

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 North Lodge Ward County Councillor Peter May and MP Kevan Jones.

External involvements by Parish Councillors in 2013/14 included:

- Chester-le-Street and District Area Action Partnership (AAP) Board, Forum and Task Groups
- County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC) & CDALC Smaller Council Forum
- Various training sessions
- Neighbourhood Plan Working Group
- North Lodge Residents Association
- Remembrance Day Service and laying a wreath, on behalf of the Parish Council

Parish Council Members, meeting times & venue

Elsie Forrester (Chair)	14 Queensmere	Linda LeDune	51 Leander Avenue
David Snaith (Vice-Chair)	5 Eastlands	Maureen May	Hollydene, Lambton Park
Norman Alderson	12 Leander Avenue	Colin Noble-Nesbitt	6 Merlin Drive
Margaret Caygill	27a Lyndhurst Avenue	Carole Walton	50 Longdean Park
Dawn Hartley	13 Lintfort		

Full complement is 11 Councillors

The Parish Council was very sad to hear of the recent death of Ditte Prest who, for the past seven years, was an active member of the Parish Council and the local community. Her calm and thoughtful opinions will be greatly missed.

In July 2013, Councillor Dawn Hartley joined the Council. At present there are two vacant seats on the Council and expressions of interest would be welcomed.

The Meetings are currently 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



The areas continue to be well used and appreciated by most users but it was disappointing to see the seesaw in Merlin Drive vandalised, resulting in its removal. County Councillor Peter May has agreed to allocate funds for a replacement.

Durham County Council is currently undertaking a review of all fixed play provision throughout the county and the Parish Council is involved in the consultation. It is pleasing to report that the recent improvements to the play provision have put the Parish in a good position for some years to come.

Once again the Council asks for support in reporting any vandalism. Also dog owners should note that dogs are not allowed in the fenced areas.

Dog Owners/Walkers

Dog fouling is one of the major issues dealt with by the Neighbourhood Wardens. Please avoid becoming an issue by picking up and placing your dog waste in a bin.

Seating Project

Several new seats have now been placed around the Parish.



North Lodge Parish Council NEWSLETTER 2014

Horticulture

The Parish Council would like to congratulate and thank the students of Park View School for their hard work in planting up and maintaining the two lovely tubs at the entrance to Lombard Drive.

The summer project this year was to clean up and replant the 2 beds at the entrance to North Lodge Lambton Park to add colour along the A167. Re-turfing will also be done at this site. The stone bus shelter at Northlands roundabout will be rebuilt when the current road works are completed and it is hoped to re-instate the shrub beds at this site too. Sadly, there is still some deliberate, occasional vandalism to some beds and tubs, with plants being pulled up and thrown away, and even newly-planted shrubs stolen. Please report any such activity witnessed to the PCSO (see 'Police Matters').

There has been much discussion between the Parish Council, the Residents Association and County Councillor Peter May about the funding for maintenance and planting of the flower tubs situated throughout the Parish. The Residents Association is now taking the lead in this and it is hoped that ultimately residents will volunteer to help with some maintenance, e.g. watering. Meanwhile the Parish Council's Gardener, 'Pot-it-On', is concentrating on the other shrub and flower beds in the Parish. The Parish Council thanks the gardener for his continued efforts as well as the residents who kindly watered flower tubs throughout the Parish last year.

With the continuing support of residents, the Parish Council will continue with its aim to make North Lodge Parish an attractive and colourful place in which to live.

Anyone wishing to help with maintaining the flower beds needs first to contact Parish Councillor Carol Walton, Tel: 0191 3882849.



Parish Council Website - Live since September 2011



You can find this by browsing the internet for "North Lodge Parish Council" to view information under the 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; "Minutes" will give you access to current and past meeting agendas and minutes; "Newsletters" will give you the opportunity to read past editions.

Durham County Plan

The final version allocates the cleared BOC site on Vigo Lane for substantial house building but not the Picketree Village field between Picketree Lane and the A1(M), following major public opposition. For full details of the plan, you can refer to Durham County Council's website.

