

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 also from Kevan Jones, MP for North Durham.

External involvements by Parish Councillors in 2015/16 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
- Remembrance Day Service and laying a wreath, on behalf of the Parish Council

Parish Council Members, meeting times & venue

Elsie Forrester-Chair	14 Queensmere	Colin Noble-Nesbitt	6 Merlin Drive
Maureen May-Vice Chair	Hollydene, Lambton Park	David Snaith	5 Eastlands
Margaret Caygill	27a Lyndhurst Avenue	Carole Walton	50 Longdean Park
Dennis Hall	26 Longdean Park	John Waugh	Brooklands, Lambton Park
Jackie Martin	23 Blind Lane	Full complement is 11 Councillors	

After 42 years of highly valued work on the Council with one year as chairman, stretching from NLPC's inception in 1974, Linda LeDune has retired. Her acute perception of matters needing attention in the Parish will be greatly missed. Best wishes to Linda and her husband for the future. Many thanks for her valued work go to Dawn Hartley who has left the Council. Jackie Martin's co-option is warmly welcomed. As of June 2016, there are two vacancies 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: northlodgepc@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 2016

Please retain for reference throughout the year



Horticulture

The Parish Council, in partnership with North Lodge Residents Association, plans to enter the 'Northumbria in Bloom' competition in 2017.

In preparation, the number of flower beds will be increased from seven to sixteen during 2016 (made possible by the increase in precept). The County Council will assist by planting and maintaining the beds twice per year. Also, funding from County Councillor Peter May's budget has allowed for an extra flower bed at the entrance to Picktree Lodge and an increase in the size of the existing bed. The County Council will add extra soil and be responsible for planting up twice a year. The existing roses have been removed and replanted by the Parish Gardener.

CAN YOU HELP?

In conjunction with the Residents' Association, the Parish Council is looking for help from anyone with ideas to make the Parish stand out and look 'Blooming Great'. Please make contact if you would like to be involved in any way or if you have a particularly attractive garden to show off.

The Parish Council thanks those residents who take a pride in their area and help with planting, especially Suzanne and Kevin Kirkup who continue to look after the flower beds in Picktree Village. In some parts of the Parish, flower tubs have been upturned and flowers destroyed. Please be vigilant and report any incidents to the Portfolio Holders, Carol Walton Tel: 01913882849 or Maureen May Tel: 01913880572. The Police will be informed.

Thanks go to Frank Leighton, the Parish Gardener, for all his dedication and hard work; also to North Lodge Residents Association for maintaining the flower tubs throughout the Parish; not forgetting the students of Park View School who help maintain the tubs in Lombard Drive.

Thank you to County Councillor Peter May for his continued Horticulture support.

County Durham Plan and Neighbourhood Planning

Planning: Following the quashing, with Government consent, of the Interim Inspector's Report on the County Durham Plan in the High Court and the withdrawal of the Plan, Durham County Council is to produce a new plan. Consultation on an issues & options document is scheduled for June/July 2016, publication of the pre-submission draft for spring/summer 2017 & submission of the finalised plan by the end of 2017. The plan's end date has been changed to 2033. In the light of this, the parish council will consider further whether to produce a neighbourhood plan. The background, detail and chronology to the County Durham Plan is best followed on the Durham County Council website

Parish Environment Caretaker

In June the Parish Council will introduce the role of Environment Caretaker.

The appointed person will work 3 hours per week and be responsible for removing litter from streets and for the cleanliness of seats, many of which are being replaced this year.

This appointment will be a trial for 12 months and has been made possible through funding from County Councillor Peter May's Neighbourhood Budget.

Merlin Drive and Low Flatts Play Areas

These play areas continue to be popular with residents.

During the year some remedial tree work was carried out at both sites. At Low Flatts (Parish Council owned) a new dog waste warning sign was installed and appears to have been effective in reducing the instances of dog waste left on the ground. A refurbished seat is to replace a damaged seat.

At Merlin Drive (County Council owned) a new multi-function warning sign has been installed. Molehills are monitored and reported. Minor vandalism was dealt with. Grateful thanks to the County Council for cutting the grass, emptying bins and inspecting the equipment, thereby keeping the play areas safe and attractive for children. Your assistance is relied on, in keeping dogs out of the fenced areas and reporting any antisocial behaviour.

Ways of improving these areas are continually looked for. One possibility is the planting of swathes of daffodils at the perimeters in the Autumn.



NEWS IN BRIEF

RIGHTS OF WAY

The County Council is in the process of officially recording some footpaths, to the east of Caxton Way and Merlin Drive, towards and along the motorway baffle bank, as public rights of way. These footpaths all lie on DCC owned land.

ARIZONA CHEMICAL

The company is rapidly demolishing its complete facility on Vigo Lane, presumably in readiness for future development as a brown field site.

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. FixMyStreet then passes the details on to the County Council.

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 footways, 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 partly on pavements where there are houses on only one side of a road. If you do decide to park partly on a pavement, please give consideration to pedestrians (for whom the pavements were solely built), including wheelchair users, 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. Use of the public pavement as a driveway parking extension is potentially dangerous and needs to be avoided.

Park View School - Community News

At its North Lodge site, Park View School has converted a room with availability to community groups for hire, out of school hours.

Drum Industrial Estate

Grateful thanks again to the voluntary environmental group from the Co-operative depot in Drum Industrial Estate's Unit 2, for their recent work in keeping the footpath between Low Flatts Bridge and Drum Estate accessible for walkers, cyclists, anglers and employees of Drum Estate.

The Drum Pond project, as described last year, has stalled with no obvious progress made.

Police Matters

For anything suspicious ring 101 or, for a crime in progress, ring 999. If help is needed, please contact Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) 6389 Christine Taylor on 101 or e-mail at christine.taylor@durham.pnn.police.uk.

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.

A new NLPC funded dog waste bin has been installed by DCC adjacent to the public footway on the eastern flank of Picktree Lodge, below the baffle bank. The position was carefully considered so as to be easily available to dog walkers in, or after, wet weather and to allow for inclusion within the normal DCC emptying schedule.



North Lodge Residents Association

There are 6 meetings per year, generally 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