 Report of the County Councillor

The Chairman invited County Councillor Peter May to give his report which included matters contained in his written report attached (Appendix 1). Re the proposed new public footpaths, these were supported by Councillors subject to a short additional path that was also suggested. Cllr. Colin Noble-Nesbitt is to liaise with the County Councillor on this matter. Re the accident on North Road, Cllr. Margaret Caygill is to approach Park View School with the various concerns expressed by Councillors.

The Chairman thanked the County Councillor for his report.

Item 4. 16/38 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 15th March 2016, draft copies of which had been previously circulated, were adopted as a true and accurate record of the Meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

Item 5. 16/39 Chairman's Report

a) Re Minute 16/26 section 3). Re overhanging vegetation on the footpath between North Road and Lyndhurst Avenue, County Cllr. May advised that he had requested the County Council to inspect this but he had heard nothing in reply.

b) Re Minute 16/28 section a). Re noise from the Coveris factory, the County Council had advised that noise level tests were due to be carried out shortly by an independent specialist consultancy. Concerns re noise intrusion continued to be expressed to the County Council by several residents.

c) Re Minute 16/30 section 3d). Re the bus shelters survey report, the Clerk advised that one shelter roof required attention. The Surveyor had also recommended that all shelter concrete roofs should be inspected by a specialist to determine current condition and the best way to extend life expectancy. The Clerk is to contact the County Council to see if a recommendation can be given for a specialist to carry out this work. Cllr. John Waugh also kindly agreed to provide a possible contact.

d) Re Minute 16/31. Re welcome signs, the Clerk advised that Cllr. John Waugh had kindly provided a mock-up of the proposed sign. This had been forwarded to the County Council for their approval. A reply was awaited.

Item 6. 16/40 Portfolio Holders' Reports

a) Crime and Community Safety

Cllr. Jackie Martin had provided a written report (Appendix 2, attached) and, in her absence, this was read out by the Clerk.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Martin for providing the report and invited Cllr. John Waugh to give his report.

b) Finance

Cllr. John Waugh advised Councillors of the present bank balances, cheques for substantial amounts having been issued recently for flower beds and tree lights.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Waugh for his report and invited Cllr. Colin Noble-Nesbitt to give his report.

c) Highways and Website

Cllr. Colin Noble-Nesbitt's report included the following matters.

1) The new dog waste bin had been installed by the County Council at the agreed site at Picktree Lodge but shortly afterwards had been moved elsewhere in the Picktree Lodge area. The County Council had been asked to explain why the bin had been re-sited and a reply was awaited.

2) Re the proposed provision of adult exercise equipment at Merlin Drive, Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt advised that research was continuing.

3) Re the website, the County Council had advised that they were in the process of developing a new template. Having taken out a Service Level Agreement with the County Council, the Parish Council would be one of the first to move to a new site.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt for his report and invited Cllrs. Maureen May and Carole Walton to give their report.

d) Horticulture

Cllr. Maureen May gave the report which included the matters contained in the written report attached (Appendix 3).

Re the Environment Caretaker project, previously approved in principle, Cllr. M. May provided a detailed proposal. This was discussed by Councillors and agreed.

(Resolved - to approve the appointment of an Environment Caretaker under the terms of the Litter Picker proposal contained in the report).

Re the flower beds budget, the prices quoted by the County Council would require an increase of £32.54 in the horticulture budget for 2016 / 2017.

(Resolved - to increase the horticulture budget for 2016 / 2017 to £10052.54).

Re the diamond beds at Picktree Lodge, Councillors agreed that the two beds should be re-planted and maintained by the County Council at a cost of £839 per bed. However, funding for this is to be in addition to the horticulture budget discussed above and is subject to the approval by the Area Action Partnership of a Neighbourhood Budget application presently being submitted by the Parish Council.

(Resolved on a unanimous show of hands - to approve the re-planting of the two diamond shaped flower beds at Picktree Lodge, subject to funding conditions being achieved).

The Chairman thanked Cllrs. May and Walton for their report.

e) Planning

Cllr. David Snaith advised that there were no matters to report.