Neighbourhood Plan

North Lodge Parish Council is considering the formulation of a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish. This plan would fall in line with the recently published Durham County Council Plan.

A Neighbourhood Plan is designed to enable all Residents of the Parish to put forward any ideas or wishes they may have regarding planning issues within the Parish, and perhaps have some influence over planning applications received by Durham County Council.

Once formulated and complete, the Neighbourhood Plan would be submitted to, and remain with, Durham County Council, which would then have to consider all issues raised within the Neighbourhood Plan when dealing with planning applications it receives.

NEWS IN BRIEF

TRANSIT 15 PROPOSALS

The changes at Northlands Roundabout, which include the installation of traffic lights, may be completed by early autumn, by which time the Parish Council's bus shelter will have been re-built in its new position. To the credit of the County Council this major junction project has been carried out so far (by mid-June) with mainly minimal disruption to the local traffic flow.

PAVEMENTS AND CAR PARKING

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

PAVEMENT IMPERFECTIONS

Holes or ridges of at least 2 centimetres drop or rise can be reported to the Highways Action Line (HAL) on 0191 3706000 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.

.....AND FOR CONTINUING RESPONSIBLE ACTION:

PLEASE CHECK YOUR HEDGES

...and 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, throughout the whole year (Highways Act 1980, enforceable by Durham County Council). 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, prams 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 School - Community News

Message from Mr I R Veitch, Headteacher

It has long been a frustration for the school, that whilst there is a thriving partnership with Hilda Park Football Club for the use of the school pitches, the North Lodge school buildings themselves lie empty and closed after 6 pm at night and weekends. We are delighted to report that from 1st June, we are hoping to have a contract with the Schools Letting Company in place which will allow the situation to be rectified. It is envisaged that, when the company has become established, all of the facilities will be open for hire to local residents or groups, allowing the community to take advantage of our dining room, theatre, sports hall, ICT rooms and classrooms. We look forward to continuing to work closely with residents' groups in order to strengthen Park View's position at the heart of all areas of our town.

and from Mrs Morag Wilson, Assistant Headteacher, Head of Lower school

Forty four students and staff from Park View North Lodge site took part in the Big Spring Clean on 30th April. They cleaned up the Low Flatts Park and Merlin Drive Park, as well as the surrounding areas. Equipped with high-vis jackets and litter pickers they collected sixty one bags of rubbish. Well done to all involved. As the North Lodge site library develops, the young librarians intend to have an adult lending library for residents in the local community. Their idea is to open the library once every 2 weeks from 4 – 5 pm to allow residents to come along to browse books and hopefully borrow some. Residents will be informed of a start date for this new project, along with the proposed opening times.

The community garden at North Lodge has got off to a good start. Students were delighted with their new greenhouse which was used to good effect to protect the small plants from frosts. Currently, raspberries, strawberries, potatoes and garlic are all well under way in the garden. Any resident wanting to come along and get involved with the garden should contact Morag Wilson on 0191 3882416. It would be lovely to have some help from local residents, especially during school holiday times. We will also need you to help eat the produce!

Big Spring Clean – Litter Pick

Many thanks to the four residents and one Parish Councillor who volunteered to pick litter around the parish on 12th April. Sixteen bags and various large items were collected. Just think what could have been achieved with more volunteers

Police Matters

Report from Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)
6389 Christine Taylor

May I take the time to introduce myself: my name is Christine Taylor and I have temporarily taken over the North Lodge Parish area from PCSO Lesley Hunter who has now moved on to become a Community Liaison Officer for Durham Police.

I have worked for Durham Police for over 10 years as a PCSO, covering Chester-le-Street Town Centre and the Riverside area along with PCSO Adrian Richards and am looking forward to the new challenges which come with covering a new area and meeting the residents in person.

I have just compiled the crime figures for April 2014 and there is only one crime which was a theft of money; this shows me what a safe area you live in. However please be vigilant and if you see anything suspicious ring 101 or, for a crime in progress, ring 999. If I can help in any way please don't hesitate to contact me on 101 or e-mail me at christine.taylor@durham.pnn.police.uk and I will be in touch as soon as possible.