

Please retain for reference throughout the year



# *North Lodge Parish Council* **NEWSLETTER 2019**



## *Horticulture*

Two new circular flower beds are to be installed for the Parish Council this summer. They will flank the existing bed on the grass verge at Blind Lane, on the approach to the A1 Motorway. Once installed for the Parish Council, they will be maintained by Durham County Council, and offer a colourful improvement to the vista on this important link road.

Parish gardener Frank Leighton works throughout the Parish area, often accompanied by his introductory display board, and is happy to talk about his current work on site.

We would like to thank Frank for his efforts, and commitment to maintaining good standards of horticulture presentation.

## *Planning*

The Avant development of the former BOC site continues. We welcome the new residents to the North Lodge parish. Development of the former Arizona Chemical site will follow in due course.

Regarding the County Durham Plan, a pre submission draft is being prepared following a public consultation which concluded on 8th March. This will be submitted to an independent examiner, along with all comments received and the examiner will decide whether the scheme will go ahead. It does not include any development within the parish. We will continue to be vigilant and proactive in responding to any planning proposals which will affect the residents of North Lodge Parish.



# Keeping Up To Date on Parliamentary News and Standards

Councillor Dennis Hall updated Councillors throughout the year on Parliamentary news, new regulations and standards. A new report from the Committee on Standards in Public Life was considered during the year. A key focus has been upon seeking to achieve closer liaison with the County Council to improve the handling of queries and issues that arise within the Parish. Councillor Hall's brief will be to continue to keep the Council advised and compliant in such matters as data protection, Standards and the Code of Conduct.

## Postman Brian Milner

The Parish Council would like to send congratulations to our own North Lodge postman, Brian Milner BEM. He was awarded the National Postman of the Year award in October 2018. A real achievement, well done.

## North Lodge Parish Notice Boards

The Parish Council has embarked on renewing all the notice boards throughout the parish. There will also be two additional boards, one in Vigo Lane and the other one alongside the Northlands bus shelter. All the boards will be larger and contain a lot more community information.



## 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.



### NORTH LODGE PARISH STONE BUS SHELTERS

Vigo Lane, Durham Road,  
North Road and Picktree Village stone bus shelters are subject to a continued phased refurbishment programme.



## ...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 [and possible legal action]. 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.



### 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.

### 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**  
Problems regarding hedges, pavements and roads may 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.

Roads have been re-surfaced by the County Council at Lombard Drive (East), Leander Avenue, Merlin Drive and Hampton Court.

Highways England work affecting the Picktree Lodge Estate entrance - It is expected that the A1 motorway bridge renovation work will start up again this year.

### Dog Owners/Walkers & Public Spaces

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.

## Merlin Drive and Low Flatts Play Areas



Our play areas continue to be well used and appreciated.

The nuisance of molehills continues at Merlin Drive, but are fortunately flattened by the grass cutting equipment in the summer.

We await delivery of a new covered waste bin at Low Flatts to help prevent the spread of rubbish by birds etc. We once again ask that dog owners put dog waste bags in the bins provided and not dumped around the area causing a health hazard.

The play equipment is inspected weekly, but we ask if the public would inform the police if they witness any antisocial behaviour.

We anticipate that the housing development on Vigo Lane will contain provision for some play facility. North Lodge Parish Council, together with our County Councillor Craig Martin will continue to source ways of enhancing this provision within the parish.



## Parish Environment Caretaker

The litter picking by our environment caretaker, Frank Leighton, has again proved to be a resounding success. The Parish Council would like to thank Frank for his diligence in keeping the Parish clean and tidy, and in spotting any issues of fly tipping, or vandalism, which need addressing.

## Crime and Community Safety

North Lodge Parish continues to experience a low crime rate in comparison to other areas of Co Durham. There is, however, a slight rise in vehicle crime. Residents are reminded not to leave valuables and cash on show in vehicles and to fully secure them when unattended.

Sadly, there was a fatal road traffic accident on Drum Industrial Estate. Police, Business and County Council representatives along with the North Lodge County Councillor have held a meeting to discuss parking in that area. The Parish Council sends condolences to the family and friends of the victim.

Police initiatives for County Durham have included measures to reduce speeding and knife crime. Speed monitoring vehicles and traffic personnel have been deployed within the parish. A knife amnesty was implemented, which finished in March.

A police operation to remind residents to make sure their residential property was secure in the winter nights was also undertaken.

### Key crime prevention messages for residents

**a) In the dark winter nights, consider using lamp timers to give the illusion the property is occupied when you are away from it.**

**b) In the summer months, remember to close windows, lock garden sheds and secure gardening equipment.**

Chester-le-Street Area Action Partnership money was used to purchase two e-bikes for local police officers to use in the area including North Lodge.

Once again congratulations are sent to Durham Police. The service has been identified by the HMIC Inspectorate as outstanding. The Parish Council also sends good wishes for a happy retirement to the Chief Constable, Mr Mike Barton.

