

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 North Lodge Division County Councillor Craig Martin and also from Kevan Jones, MP for North Durham.

Parish Council Members

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



CLLR.
E. Forrester



CLLR.
J. Gregory



CLLR.
M. Caygill



CLLR.
P. Driscoll



CLLR.
D. Hall



CLLR.
M. May



CLLR.
C. Noble-Nesbitt



CLLR.
D. Snaith



CLLR.
J. Waugh



Parish Clerk
D. Murrell

Regrettably, in May, John Murray resigned from the Parish Council. The Council thanks John for all his hard work and commitment during his time as a Parish Councillor.

There are at present 2 seats available on the Parish 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, 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.

Publicity

Portfolio Holder and Parish Council Chairman Councillor Elsie Forrester continues to attend many Area Action Partnership meetings and events and this link, together with the many external meetings attended by Councillors, ensures a good flow of information in both directions.

In November 2017, on behalf of the Parish Council, Councillor Forrester laid a wreath at the Remembrance Day Service. Councillor Forrester is also a board member of the Area Action Partnership representing all the Parish Councils in Chester le Street

External Events and Involvements attended by Parish Councillors in 2017/18 include:

- 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

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.

You can find it by browsing the internet for "North Lodge Parish Council" or <http://northlodge.parish.durham.gov.uk/> to view information under a new set of headings in the title page

Select "Council" to move to all Agendas & Minutes, for example

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 2018



Horticulture

Longdean Park Flower bed was re-designed and installed in early February 2018. Initial design Ideas were presented by Councillor Waugh and these were interpreted and installed by A & B Landscapes using four wooden sleepers to the rear and two to the front to elevate and present a new rectangular bed with a greater visual impact.

This bed will now be maintained by Durham County Council as a full floral feature, providing a higher profiled entrance to Longdean Park. Parish gardener Frank Leighton works throughout the year in the Parish area, often highlighted by his introductory gardener display board.

We would like to thank Frank for his hard work and commitment.

The Parish Council and the new Data Protection laws

Councillor Dennis Hall kept the council apprised throughout the year concerning the introduction of new legislation on data protection and its potential effects on small parishes. The Council was keen to avoid unnecessary and costly administrative burdens being imposed whilst recognising the importance of ensuring effective compliance. With support from Local Council Associations, at both national and local level, the new Act, the Data Protection Act 2018, effective from 25 May, no longer requires the appointment by the Parish Council of additional personnel to oversee compliance with its provisions.



Park View School - Community News

The students at North Lodge site of Park View School are delighted to continue working closely with North Lodge Parish Council and to support ventures undertaken within the area. Last year the gardening students really enjoyed their involvement with the North Lodge in Bloom team which culminated in the award for this best new entry.

Unfortunately a new bed created at the school entrance remained flooded for much of the winter and spring, so our next job is to reorganise the bed with plants which like lots of water!

We look forward to planting the tubs in Lombard Drive with summer bedding plants once again.

The school would like to thank the Parish Council for its support.

Merlin Drive and Low Flatts Play Areas



These areas continue to provide great leisure provision in North Lodge and are well used and enjoyed by most. Unfortunately, we have had two incidents of anti-social behaviour at Low Flatts with considerable damage to our safety surfacing. Once again we ask if anyone witnesses any such incident to inform the Police immediately.

Thanks to our County Councillor, Craig Martin, who funded the majority of the full repair of safety surface at Low Flatts from his Neighbourhood Budget, the area is once again up to standard and can be enjoyed by all.

Dog fouling continues to be an issue and we ask dog owners to remove and bin.

We have had goal posts repainted, a new waste bin provided, new signs erected and a seat re-varnished during the year.

These areas are regularly inspected by the Parish Council and Durham County Council.

North Lodge Residents Association

North Lodge Residents Association held an Extra Ordinary Meeting in June, and formally closed the Association, in accordance with the group constitution. If anyone is interested in taking over the running of the Association, then contact Mr Derek Newton on 07831269255 or Mrs Jackie Gregory on 07544026452 for further information.

