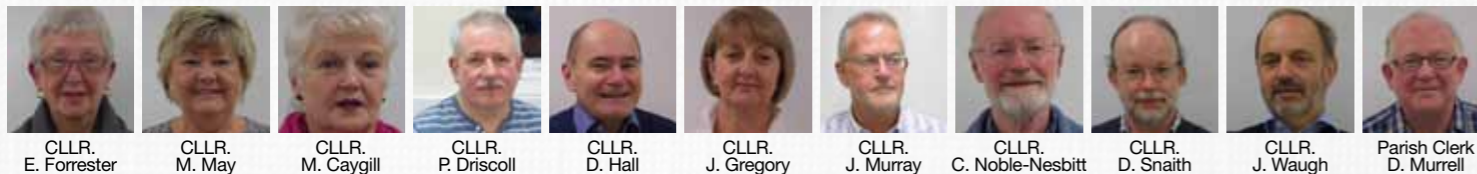


# North Lodge Parish Council

**NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL** is non-political and is grateful for the support and advice received during the past year from our former North Lodge Division County Councillor Peter May and also from Kevan Jones, MP for North Durham.

## Parish Council Members

Elsie Forrester-Chair	14 Queensmere	Jackie Gregory	23 Blind Lane
Maureen May-Vice Chair	Hollydene, Lambton Park	John Murray	140 Picktree Lodge
Margaret Caygill	27a Lyndhurst Avenue	Colin Noble-Nesbitt	6 Merlin Drive
Patrick Driscoll	4 Merlin Drive	David Snaith	5 Eastlands
Dennis Hall	26 Longdean Park	John Waugh	Glen Iris 66 Park Rd. North



There is at present a seat available on the Council and we would welcome any expressions of interest for co-option as a Parish Councillor. 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](mailto:northlodgepc@tiscali.co.uk) or any Parish Councillor.

Following the local government elections of 4th May 2017, for different reasons we have lost two stalwarts of the community.

Parish Councillor Carole Walton decided to stand down after an incredible 34 years as Councillor, including time as Chairman. Over all those years, in particular as Horticulture Portfolio Holder, Carole was always very generous with her time and this Parish has had enormous benefit from her advice and guidance.

At the election in May, our District/County Councillor for 23 years, Peter May, was beaten into second place and therefore he too stands down. Peter's achievements for the Ward of North Lodge have been numerous and significant. He has stood up for, and pressed the case for, this area countless times and it is likely that no other individual has contributed more to the well-being of North Lodge over those years. Both Carole and Peter will be greatly missed and we wish them both the very best for the future.

Coming in to the Parish Council, we were delighted that Patrick Driscoll was co-opted as Councillor in September and John Murray was co-opted in November.

Our new County Councillor is Craig Martin and we look forward to working with him to continue improving our area which is a place to live and a place to work for thousands of people.

## Parish Council Website - Live since September 2011

**This remains by far the most realistic and cost effective way for residents to keep informed of North Lodge Parish Council matters.**



Following a transfer of the website by the County Council to the WordPress application [for which the Parish Council is now charged, consequent upon recent DCC budget constraints], you can still find it by browsing the internet for "North Lodge Parish Council" or [www.northlodge.parish.durham.gov.uk](http://www.northlodge.parish.durham.gov.uk) to view information under a new set of headings in the title page.

**For example select "Council" to move to all Agendas & Minutes.**

Draft minutes are usually available within about a week of each Parish Council meeting and can keep you up to date with the full range of Parish Council thinking and actions.

Please retain for reference throughout the year



# North Lodge Parish Council NEWSLETTER 2017



## Horticulture

The Parish Council is working hard in partnership with Durham County Council, the Parish Gardener Frank Leighton of Pot-it-On, North Lodge Residents Association, and the 'In Bloom' team as well as many other volunteers in order to make North Lodge an attractive and beautiful area in which to live. So thanks go to everyone. We are always looking for help from anyone with new ideas in order to further enhance our Parish.

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

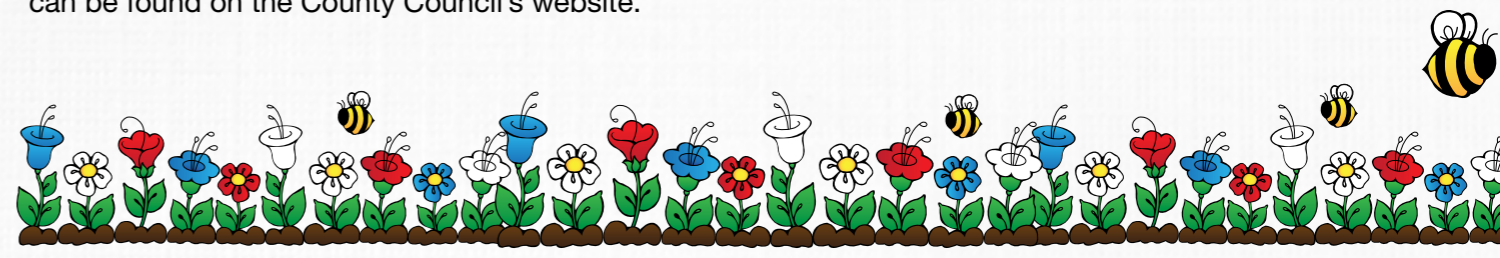
## Northumbria in Bloom- North Lodge 2017

North Lodge Parish area has entered the RHS Northumbria in Bloom competition 2017. Many thanks to all the volunteers who worked intensely to clear areas and plant up for the spring judging in April. This work continues for the summer judging in July. Also thanks go to the residents who have allowed their gardens to be included in this competition. Anybody interested in volunteering, please contact Jackie on 07544026452 or Maureen on 07860500414 for further information.