**For police advice, please contact Police Officer 2722, Burn or Community Support Officer, 6389 Christine Taylor, using telephone number 101 or e-mail [christine.taylor@durham.pnn.police.uk](mailto:christine.taylor@durham.pnn.police.uk).**

**In any emergency, telephone 999.**

## Park View School- Community News Farewell Messages

### Mr Iain Veitch Head Teacher

"After 27 and a half years, it will be a wrench to leave Park View but I do so knowing that the school is in safe hands, Mr Finley having been named as my successor. The school has changed enormously in terms of fabric, staff and technology since I joined it in January 1992 yet we have held onto the values which we feel are at the heart of true education. One of the most important of these has been developing in students a sense of community and, with this, a sense of civic responsibility. Within school, this translates into the belief that we are all learners and that we have a duty to respect each other and to support the efforts of each individual to reach his/her potential. Outside of our boundaries, we wish the school to understand that they are part of local, national and global communities, that no person can survive in isolation and together humanity is stronger: put simply, give back and you will receive a thousand times more. In delivering this message, we have been supported massively by the North Lodge parish and are indebted to all within it for the willingness to embrace the aspirations of the children and to work with us on projects which have hopefully made a real difference to the locality. I hope that, in this respect, the legacy left by myself and, more pertinently, Mrs Wilson will continue long after we have both departed.

I would take this opportunity to thank all those who have been involved in the life of the school, and particularly Mrs Caygill who has done so much to be a bridge between ourselves and the community, and to wish all residents in the locality a future marked out by health and happiness."

With best regards  
Iain Veitch

### Mrs Morag Wilson Head of Park View Lower School

"After 27 very happy years of teaching and working with the young people at Park View school, I have decided to semi retire and will leave Park View at the end of this school year. It has been a very difficult decision to make but a health scare last year has prompted me to reassess my plans for the future. I feel very lucky to have been part of the North Lodge community for much of my time at Park View but especially the last 13 years when I have been Head of the Lower School site. From Lambton Worm projects to community spring cleans to gardening adventures - our community projects together with the wonderful students of Park View have provided me with many lasting memories. I would like to thank all of the residents in the North Lodge area and members of the North Lodge Parish Council for their friendship and support during my time at Park View. My successor Mrs Pam Hall is looking forward to joining the school and getting to know our friends and neighbours in the community. I wish you all the very best for the future."

Morag Wilson



Park View  
School

**The Parish Council and the Residents of North Lodge would like to thank Iain and Morag for all their hard work and commitment they have given to both students and parents/guardians throughout their many long years in service. We wish them both well for the future.**

# 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.

Members of the Parish Council wish to thank Mr David Murrell, Parish Clerk to the Council, for his continued support and advice throughout the past year.

### Parish Council Members

Jackie Gregory - Chair	23 Blind Lane	Maureen May	Hollydene North Lodge
Dennis Hall - Vice Chair	26 Longdean Park	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
Elsie Forrester	14 Queensmere		



CLLR.  
J. Gregory



CLLR.  
D. Hall



CLLR.  
M. Caygill



CLLR.  
P. Driscoll



CLLR.  
E. Forrester



CLLR.  
M. May



CLLR.  
C. Noble-Nesbitt



CLLR.  
D. Snaith



CLLR.  
J. Waugh



Parish Clerk  
D. Murrell

### Retiring Chairman

The Parish Council would like to thank our retiring Chairman, Councillor Elsie Forrester, for her commitment to the role. She worked diligently in keeping fellow Councillors updated with current council and community matters. Since she will remain on the Council it is hoped she will continue with such dedication, as it is much appreciated. Councillor Forrester will still continue to represent Chester le Street local parish councils as a board member of the Area Action Partnership (APP)

### New Chairman and Vice Chairman

The Parish Council welcomes the newly elected Chairman, Councillor Jackie Gregory and Vice Chair Councillor Dennis Hall and look forward to working with them.

### Vacancies

Vacancies exist for two Parish Councillors. Any persons interested in representing their local community, please contact the Parish Clerk. Meetings are held in Park View School, Lombard Drive, North Lodge, at 6.30pm on the third Tuesday of each month (except August and December). At present Parish Council notice boards are located in Picktree Lodge, Picktree Village, North Road (near to the Lambton Worm Hotel) and at the entrance to Merlin Drive Play Area.

### County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC)

At the recent County Durham Association of Smaller Councils Forum hosted by Shildon Town Council in the Civic Centre in Shildon, on Thursday 23 May 2019, Councillor Elsie Forrester was unanimously voted onto the position of Chairman of the said Forum which represents 90 Smaller Councils around County Durham. Councillor Forrester and Councillor Maureen May have represented North Lodge Parish Council for several years on the Smaller Councils Forum. There are five meetings a year.

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.

## 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.pariah.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.