The Chairman invited Cllr. Margaret Caygill to give her report.

f) Play Areas

Cllr. Margaret Caygill's report included the following matters.

1) In view of the recent accident on North Road, Cllr. Caygill proposed that the Council should request that the speed limit there be reduced.

(Resolved on a show of hands - that no request should be made for a reduced speed limit on the 40mph length of North Road).

2) At Merlin Drive play area, the equipment was in order. Two trees appeared to have died. It was agreed to leave the trees until the spring to see if they recover. If not, they are to be removed. Two tree stumps were pushing the motorway fence out of shape. The Clerk is to contact Highways England to request that the stumps be removed.

3) At Low Flatts play area, the equipment was in order. Arrangements were in hand for the County Council to install the refurbished seat. Cuttings appeared to have taken root where they had been planted to fill the gap in the hedge.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Caygill for her report and invited Cllr. Elsie Forrester to give her report.

g) Publicity

Cllr. Forrester's report included the matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 4).

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Forrester for her report.

Item 7. 16/41 Correspondence

1) From a Resident

Enquiry re status of land at Arizona Chemical and the former BOC site.

2) From Community Lincs Insurance Services

Insurance renewal papers.

3) From Npower Ltd

Letters, amended invoices and credit notes re incorrect rate of VAT applied to bills.

4) From Durham County Council

a) Email re Statement of Community Involvement 2016.

b) Remittance Advice re Precept 2016 / 2017.

5) Various planning applications, approvals and refusals from Durham County Council, of which the following were within North Lodge Parish:-

a) Application for erection of chamber to ground floor and flue within roofline, at 5 Lintfort.

b) Approval for use of land without complying with condition 1 (temporary consent) of planning permission 2/13/00135/FUL to allow the permanent use of the land as residential caravan site for gypsies and travellers, at 15 Drum Lane Traveller Site.

Item 8. 16/42 Neighbourhood Plans

Councillors discussed the advantages of producing a Neighbourhood Plan and also discussed the skill sets and processes required to successfully produce a Plan. Cllr. David Snaith is to contact the Council County Planning Department to request a presentation from them.

Item 9. 16/43 Tree Lights Event

Councillors agreed to carry over this item to the next meeting.

Item 10. 16/44 Planning for the Newsletter

Cllr. Colin Noble-Nesbitt advised that he and his wife had kindly agreed to produce the draft of this year's Newsletter. Councillors expressed their thanks to Cllr. and Mrs. Noble-Nesbitt. Items for inclusion in the Newsletter are to be delivered to Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt by Friday 6th May 2016.

Item 11. 16/45 Payment of Accounts

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£483.35	Salaries April 2016	
Expenses	£ 80.00	Expenses April 2016	
Durham County Pension Fund	£140.11	Pensions April 2016	
Pot-It-On	£366.96	Horticulture/Bus Shelters April 2016	
D. Murrell (via Sainsbury's)	£ 15.00	Computer Mouse	£2.50

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 12. 16/46 Other Matters for Information

There were no other matters submitted.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.56pm.

North Lodge Parish Council

Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held on Tuesday 19th April 2016.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£483.35	Salaries April 2016	
Expenses	£ 80.00	Expenses April 2016	
Durham County Pension Fund	£140.11	Pensions April 2016	
Pot-It-On	£366.96	Horticulture/Bus Shelters April 2016	
D. Murrell (via Sainsbury's)	£ 15.00	Computer Mouse	£2.50

Balance to 31st March 2016

Balance b/f	£28215.57	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - March 16	<u>£ 6236.16</u>		Current £ 239.64
	£21979.41		30 Day <u>£21922.35</u>
			Total £22161.99
Add Bank Interest Received	<u>£ 15.47</u>	Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£ 167.11</u>
Balance c/f	£21994.88		£21994.88

North Lodge Parish Council Report April 2016

County Councillor Peter May

County Durham Plan update.

Attended a members briefing on the plan which is likely to take about 2 years to fruition.

The Planners will give an outline on what they envisage the elements of the plan to look like i.e. various options to the Cabinet 15 June 2016.

