

North Lodge Parish Council

NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL

Is non-political and is grateful for the support and advice received during the past year from area County Councillors Peter May and Jim Cordon, and MP Kevan Jones.

External involvements by Parish Councillors in 2012/13 included:

- Chester-le-Street and District Area Action Partnership (AAP) Board, Forum and Task Groups
- County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC)
- Various Training sessions
- North Lodge Residents Association
- Laying a wreath, on behalf of the Parish Council, at the November 2012 Remembrance Day Service

Parish Council Members, meeting times & venue

Following the Parish Council Election in May (non-contested) the following Councillors were elected:

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Elsie Forrester (Chair) | 14 Queensmere | Colin Noble-Nesbitt | 6 Merlin Drive |
| Norman Alderson (vice chair) | 12 Leander Avenue | Ditte Prest | 17 Caxton Way |
| Margaret Caygill | 27a Lyndhurst Avenue | David Snaith | 5 Eastlands |
| Linda LeDune | 51 Leander Avenue | Carole Walton | 50 Longdean Park |
| Maureen May | Hollydene, Lambton Park | | |

Thanks go to Sue Brown, Chris Jukes and Stephen Tones who have left the Parish Council and a warm welcome goes to David Snaith.

The Meetings are now held in Arizona Chemical Training Room, Vigo Lane, at 6.30 pm on the third Tuesday of each month (except August and December). The Council is grateful to Arizona Chemical for help in making these arrangements possible. Parish Council notice boards are 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 3892516, e-mail: northlodgepc@tiscali.co.uk or any Parish Councillor

Merlin Drive and Low Flatts Play Areas



Both these areas continue to be well used and appreciated. Health & Safety checks are carried out regularly. Please support the Parish Council by reporting any vandalism or misuse of the equipment. Dogs are not allowed within the fenced areas and owners are asked to prevent any fouling of the surrounding land.



Seating Project

A project is underway, financed from County Councillor May's budget, to install new seats around North Lodge Ward. Offers of seats from other sources have also been received and welcomed.



North Lodge Parish Council NEWSLETTER 2013

North Lodge in Bloom



The Parish Council's gardener, Frank Leighton (Pot-it-On), continues to maintain the flower and shrub beds in good order, aiming to make the Parish more attractive for residents and visitors. The three Jubilee trees are doing well and, at Picktree Lodge entrance, the Jubilee rose bed has been enlarged and the stone plinth has been pressure cleaned. Small flowering shrubs will be planted in front of the plinth. County Councillor May's budget is assisting financially both with this and the purchase of 25 flower tubs, the main project for this year. The tubs have been placed throughout the Parish and will be planted with seasonal flowering throughout the year. The gardener will maintain the tubs but it would be helpful if residents living near any of the tubs could help with watering them during dry spells. The two tubs at the entrance to Lombard Drive have been planted up and will be maintained by the Year 7 Gardening Club at Park View School. There have been some incidents of vandalism to a few of the shrub and flower beds in the past 2 years and two of the tubs at the entrance to Picktree Lodge have had to be replanted already. If you notice any kind of vandalism, please get in touch with the Parish Clerk [0191 3892516] or Parish Councillor Walton [0191 3882849]. The Parish Council continues to work with Durham County Council and the Residents Association to make horticultural improvements in the Parish.



PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE - live since September 2011

North Lodge Parish Council

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North Lodge Parish Council - a brief introduction

The Parish Council is part of the structure of local democracy and plays an important role in acting on behalf of the community it represents as follows:

- giving views on planning applications and other proposals that affect the parish;
- undertaking projects and schemes to benefit local residents;
- working in partnership with other bodies to achieve benefits for the parish;
- alerting relevant authorities to problems that arise or work that needs to be undertaken;
- helping other tiers of local government to keep in touch with their local communities.

The Parish Council has the power to raise money through taxation, the precept. The precept demand goes to the billing authority (Durham County Council) which collects the tax for the Parish Council as a small part of the overall council tax.

You can find the website by browsing the internet for "North Lodge Parish Website" to view information under the 12 headings listed. As examples, 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, choosing "Minutes" will give you access to current and past council agendas and minutes, choosing Newsletters will give you the opportunity to read the 2010, 2011 and 2012 editions.

