

North Lodge Parish Council

NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL is non-political and is grateful for the support and advice received from area County Councillors Peter May and Jim Cordon, and MP Kevan Jones.

External involvements by Parish Councillors in 2011/12 included:

- Chester-le-Street and District Area Action Partnership (AAP) Board, Forum and Task Groups
- County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC)
- Training sessions regarding the Localism Bill and Neighbourhood Plans
- County Council Web Team training for the Parish Council Website
- North Lodge Residents Association
- Laying a wreath, on behalf of the Parish Council, at the November 2011 Remembrance Day Service

CURRENT VENUE AND DAY

The Parish Council Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month (except August and December) in Park View Community School, Lombard Drive at 6.30 pm. The Parish Council is grateful to Park View Community Association for help in making these arrangements possible.

Parish Council notices are displayed in the notice boards located in Picktree Lodge, Leander Avenue, Picktree Village and North Road (near to the Lambton Worm Hotel).

Residents wishing to raise concerns should contact: David Murrell, Clerk to North Lodge Parish Council, Tel: 0191 389 2516, e-mail: northlodgepc@tiscali.co.uk or any Parish Councillor:

Elsie Forrester (Chair)	14 Queensmere
Maureen May (Vice-Chair)	Hollydene, Lambton Park
Norman Alderson	12 Leander Avenue
Sue Brown	South View, Picktree Village
Margaret Caygill	27a Lyndhurst Avenue
Chris Jukes	4 Mitford Close

Linda LeDune	51 Leander Avenue
Colin Noble-Nesbitt	6 Merlin Drive
Ditte Prest	17 Caxton Way
Stephen Tones	44 Lyndhurst Avenue
Carole Walton	50 Longdean Park

PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE live since September 2011



This website can be viewed by browsing the internet for “**North Lodge Parish Council website**” or “**parishes.durham.gov.uk/northlodge**”

As an example, choosing “Maps” will reveal the roughly oval parish boundary and show that the parish includes the whole of Drum Industrial Estate and Lambton Castle with most of its grounds.



North Lodge Parish Council NEWSLETTER 2012

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Year

MERLIN DRIVE PLAY AREA

This area is proving to be a real asset to the neighbourhood. It will be enhanced this year with the following:

- Two specimen trees to be planted at the edge of the play area to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.
- On July 11th at 1.30pm, an event to celebrate installation of Andrew McKeowan's art work, with local pupils, residents and councillors attending, and “Beat'n Blow” from Germany, part of the Durham International Brass Festival, adding to the occasion.

It is wonderful to see this area moving towards completion after many years of endeavour. The Parish Council appreciates the help it has needed and received from many people, including M.P. Kevan Jones, County Councillor Peter May and Graham Wilson of Arizona Chemical who insisted that the grant from the Vigo Lane Ambleside Court development should be allocated here. Thanks are also due to Turney Wylde Construction in gifting the land and Barry Alderson of Durham County Council who helped design the play area based on ideas from local pupils and residents.



Andrew McKeowan's artwork based on the Lambton Worm

Final thanks to the students from Park View School who worked with Andrew and Durham County Council Art Department in the design, based on the local theme of the Lambton Worm, culminating in the impressive “stone with cast iron fossil inserts” art work installation.

LOW FLATTS PLAY AREA

This is popular and the variety of play equipment provided appears to meet the needs of children. The two football areas are enjoyably well used. The rabbit infestation is regularly controlled and graffiti is promptly dealt with. Users are asked to assist in keeping the area clean and safe, by following the notices on display.

NORTH LODGE IN JUBILEE BLOOM

To celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Year, the County Council's flower beds on the A167 North Road and the Parish Council's shrub and flower beds were planted up in red, white and blue bedding plants. North Lodge Residents Association generously assisted with the funding of this project.

The Parish Council's gardener planted up the Parish Council beds and has done much to improve them since being appointed last September. The Parish Council continues to get help and advice from the County Council to make North Lodge Parish an attractive and colourful place to live.

It is hoped that a rose bed filled with Queen Elizabeth roses near the entrance to Picktree Lodge Estate can be installed, if the drainage works on the Baffle Bank are completed in time.

The planting of three further trees are planned, an Acer at the entrance of Lombard Drive and two cherry trees in the south-east corner of Merlin Drive Play Area. The County Council is committed to clean out the wild shrubs in this corner and return it to close-mown grass.

Please support the Parish Council by quickly reporting any graffiti or vandalism affecting the play equipment, bus shelters etc, either to a Parish Councillor or the Clerk (details on the back of the Newsletter) so that it can be dealt with as quickly as possible. Any anti-social behaviour should be reported directly to the Police.



NEWS IN BRIEF

TRANSIT 15 PROPOSALS

The road widening and Drum Road/North Road junction modification works have been completed to a high standard by Durham County Council as set out in one part of the Transit 15 scheme. This should be an improvement for all traffic using this area.

The County Council proposals for the Northlands Roundabout part of the scheme continue to be amended and discussed in turn, with some indication of a new design becoming ready for consultation, at which time residents' views will again be very important.