This report will not give exact details of where housing etc. will go but just a general outline of what is needed in various areas.

If the Cabinet agrees the report then Planners will start a more robust process which will involve public consultation.

Hopefully by December the Planners will deliver a report containing their preferred options.

Proposed Dedicated Rights of Way Footpath in North Lodge Consultation.

I have been asked to give my opinion of a proposed public right of way along the Baffle Bank to the bottom of Lombard Drive with access from Merlin Drive.

A map will be presented to the Parish Council for their comments which I will give to the Council by May 3rd

The proposals are just to have the paths registered on the official public rights of way records to protect them for the future. Registration would mean that DCC would signpost them but there aren't other plans for improvements.



IAN THOMPSON
CORPORATE DIRECTOR
REGENERATION AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY HALL
DURHAM DH1 5UQ

**Proposed Dedication of
Public Footpath
(North Lodge Footpath
No.s 31, 32 & 33)**

Footpaths to be created

DCC Land

Scale 1: 3,000

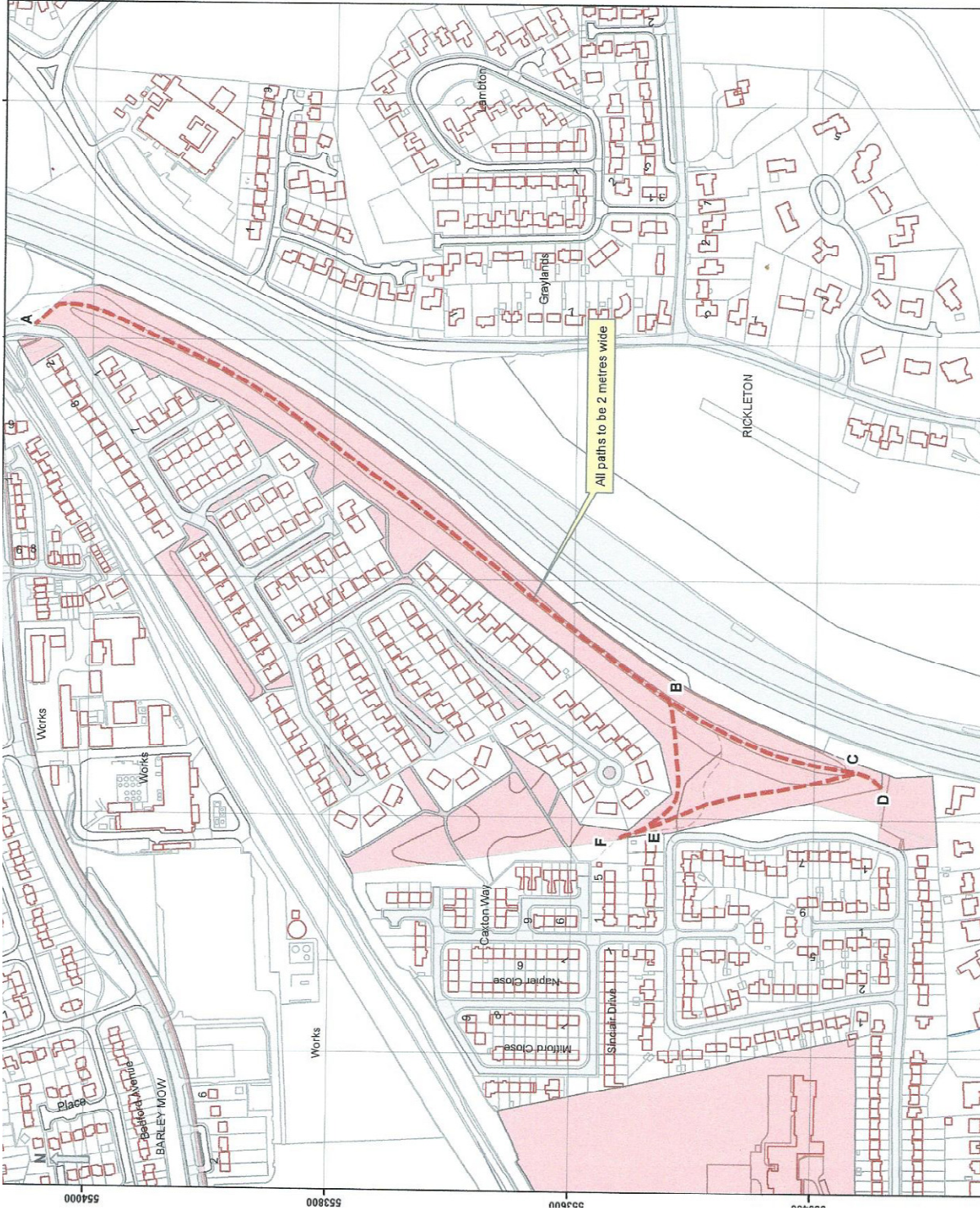
Date: 14 April 2016

**Public Rights of Way
not affected by the proposals:**

Footpath ---
Bridleway |---|---|---|---|
Byway ^---^---^---^---^---^
Adopted Highway

Postcode: DH3 4DH
DH3 4DQ

Plan 4 North Lodge



Chief Executive of the Council Terry Collins is restructuring the Executive Management Team and will report on the new structure in May

Meanwhile the most senior officer in charge of children and adults services at Durham County Council is to take up a new post as Chief Executive of Buckinghamshire County Council. Rachael Shimmin joined Durham's Corporate Management Team in 2006 with specific responsibilities for adult care, social inclusion, the interface with health, culture and libraries and community safety.

Have your say on getting involved in planning

A consultation on how people can get involved in Durham County Council's planning process started 15 April

The Statement of Community Involvement sets out how individuals, local communities and other interested parties can play a part in all aspects of planning, from commenting on applications to being part of a neighbourhood planning forum for their area.

It also explains how the council will consult on the County Durham Plan as well as providing advice to town and parish councils on involving local people and groups in the preparation of neighbourhood plans.