Durham County Council's County Plan

The County Plan Preferred Options documents, a significant step towards the finalisation of the County Plan, were issued during the last year. These have been discussed at length and concerns raised regarding the proposed extension of the Drum Industrial Estate, the proposed housing in Picktree Village and the extent of consultation with areas bordering the County, in particular with residents of Rickleton. The next stage of the plan is awaited.

NEWS IN BRIEF

BOUNDARY COMMISSION REVIEW OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR WARDS.

The first election for the new one-councillor North Lodge ward took place in May 2013, when Peter May (Independent) was elected.

TRANSIT 15 PROPOSALS

The County Council proposals for the Northlands Roundabout part of the scheme resulted in a very different new design, incorporating traffic lights and some major changes at the roundabout and in its feeder roads. The design was subject to public consultation in December 2012 and a final outcome may emerge during the summer months.

PAVEMENTS AND CAR PARKING

If you do decide to park on a pavement, please give consideration to pedestrians and ensure that this fully allows for their safe passage along the pavement. A maximum obstruction of up to one third of the pavement may keep you free from objections. There is usually no justification or need for parking on pavements where there are houses on only one side of a road.

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.

SPEED VISORS

The three pairs of speed visors placed on Blind Lane, North Road and Picktree Lane, continue to act as electronic reminders of the 30 mph speed limits for traffic using these highways

.....AND FOR CONTINUING RESPONSIBLE ACTION:

...a well trimmed hedge

Please continue to show consideration by ensuring 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 should eliminate the risk of facial injury or damage to clothing and umbrellas, from thorns and branches, for all pedestrians.



NORTH LODGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Meetings take place six times a year – the second Monday of January, March, May, July, September and November at 7.15 pm in the Wheatsheaf Pub, Pelaw Grange, Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham, DH3 2AB

PARK VIEW CLEANS UP FOR SPRING!



Forty Park View students from years 7 & 8 volunteered to take part in the Big Spring Clean in March this year. The students wrapped up warmly against the barely spring like conditions and collected around 35 bags of litter, from the Merlin Drive and Low Flatts park areas and the surrounding walkways. Park View prides itself in the role its students take within the community and this was a great success. In fact the school has signed up to help again next year.



DURHAM BIG SPRING CLEAN

In addition to the excellent clean up carried out by pupils from Park View School, ten Councillors and residents did their bit on Saturday 8th May by collecting 14 bags of litter around North Lodge. It is planned to participate earlier next year (hopefully with more helpers) to avoid competing with ground foliage which made locating and removing the litter more difficult. Please make yourself known if you are willing to join in. The very strong winds on one particular recycling bin collection day, when many of the bins blew over spilling their contents on to the streets, did nothing to help with the litter situation this year.

Well done and a big thank you to everyone involved who made North Lodge cleaner by removing 49 bags of litter. Thanks also go to the Civic Pride team who provided the clean up equipment

ACTIVITY WEEK CHESTER-LE-STREET MARKET PLACE

Monday 19th to Friday, 23rd August 2013: From 10am to 3pm every day

A wide range of youth agencies, uniformed services and other partners will present five days of varied fun and educational activities for young people, managed and co-ordinated by the local police.

The markets will continue to operate as normal on Tuesday and Friday and it is hoped that this will be of economic benefit to local businesses in the town centre

POLICE MATTERS

Report from Police Community Support Officer [PCSO] Lesley Hunter

Over the last 12 months, crime in Chester-le-Street has fallen for the 3rd year running and currently there are 223 fewer victims. Anti-social Behaviour has also fallen over the past 12 months with 806 fewer reports in Chester-le-Street. 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. After the recent spate of Burglaries in the area, a youth was convicted of the offences and sentenced to 22 months in jail. Durham County Council traffic wardens regularly visit Park View School and several people have been warned with regard to parking issues. When I have been at

the school, nobody has been parking illegally. Just a reminder to check that your vehicles and house are locked as there has been a spate of thefts from unlocked vehicles and houses 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. The council wardens are still working in the area with me as well.

The police telephone number is 101 for non-emergency calls but is still 999 for emergency calls. Here's to another good year ahead