SPEED VISORS

In partnership with County Councillor Peter May and the County Council, the Parish Council has committed £9360 for the installation of three pairs of speed visors for Blind Lane, North Road and Picktree Lane, as electronic reminders of the 30 mph speed limits for traffic using these highways.

PAVEMENTS AND CAR PARKING

If you decide to park on a pavement (strictly speaking outside the law) please continue to ensure that this fully allows for safe passage along the pavement by pedestrians, including those with wheelchairs and twin prams. A maximum obstruction of up to one third of the pavement may keep you free from objections. Where there are houses on only one side of a road, there is usually no need or justification for parking on pavements.

PAVEMENT IMPERFECTIONS

Holes or ridges of at least 2 centimetres drop or rise can continue to be reported to the Highways Action Line (HAL) on 0191 370 6000 or hal@durham.gov.uk for email. Use the number on the nearest lamppost as a position marker and ask for a HAL reference number. The use of the website "FixMyStreet" is particularly helpful if you wish to pinpoint the position of a problem by using the maps provided. Concerns about roads may be similarly reported.

BOUNDARY COMMISSION REVIEW OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR WARDS

The Parish Council's proposal for a new one-councillor ward for this area has been confirmed as the Commission's final choice, after its further 12 week public consultation [ended on 1st August 2011]. With just over 3000 electors, this ward will consist of the whole of North Lodge plus the area to its South bounded roughly by Park Road North, Newcastle Road and the Police Station.

This contrasts with the present position where North Lodge is part of a two-councillor ward, named "Pelton", with over 6000 electors in total, including the whole of Pelton. The ward will be named "North Lodge" which is the Boundary Commission's preferred name. Thus, in May 2013, electors will only need to choose one county councillor, from a possible list of councillors, to represent North Lodge ward.

.....AND FOR CONTINUING RESPONSIBLE ACTION:

OVERHANGING BRANCHES

Please continue to ensure that your hedges, shrubs and trees do not extend at all beyond your property's boundary with public footpaths (Highways Act 1980). Giving clear headroom of about 7 feet 6 inches is also important. This action reduces the risk of facial injury or damage to clothing and umbrellas, from thorns and branches, for any pedestrians, including the young and those who are disabled or visually impaired.

NORTH LODGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

With a guest speaker giving a talk on something topical and of interest, meetings generally take place on the first Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September and November. They are currently held at Park View Lower School, Lombard Drive, North Lodge, starting at 7pm. New faces are always welcome.

ACTIVITY WEEK CHESTER-LE-STREET, MARKET PLACE

20-24 August 2012: 10am to 3pm

This event, building on the success in 2011, is again targeted at providing a full week of varied fun and educational activities, mainly for young people. Further details will be available from the local police in co-ordinating and managing the event.

POLICE MATTERS

Report from Police Community Support Officer [PCSO] Lesley Hunter

Over the past 12 months, crime in Chester-le-Street has fallen for the 2nd year running and is currently down 16%. However, there has been a slight increase in the theft of metal in all areas, including North Lodge. Youth and vehicle nuisance has also fallen over the past 12 months, by 21% in Chester-le-Street and 25% in the North Lodge area.

Regular patrols are still carried out in the area by me and colleagues and seem to be having the desired effect which is shown by the fall in crime etc.

Parking has now been officially taken over by Durham County Council with regular visits to Park View School and several people have either been warned or had tickets issued to them. When I have been at the school nobody seems to be parking illegally so it must be the uniform!

PARISH LITTER WEEK

Residents and Parish Councillors agreed to take part, on 2nd May, in the "Litter free Durham's Big Spring Clean 2012" that took place every day throughout the county from 16th April to 11th May, 2012.

The volunteers met in the Lambton Worm car park where safety equipment such as Hi-Viz Jackets, litter picks and rubbish bags, and instructions about how to stay safe, were provided by the County Council. The volunteers split into groups of 2 or 3, and set off to known litter "grot spots" or areas of their own choice.

At the end of the pick, 18 rubbish bags were collected by the County Council for safe disposal.

If you would like to take part in future litter picks please give your name to a Parish Councillor or the Secretary of the Resident's Association.

There was a burglary at the Wheatsheaf public house earlier in the year and two youths were arrested and charged after admitting it.

Just a reminder to check that your vehicles are locked as there has been a spate of thefts from unlocked vehicles in the Chester-le-Street area recently.

Personally, I am still enjoying working in the area and talking to residents at meetings and in the street when they see me. The council wardens are still working in the area with me and there are to be six new wardens for the Chester-le-Street area in the near future.

The police now have a new telephone number which is 101.

Here's to another good year ahead.



We asked what matters to you...

We will...

- Tackle anti-social behaviour
- Reduce harm from alcohol and drugs
- Protect vulnerable people from harm

Durham Police Authority & Durham Constabulary

Your Views Count



DURHAM CONSTABULARY
0345 60 60 365
NON EMERGENCY NUMBER