People can find out more and take part at www.durham.gov.uk/consultation.

Coveris Noise Assessment

This situation is still ongoing with residents asking for more information regarding the levels of noise monitoring that will be done.

I have asked Oliver Sherratt to get involved and this appears to have galvanised the Environmental team. A company is starting to monitor the noise when the most advantages time happens but the frustration is that they don't appear to be interested in asking residents when the noise is worse.

Residents are concerned that because the noise is often intermittent it will be missed. We have also asked for all noise from the plant to be monitored not just from the extractors. This includes loading and offloading lorries.

I believe that this factory was never built as a manufacturing facility and therefor is not as well insulated as it could be. I have pointed this out to the Environment team.

I have advised the residents not to get involved with TV or the press in any great way as this might prove detrimental to the area – re housing prices etc.

Roundabout on A167/Picktree Lane – traffic is dangerous – email to John Reed at DCC

Hello John

unfortunately the "improvements" to the A167 roundabout at the junction of Picktree Lane and Park Road North have made it dangerous to access.

Vehicles wishing move from Park Road North on to the A167 to Durham have no way of knowing whether a car will turn in to Park Road North or go towards the motorway.

Unfortunately especially during peak periods due to tailbacks on Park Road North some vehicles are using Broadway and then Hadrian Avenue as a rat run.

The bottom of Hadrian Avenue is already a bottleneck with residents plagued with indiscriminately parked and speeding vehicles. It is a very dangerous area for residents trying to reverse out of their drives.

The Reply

Peter

Thank you for your email regarding the Picktree Roundabout and road safety issues on Hadrian Avenue.

Picktree Roundabout

As you are aware we have recently completed significant works to the junction with the A1 (M) motorway with relatively minor works to Picktree Roundabout. The works to Picktree roundabout were principally to widen the south eastern corner of the roundabout to three lanes to assist the expected increased rate of traffic leaving the motorway and heading south. The majority of the roundabout was unchanged especially in relation to traffic heading north and east.

