

# 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 2014/15 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 events
- Neighbourhood Plan Working Group
- North Lodge Residents Association
- Meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Remembrance Day Service and laying a wreath, on behalf of the Parish Council

### Parish Council Members, meeting times & venue

David Snaith - Chair	5 Eastlands	Linda LeDune	51 Leander Avenue
Elsie Forrester-Vice Chair	14 Queensmere	Maureen May	Hollydene, Lambton Park
Margaret Caygill	27a Lyndhurst Avenue	Colin Noble-Nesbitt	6 Merlin Drive
Dennis Hall	26 Longdean Park	Carole Walton	50 Longdean Park
Dawn Hartley	13 Lintfort	John Waugh	Brooklands, Lambton Park

Full complement is 11 Councillors

Many thanks for his valued work go to Norman Alderson (now retired) with Dennis Hall and John Waugh warmly welcomed. As at June 2015, there is one vacancy and expressions of interest would be welcomed.

Meetings are held in Park View School, Lombard Drive, North Lodge, at 6.30 pm on the third Tuesday of each month (except August and December). 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: northlodgpec@tiscali.co.uk or any Parish Councillor.

## 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.



## North Lodge Parish Council NEWSLETTER 2015



### Horticulture

To further its aim to make North Lodge Parish an even more attractive, colourful area for residents and passers-by, the Parish Council has embarked on a project to increase the number of flower beds in various areas of the Parish. This is being done by working with Durham County Council and the Parish Council's gardener, Frank Leighton (Pot-it-On).

The Residents Association's support and hard work is appreciated in taking over the responsibility for planting up and maintaining the flower tubs in the Parish. Please feel free to water, as appropriate, any tub near you.

Sadly, deliberate vandalism still occurs, as for example at the recently rebuilt bus shelter on North Road, near Northlands roundabout. Newly-planted shrubs were stolen and others pulled up and discarded on the grass. Please report any incidents of this nature to Carole Walton (tel. 0191 3882349) or to the police, as soon as possible (See Police Matters).

The Parish Council thanks the students of Park View School for the continued maintenance of tubs at the entrance to Lombard Drive.

Thanks also go to County Councillor Peter May for his continued fund allocations and practical support.



## Merlin Drive and Low Flatts Play Areas



The two play areas continue to be a real asset to the community, both well used and enjoyed. County Councillor Peter May allocated funding for the replacement seesaw at Merlin Drive, giving a full complement of equipment. Ways of dealing with periodic appearances of mole hills are regularly considered, with the County Council where necessary. The Council asks for your support in reporting any vandalism. At any time, fenced play areas are dog free zones for a variety of reasons, including those of health and safety.



# County Durham Plan and Neighbourhood Planning

The Government Independent Inspector's interim view, on the legal compliance and soundness of the County Durham Plan's final version, was published in February 2015. The complete report is very comprehensive and also critical. It includes a recommendation that the proposed developments to the south of the Drum Industrial Estate and in Lambton Park should not proceed.

In view of the fact that Durham County Council lodged Judicial Review papers at Leeds High Court in May 2015, and the complexity of the situation as a whole, the Parish Council is waiting to further consider its production of a neighbourhood plan.

The background, detail and chronology to the County Durham Plan can best be followed on the Durham County Council website.

# Northlands Roundabout

(with origins within the TRANSIT 15 programme)

On-site observations of the final working configuration of this roundabout indicate a consistency with the dynamic computer model that the Parish Council was shown by DCC at the planning stage. There is vastly improved movement of traffic, including buses [without the need for additional bus lanes] and very effective crossing facilities for pedestrians. Feedback from users of the roundabout indicates a remarkably consistent high level of satisfaction with the completed arrangement. As with any changed road system, some users will still experience problems.

One of the final steps in the DCC plan was to rebuild North Road (Northlands) bus shelter (at its expense) on behalf of the Parish Council and this has now been completed.