## Planning

Parish Councillors have worked proactively with Durham County Council officers to improve the plans for the new housing development on the former BOC site on Vigo Lane. We will continue to monitor and respond to any planning proposals which will affect the residents of North Lodge.

The Parish Council has decided not to produce a formal Neighbourhood Plan, primarily due to resourceing issues and the potential costs involved. Further information about the Durham County Plan, which is currently on hold, can be found on the County Council's website.



## Merlin Drive and Low Flatts Play Areas



We are very fortunate to have two excellent play areas in North Lodge which are well used and enjoyed by all. These areas are regularly inspected and any problems addressed as soon as possible. The muddy area at the entrance to Low Flatts has been fitted with grass matting to withstand the regular foot traffic. A refurbished seat was installed to replace one which had been damaged. The continuing nuisance of molehills at Merlin Drive is being considered by Durham County Council.

New signs have been erected at both sites and we would ask for residents to comply with these for the health and safety of all.

**DOG DIRT MUST BE PUT IN THE BINS PROVIDED!**

## Parish Environment Caretaker

The 12 month trial period for the Parish Environment Caretaker (funded by our previous County Councillor, Peter May) has now been completed and has shown to be a success.

The Parish Council will decide at the July meeting if the appointment is to be made permanent.



## Park View School - Community News

Park View School pupils continue to play an important part in the community. At North Lodge the garden club, with the help of staff and residents, grow plants and produce and gift or sell them to the local residents.

With the help of the Parish Council and Residents Association, pupils plant up the tubs in Lombard Drive giving a cheerful entrance to the estate. In the Spring they planted hundreds of spring bulbs throughout the Parish. Pupils have played a big part in the North Lodge in Bloom competition.

A special flower bed has been designed and planted within the school grounds. Bird boxes have been made and donated for the surrounding trees and bug hotels created.

A competition was held within the school to design a poster publicising this years entry of North Lodge in Bloom. The winning design was created by Sophie Carmody. We appreciate the important contribution Park View School makes to our area. Thank you.



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### RIGHTS OF WAY SIGNPOSTS

The County Council has placed "Public Footpath" signs, one near the top of Picktree Lodge and one near 5 Caxton Way, pointing the way to recent officially recorded public rights of way, lying to the east of Caxton Way, Merlin Drive and Picktree Lodge, including the motorway baffle bank.



These rights of way are of immense importance to local walkers and their health.



### Lombard Drive junction with North Road

In May 2017 [following a Parish Council request in November 2015 and a site meeting in October 2016] the County Council extended the double yellow lines on both sides of this exit/entrance, with immediately positive results for all users of this junction.

### PAVEMENT AND ROAD PROBLEMS

Holes or ridges of at least 2 centimetres drop or rise can be reported as safety issues to Durham County Council using [help@durham.gov.uk](mailto:help@durham.gov.uk) for email and 03000 26 1000 for telephone. Using the number on the nearest lamp standard as a position marker should be helpful and you can ask for a help line reference number. Using the website "FixMyStreet" remains particularly helpful for pinpointing the position of a problem by using the maps it provides. FixMyStreet then passes the details on to the County Council. Concerns about roads may be similarly reported.

### 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](mailto:help@durham.gov.uk) or tel: 03000 26 1000.



### 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. Otherwise, if you do decide to park partly on a pavement, please give essential consideration to pedestrians (for whom the pavements were solely built), including wheelchair users and those pushing prams, and ensure that this fully allows for their safe passage. A maximum obstruction of no more than one third of the pavement may keep you free from objections which police can be asked to enforce. Please also avoid the potentially dangerous and annoying blocking of any public pavement through your use of it as a private driveway parking extension to your property.

## North Lodge Parish Signs

The Parish Council has fixed five of these, as "entrance welcome markers", on its Vigo Lane, Durham Road, North Road and Picktree Village stone bus shelters.



## North Lodge Residents Association

Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of March, June and September, 6.30pm-8.30pm.

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

For further information please call Jackie on 07544026452, Derek on 07831269255 or email [eric\\_ryles@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:eric_ryles@hotmail.co.uk)

## Police Matters

### Crime and Community Safety.

North Lodge Parish area continues to have a low crime rate. Crime prevention is the key to this. There are many actions that you can take.

Just as a reminder:

- In the Winter, consider using lamp timers to give the illusion that your property is occupied when you are away from it.
- In the Summer, lock garden sheds and secure gardening equipment.

If help is required, please contact: Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) 6389 Christine Taylor on telephone number 101 or e-mail at [christine.taylor@durham.pnn.police.uk](mailto:christine.taylor@durham.pnn.police.uk). In an emergency, telephone 999.

## Road Safety

Park View School 20 mph Part-time Speed Limits.

Flashing signs are now installed in North Road and Lombard Drive, organised and funded by former County Councillor Peter May.



## 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 Public Space Protection Order [PSPO] for dog control was implemented on 1st June 2017, by Durham County Council. This is of potential interest for everyone. It is an offence in County Durham to:

- Allow a dog to foul without picking it up
- Allow a dog to stray/roam loose/wander/exercise without a responsible owner present.
- Fail to put a dog on a lead when asked by an authorised officer - Council officer or Durham Police
- Allow dogs in designated fenced off play sites.