With regard to the roundabout access from Park Road North only a very minor improvement was introduced to widen the junction to two lanes. This work was undertaken following observations that vehicles regularly overran the existing verge and footway. The intention of the widening was simply to assist the small number of motorists turning left and to reduce further maintenance liabilities by eliminating damage to the verge and footway.

I appreciate the queues of vehicles can form for vehicles wishing to exit Park Road North simply as a result of the volume of traffic heading towards the motorway on the A167. However, this queuing existed prior to the recent changes to the roundabout and no significant changes have been introduced for vehicles making this manoeuvre.

In terms of lane marking it is essential that both lanes heading north on the A167 are utilised by vehicles heading towards the motorway as this is the predominant flow.

If you would like to discuss further please contact Dave Wafer, Strategic Traffic Manager, on telephone number 03000 263577 or by email at dave.wafer@durham.gov.uk

Hadrian Avenue

We have checked the accident recording database shared with Durham Constabulary I can thankfully report no 'personal injury' accidents on Hadrian Avenue in the past 4 years, this being our standard search criteria. This represents a favourable accident trend when compared to many other locations within the County.

Regretfully, car ownership is increasing at unsustainable levels nationally resulting in the type of problems you are witnessing being a common occurrence upon the highway network.

The principal purpose of a highway is to facilitate the passage and re-passage of road users. As car ownership has increased, parking on-street is often tolerated having become the norm countrywide on the principle of 'first come, first served' providing the manner of parking does not cause obstruction to other road users.

Durham Constabulary has powers available to deal with motorists that are causing an obstruction to other road users. However, the offence of 'parking causing unnecessary obstruction' is extremely subjective requiring a Police Officer to consider discretion / judgement when dealing with such matters. Notwithstanding this, parking opposite a driveway is not considered an obstruction even though it may make it more difficult to use the driveway.

The presence of parked vehicles together with traffic calming does help in keeping vehicle speeds down on Hadrian Avenue. Traffic calming along with the entry restriction was previously introduced to reduce the volume of traffic using this route as a 'rat run'.

As part of our partnership approach to improving road safety, joint working with Durham Constabulary, has enabled us to introduce an initiative known as 'Community Speed Watch'. This initiative has been very successful elsewhere in the County and nationally.

Under the Community Speed Watch initiative, all speeding complaints are directed towards Durham Constabulary and their Police and Communities Together (PACT) Meetings, enabling the appropriate level of intervention and action to be considered. The next PACT meeting is to be held on 3 May 2016 at 7:00pm at Chester-Le-Street Library, Station Road, Chester-Le-Street should you wish to attend. Further details can be found on the Durham Constabulary web site:

[https://www.durham.police.uk/Your-Neighbourhood/Chester-le-Street/Pages/Chester-Central-\(Front-Street\).aspx](https://www.durham.police.uk/Your-Neighbourhood/Chester-le-Street/Pages/Chester-Central-(Front-Street).aspx)

Or by contacting your local Neighbourhood Policing Team on the non-emergency 101 telephone number.

If you would like to discuss further please contact David Battensby, Traffic Asset Senior Engineer, on telephone number 03000 263681 or by email at david.battensby@durham.gov.uk

Best regards

John John Reed Head of Technical Services Neighbourhood Service Durham County Council

Dropped curbs

Please will the Parish Council furnish me with information as to where there is needed dropped curbs at road junctions to enable easy wheelchair/pram access? I wish to spend capital in this area.

New Paths Flooding

I have asked for an inspection of the new paths at the entrance of Lombard Drive – reports of flooding

Tall Trees 5 Caxton Way

I have asked Robbie Aberdeen of Martin Briscoe's team to have a look at these trees and offer some advice on either their removal or reduction.

Robbie has seen the trees and has spoken to the local residents. As the trees are not on Council land he can do nothing.

North Road speed limits copy of email sent to Oliver Sherratt 12/04/16

Hello Oliver

North Road has a speed limit of 30 - 40 - 30

The 40 mph runs past the school and the main crossing point of the road. Also it passes the junction of Lombard Drive, the main access point of both the school and a large housing estate.