Parish Environment Caretaker

The litter picking by our Environmental Caretaker, Frank Leighton, has proven to be a great success. The Parish Council would like to thank Frank for keeping the Parish clean and tidy. However this post as agreed will be reviewed at the end of July 2018 to ensure value for money.



Crime and Community Safety

North Lodge Parish continues to have a low crime rate in comparison with not only other areas of Co Durham but nationally.

Unfortunately, there appears to be a rise in vandalism/anti-social behaviour at the Low Flatts play area. The Parish Council is working closely with the Police and Durham County Council to try to eradicate this problem.

There has also been a small increase in motor vehicle crime. Residents are reminded to not leave valuables on show in vehicles. Remember also to lock unattended vehicles.

There have been various police initiatives throughout Co Durham, some have included this area.

- A clamp down on using a mobile phone whilst driving.
- Speeding, the police safety monitoring vehicle has been deployed at various locations within the parish.

Key messages: In winter, consider using lamp timers to give the illusion that your property is occupied when you are away from it.

In summer, remember to close windows, lock garden sheds and secure gardening equipment.

Congratulations go to Durham Constabulary, as once again, the service has been identified as outstanding, after a visit by HMIC Inspectorate in October 2017.

If advice is required, please contact Police Community Support Officer 6389 Christine Taylor on telephone number 101 or e-mail christine.taylor@durham.pnn.police.uk. In any emergency telephone 999

Footpath between Low Flats Bridge and Drum Estate.

Grateful thanks to the voluntary environmental group from the Co-operative Depot for their recent work in keeping this footpath accessible for the public.

Planning

The Avant development of the former BOC site has started. We welcome the first residents to the North Lodge Parish. Development of the former Arizona Chemical site will follow in due course.

The preferred option document for the new County Durham Plan will be issued for public consultation during the summer. We will continue to be vigilant and pro-active in monitoring and responding to any planning proposals which will affect the residents of North Lodge Parish.

Northumbria in Bloom - North Lodge 2017

The Parish area was awarded silver gilt in the 'large village' category of the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Northumbria in Bloom Competition 2017. This award is testament to the hard work of all the volunteers who gave up their time during the spring and summer planting sessions. It was also judged to be the best new entry in Northumberland and Durham and was awarded £50. Since Park View School, Lombard Drive was involved with the competition, the In-Bloom group donated the cash to the school's gardening department.

RHS Judges comments included: "North Lodge is a re-entry to Northumbria in Bloom after a long absence. It is supported by an enthusiastic and well organised In-Bloom group determined to improve their locality".

Worthy of special mention are Mr and Mrs Davidson of Low Flatts Road for receiving an award in the best private garden section and Mr and Mrs Kirkup of Picktree Village who also received an award for their outstanding contribution to horticulture and environmental responsibilities. Thanks also go to Mr George Nairn for supplying a local history of the area and the Lambton Worm Pub for the hospitality given to volunteers and judges.

Leaflets had been distributed to every household in the area to ensure that anyone who was interested, had the opportunity to be part of a successful community based team.

Dog Owners/Walkers

NEWS IN BRIEF

RIGHTS OF WAY SIGNPOSTS

The recently signposted public rights of way lying to the east of Picktree Lodge, Caxton Way and Merlin Drive, include the motorway baffle bank path and are increasingly used by walkers.



Pavement and road problems

Holes or ridges of at least 2 centimetres drop or rise on pavements and dangerous potholes in the road can be reported as safety issues to Durham County Council.

Reporting problems to Durham County Council

As a cost cutting exercise, the County Council no longer accepts messages via the "FixMyStreet" website. Instead, problems regarding hedges, pavements and roads may now be reported directly to the Council by telephone [03000 26 0000], by text messaging [0779 787 0192], starting with the word: INFO, or through its "Do it online" system, for which see the Durham County Council website. Using the number on the nearest street lamp standard as a position marker may be helpful.

...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 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 directly to Durham County Council which has enforcing powers under the Highways Act 1980.



North Lodge Parish Signs

The Parish Council has five of these, as "entrance welcome markers", on its Vigo Lane, Durham Road, North Road and Picktree Village stone bus shelters which are subject to a phased refurbishment



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.

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. Please see the DCC website for extensive important details.