# North Lodge Residents Association

There are 6 meetings per year, as follows:

Dates & Time: 2nd Tuesdays of January, March, May, July, September and November. 7.15 - 9.00pm

Location: Park View School, Lombard Drive, North Lodge, DH3 4BB.

# Park View School - Community News

At its North Lodge site, Park View School is planning conversion work to create a room with availability to community groups for hire, out of school hours. In recognition of the Parish Council's agreed financial contribution of just under £4000 towards this work, the Council will receive free use of the room for up to twelve Parish Council meetings per year.

# Low Flatts Path to Drum Pond & Drum Industrial Estate



Extremely grateful thanks to the voluntary environmental group from the Co-operative depot in Drum Industrial Estate's Unit 2, for its response to the Parish Council's request in clearing litter and vegetation, cutting back overhanging trees and repairing a fence over a culvert on the footpath between Low Flatts Bridge and Drum Estate. The photograph shows the excellent job done in improving access for walkers, cyclists, anglers and employees of Drum Estate.

For a very long time there has been a pond in this area (north east fringe of Unit 1) which has been enjoyed by anglers and those interested in tadpoles

and other pond life. The Parish Council has been trying to develop this into a community asset and was instrumental in having the pond retained and a footpath constructed to access it during the Gladman development construction of Unit 1 around ten years ago. This year, with Coveris (flexible packaging) as Unit 1's first tenant, this Drum Pond project will move forward following a Council instigated recent meeting of four Parish Councillors with the Environmental Agency, Coveris, County Councillor Peter May, and anglers.



## --- NEWS IN BRIEF ---

### RIGHTS OF WAY

The Parish Council has written to the County Council in support of footpaths from Caxton Way and Merlin Drive towards the motorway baffle bank to become recorded as public rights of way: as such, their future maintenance may be ensured.

### ARIZONA CHEMICAL

The company intends to close its facility on Vigo Lane within the next year.

### PAVEMENT IMPERFECTIONS

Holes or ridges of at least 2 centimetres drop or rise can be reported to the Durham County Council Help Line with help@durham.gov.uk for email and 03000 26 1000 for telephone. Use the number on the nearest lamp standard as a position marker and ask for a help line reference number.

The use of the website "FixMyStreet" remains particularly helpful for pinpointing 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 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. Giving clear headroom of about 7 feet 6 inches is also important. This should allow for the safe passage of pedestrians, eliminating the risk of facial injury or damage to clothing, prams and umbrellas from thorns and branches. Problems of this sort which affect any individual pedestrian can be most effectively and efficiently dealt with by reporting them to Durham County Council which has enforcing powers under the Highways Act 1980. You can use email: help@durham.gov.uk or tel: 03000 26 1000. [Use of the Highways Action Line and hal@durham.gov.uk became obsolete on 31 May 2015]



### 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.

# Police Matters

Since taking over the G1A beat it has been my privilege to be invited to attend the Drum Industrial Estate Business Group meeting which is held each month. When I first attended the meeting, there were approximately 8-10 members. At the last meeting in March 2015 we had to move to a bigger venue at the Pelaw Grange Greyhound Stadium as there were over 25 members attending and at the next meeting in April 2015 there are expected to be approximately 40 members but I have over 100 units to try and attract in future. This is due to me visiting every business in the estate, promoting the meeting and actively encouraging everyone to attend, emphasising that this is their estate and they should all have a say in how changes are made. It is a group of people who are happy to listen to everyone's opinion and take on board their concerns and objections. If you have a business on the Drum Industrial Estate please feel free to come along to the meetings and share your information.

For anything suspicious ring 101 or, for a crime in progress, ring 999. If help is needed, 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.

April 2015: Report from Police  
Community Support Officer (PCSO) 6389  
Christine Taylor.

# Dog Owners/Walkers

Dog waste is known to be a potential health hazard, particularly for children. Please continue to help by picking up and placing your dog waste in a bin. To do otherwise risks a fine.