For years I have asked for this road to be a uniform 30 mph for road safety reasons and have been supported by the Parish Council and Residents Association. It just does not make sense to have the fastest part past the school.

Children often do not use the crossing point and this morning a young boy was knocked down by a car. Luckily his injuries do not appear serious.

Please can you help us to get a maximum speed of 30 mph along the full length of North Road and to perhaps have some flashing warning lights when the school is opening/closing.

Your help will be gratefully appreciated Best wishes Peter

The Reply

Sent on behalf of Oliver Sherratt - Corporate Director - Neighbourhood Services

Dear Councillor May

Thank you for your email dated 12th April 2016 regarding the speed limits along the A167 North Road in Chester-Le-Street.

A167 North Road

The entire length of the A167 was subject to a speed limit review in the mid 2000's following the release at the time of new guidance from the Department for Transport on the setting of local speed limits. There have been no significant changes to the road environment in this location since the review was completed. Notwithstanding the improvement to Northlands roundabout within the 30mph section in 2014/15 which also provided improved crossing facilities for pedestrians. The section of 40mph speed limit has no direct frontage development, wide verges, properties set well back or obscured by vegetation or walls, good footway provision and advisory cycle lanes. All these elements are conducive to a credible 40mph speed limit even though a school is located nearby.

I can appreciate that residents often have a desire for a lower speed limit outside their properties. The Council takes these concerns seriously and give them full consideration when we evaluate changes to speed limits. When undertaking speed limit reviews, we use the guidance issued by the Department for Transport and our own considerable local experience of implementing speed limits within the County. We also work closely with Durham Constabulary when considering changes to speed limits as ultimately, the Police have to enforce speed limits.

It is an intention of the Department for Transport guidance to ensure that speed limits are credible with the aim that they become self-evident and enforcing by virtue of their surroundings. During the review process many criteria and factors are considered and evaluated. The existing vehicle speeds, nature of the road and its surroundings, local needs, existing highway infrastructure, development, highway signs, road markings and street lighting, the various road users, the credibility of the speed limit and accident history are some of these factors being considered. The length of speed limit, distance between speed limit terminal points and the number of changes along the route are also considered.

It is not unexpected for an inter urban road to be subject to a 40mph speed limit where there is a lack of immediate frontage property development. Additionally, Park View Community School is not exceptional in having a 40mph (or higher) speed limit near to it; there are a number of similar establishments in County Durham where this is the case being located adjacent to or very close to busy A class roads.

Whilst the speed limit is posted as a 40mph adjacent to the school, I can advise that the average speed of vehicles at school peak periods is lower than at other times of the day, with speeds dropping by 8mph to 27mph.

A formalised signal controlled pedestrian crossing is provided adjacent to the Lombard Drive junction which provides a safe means to cross the road. A pedestrian refuge is provided further south, just beyond Low Flatts Road and crossing facilities are now provided on all legs of Northlands roundabout.

I have checked the accident database as above and only found two recorded personal injury accidents in the previous 13 years along the length of North Road either side of Lombard Drive. One occurred in 2010 where a 55 year old male pedal cyclist failed to notice a stationary vehicle and collided with its rear. The other incident occurred on a Sunday lunch time when a young driver

who was travelling too close to the vehicle in front, collided with it when it slowed to turn into Lombard Drive. In both incidents, speed was not identified as a contributory factor.

The accident you mention would not be included in the above records due to it still being subject to investigation. From the information available, it occurred within the 30mph section near the Lambton Worm PH and resulted from the boy stepping out into the road leaving the motorist no chance to stop. Early indications are that the vehicle was travelling within the speed limit. Given the accident details, speed survey results and previous considerations as part of the Speed Limit Review, the current 40mph speed limit is considered to be the appropriate speed limit for this road. Nevertheless, Park View Community School will be assessed later this year as part of an on-going programme of works to introduce part-time 20mph speed limits on main/distributor roads. Alternatively, as part of the project there is scope to allow any school to be considered for a 20mph speed limit outside of the scope of this assessment should additional funding be forthcoming from other budgets such as the Area Action Partnerships (AAP's), the Schools themselves, Town and Parish Councils, etc. The average cost for a scheme is in the region of £15,000 per school.

If you would like to discuss further please contact David Battensby, Traffic Asset Senior Engineer, on telephone number 263681 or via email at david.battensby@durham.gov.uk

Regards

Oliver Sherratt

Corporate Director – Neighbourhood Services

North Lodge Parish Council

Crime and Community Safety Report-Tuesday, 19th April 2016

Burglary update- Ash Meadows, North Road and Blind Lane. Investigations still ongoing.

Speed Watch- at Picktree Village on 21st March at 10.30am

Result

Total number of vehicles travelling North - 20

12 vehicles travelling at 30mph or less

2 vehicles travelling 31- 34mph

6 vehicles travelling over 35mph -further action to be taken.

Total number of vehicles travelling South- 50

36 vehicles travelling 30 mph or less

10 vehicles travelling 31-34 mph

4 vehicles travelling over 35mph- further action to be taken.

Vandalism Picktree Village. Recently, decorative barrels were emptied of soil and overturned. Damage caused to a 'for sale 'sign. No witnesses to incident.

Neighbourhood wardens have been instructed to patrol area.

Road Traffic Accident North Road. Tuesday, 12th April, early morning, school boy ran out in front of vehicle, Taken to hospital, no serious injuries, discharged from

hospital same day. Driver of vehicle stopped at scene. At present, no action has been taken against driver.

Reports of Impending Public Disorder. Wheatsheaf area of North Lodge on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening 8/9/10th April. Intelligence obtained stated that a group of 50/60 youths aged between 10 and 20 years armed with sticks planning to meet in order to fight. Police attended scene, no incident reported. Both Durham Police and Northumbria Police are to patrol same area on Friday, Saturday and Sunday 15/16/17th April to prevent any public disorder. Update to be given at next Parish Council meeting.

Crime and Community Forum meeting April 4th

Incident at Urpeth Grange involving residents who were upset at Persimmon Homes who, after being granted planning permission for a piece of land, enter the land in order to start clearing in preparation to build a number of houses. The land had not been formally handed over to the company. The area was still be used by children and dog walkers resulting in injuries to both children and dogs.
Durham County Council to deal.

Neighbourhood Watch. Good support at a recent meeting for co-ordinators. Preparations for the launch of the organisation underway.

Assault outside Queens Head Public House, Front Street. Suspect identified arrested and bailed. Witness statements still being obtained. Update at next Parish Council meeting.

Date/ time of next forum meeting has not been finalised. Once known, details will be sent to David, Parish Clerk for circulation.

**HORTICULTURE REPORT
NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL
19 April 2016**

Within our report, there are three issues to discuss:

- 1. Litter Picking**
- 2. General Horticulture**
- 3. Flower Beds**

Litter Picking

We will be seeking agreement and approval at end of this report. Although litter picking is not horticulture, I am speaking about it as Councillor Forrester, myself and Councillor Walton have all been involved in the setting up of this project.

The role will commence on 13 June 2016 as discussed last month. It will be piloted for one year and a self-employed person will be appointed. The contract will include the following:

- a) Pilot trial for one year.
- b) The title of role will be Environment Caretaker.
- c) Hourly rate - 3 hours per week @ £11.00 per hour.
- d) £2.00 per week will be paid for expenses.
- e) A job description and risk assessment tool will be given.
- f) Lists of streets/areas has been identified as well as open spaces, e.g. play area and grassed area at Merlin Drive, plus play area/playing field at Low Flatts Road. Blind Lane and the Embankment (baffle bank) are presently under discussion, due to safety of Operative.
- g) Litter **only** to be removed – **no** dog dirt, needles or sharps to be picked up. A broken bottle can to be removed, but if a lot of glass is observed, then Durham County Council must be informed.
- h) Cleaning of public seats around the Parish.
- i) Identification jacket to be worn as well as safety personal protective clothing and equipment (PPE).
- j) Accident/incident form to be completed following any untoward incidents/accidents.
- k) Full rubbish bags will be collected by DCC from Northlands substation.

Martin Briscoe (Durham County Council) has kindly supplied a Litta Pikka tool, Graffiti wipes and blue rubbish bin bags.

The Parish Council will provide safety equipment e.g. gloves etc. and a High Vis jacket which will be worn by the operative when on duty.

This project for 2016/2017 will cost £2134.00. If approved, Frank Leighton (current Gardener) would be willing to trial this project and will be offered the appointment.

Funding

As you will recall the Parish Council were in agreement to match fund this project with County Councillor Peter May's budget. However due to financial restrictions on Councillor May's Capital Budget, the minimum he can spend is £2000.00 per project. He has therefore agreed to fund £2000.00. The parish Council will fund the remaining £134.00.

It is recommended that the Parish Council agree and approve this project.

General Horticulture Report

Flower Bed at entrance to Longdean Park

- Looking good. Stone edging will be installed when daffodils have died back.

Shrub Bed within Longdean Park

- This Bed has been cut back.

Shrub Bed close to northlands Roundabout

- 18 Roses from Picktree Lodge have been transferred into this Bed.

Flower Bed around plinth at entrance to Picktree Lodge

- Frank has cut and edged grass in front of plinth and weeded bed and top of plinth. Stone edging to be scheduled.

Millennium Flower Bed at entrance to Lombard drive

- No problems. ? Uneven new path around seat area where puddles form during rainy weather. This has been reported to Durham County Council.

Heather Bed at Picktree Village

- No problems. Looks nice. Hopefully Bulbs and Daffodils will be planted later in the year.

Small Shrub/Flower Beds in Picktree Village (close to Ash Meadows)

- No problems

Flower/Shrub Beds (Back and two sides) of Northlands Bus Shelter

- No problems.

Grassed area at top of Blind Lane (between house numbers 1 – 3)

- Scheduled for daffodil bulb planting later in year.

Strimming of grass edges at Merlin Drive Play Area (facing grassed area)

- Frank continues to monitor.

Planting of flowers below wall opposite plinth at entrance to Picktree Lodge

- Looking a mess again. Awaiting Durham County Council's input.

Checking of Low Flatts Play Area – Hawthorn Hedge

- The bare routed saplings of Hawthorn Hedging have now been planted.

Checks on Notice Boards

- No problems.

Graffiti removal from Bus Shelters

- On-going. No major problems.

Daffodil planting

- On-going

Tubs at Lambton Park entrance

- On-going

Tubs at North Road near to Barley Mow

- Still waiting for 2 tubs from DCC to be delivered.

Northumbria in Bloom

- Ongoing

Flower Beds

The original seven flower beds installed in 2015/2016 which Durham County Council plants and maintains yearly (funded by the Parish Council) are looking very attractive with several nice comments having been received from Residents. Agreement has been reached to continue the same contract for 2016/2017, within the horticulture budget for these seven beds. Cost = £2285.57 The horticulture team are seeking agreement from the Parish Council for a further nine beds to be installed around the Parish by Durham County Council and funded by North Lodge Parish Council. Cost for these nine beds is £2746.97

Diamond Jubilee Flower Beds (2)

These beds have been very poor in appearance this year. Roses have been removed and replanted. Martin Briscoe has quoted £1678.00 for the two beds to be planted and maintained 2016/2017. Alternatives are:

- To soil and re-seed one of the beds halving the cost.
- Reduce both beds down to a more reasonable size.

However, as the Parish Council now has money available from the Litter Picking project County Councillor Peter May is willing to match fund the cost of these beds. Cost to the Parish Council would be £839.

Suggestions and approval sort from the Parish Council.

Enc. Total Horticulture Budget

BUDGET SPEND FORECAST FOR 2016/2017

Budget Set			Proposed Budget Spend	
Flower Beds	£5000.00		Flower Beds	£5032.54 7 = (£2285.57) 9 = (2746.97)
Pot-it-On	£4720.00		Pot-it-On	£4720.00
Miscellaneous	£300		Miscellaneous	£300
Total	£10020.00			£10052.54