

NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL is non-political and is grateful for the support and advice received from area County Councillors Peter May and Jim Cordon, and MP Kevan Jones.

EXTERNAL MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCILLORS IN 2010/11 INCLUDED:

- Chester-le-Street and District Area Action Partnership (AAP) Board and Forum
- Parish and Town Councils Conference hosted by Durham County Council Standards Committee
- County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC) Charter Review
- Police Community Consultative Group
- AAP Opportunities for Children and Young People Task Group, and Environment Task and Finish Group
- North Lodge Residents' Association

At the 2010 Remembrance Day Service the Chairman presented the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.

Change in venue and day

The Parish Council Meetings are now held on the third Tuesday of each month (except August and December) in Park View Community School, Lombard Drive at 6.30 pm. The Parish Council is very grateful to Park View Community Association for help in making these new arrangements possible. Parish Council notices are displayed in the notice boards 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 389 2516, e-mail: northlodgepc@tiscali.co.uk or any Parish Councillor.

Maureen May (Chair)	Hollydene, North Lodge
Elsie Forrester (Vice-Chair)	14 Queensmere
Sue Brown	2 Lintfort, Picktree Village
Margaret Caygill	27a Lyndhurst Avenue
Chris Jukes	4 Mitford Close
Linda LeDune	51 Leander Avenue
Vera McEwan	30 Lombard Drive
Colin Noble-Nesbitt	6 Merlin Drive
Ditte Prest	17 Caxton Way
Stephen Tones	44 Lyndhurst Avenue
Carole Walton	50 Longdean Park



North Lodge Parish Council NEWSLETTER 2011

PLAY AREAS

The Parish Council is pleased to update you with the latest play area developments:

Merlin Drive:

A second set of swings, for older children, has been installed with financial help from the Residents' Association and from County Councillor Peter May's Neighbourhood Budget.

The planned art work is now underway by artist Andrew McKeown and Durham County Council. In his work, Andrew was pleased to incorporate ideas from pupils of Park View School and suggestions put forward by local residents and councillors at the presentation meeting held in March. A model of the design is soon expected to be available for viewing.

Mole and rabbit infestations continue to be addressed.

Low Flatts

The perimeter hedging at Low Flatts has been cut back to encourage a more dense screening from the Railway and the Industrial Estate. The rabbit infestation continues to be addressed.



Both of these Play Areas are well used and appreciated. Residents are asked to assist in keeping them clean and safe, by observing the notices in the fenced areas. On the surrounding areas, dog owners are asked for continued adherence to the local by-laws and use of the bins provided.

Please note: the use of metal detectors on council land is strictly prohibited.

NORTH LODGE IN BLOOM

The Parish Council remains committed to ensuring that the Parish continues to be one of the most attractive areas of Chester-le-Street in which to live. Last autumn, 3,000 daffodils were planted on both sides of Blind Lane and on Caxton Way, and crocuses were planted in various beds and bus shelter beds throughout the Parish.

The new flower beds on both sides of the A167, near the entrance to Lombard Drive, are another attractive addition. These beds are planted and maintained by Durham County Council and funded by the Parish Council.

Sadly, the newly planted hedging along the south fence of Merlin Drive play area was vandalised and destroyed last summer. The plants had begun to establish themselves but they were pulled out and left on the ground. This is the second attempt to grow hedging along this fence and the Parish Council feels unable to justify the funding for a third attempt.

The hedge around Low Flatts playing field is now much tidier and easier to maintain, after a long overdue strimming. Clearing litter from this hedge is a constant problem even though a litter bin is provided and regularly emptied by Durham County Council.

The Parish Council is always grateful for the help received from the County Council, in particular for the practical support and advice from Martin Briscoe ["Clean and Green" Supervisor].

VACANCY

The Parish Council has a vacancy for a part-time gardener/handyperson to maintain the shrub beds and bus shelter beds etc.

Hours: 6 hours per week March to mid-November; plus November to March as required.

Salary: £7 per hour initially, plus expenses.

Basic tools and safety equipment will be supplied but the post-holder's own transport and storage of equipment is necessary.

Contact: Carole Walton
0191 3882849 for details



HISTORIC NORTH LODGE

LAMBTON PARK CAMP

This postcard [posted 14 May 1915] shows Lambton Park Camp during the First World War, where up to two thousand troops from the Shropshires, Cheshires, Denbighs, R.A.M.C., Scottish Horse and Royal Horse Artillery Regiments camped.

Photo by kind permission of Mr. George Nairn, who seeks pre 1955 postcards and photographs any subject, any place.
Tel: 0191 388 8780

LAMBTON PARK CAMP, CHESTER-LE-STREET

NEWS IN BRIEF

BOUNDARY COMMISSION ELECTORAL REVIEW OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR WARDS

Due to a change in the law, the Commission had to take into account the 2011 and projected 2016 electoral rolls in putting forward a further 12 week public consultation [ends on 1st August 2011] regarding the proposed wards for elections due in 2013.

Following the results of its previous consultation, the Commission's own proposal for a local larger three-councillor ward has been dropped and the Parish Council's proposal, for three smaller one-councillor wards instead, is the only one to be retained. Thus, the present proposal is that North Lodge should become the basis for a new one-councillor ward [named North Lodge] and that the adjoining one-councillor wards should be named as Chester-le-Street North and Chester-le-Street East. Full details about this new stage of the electoral review [and how to respond personally] can be found on the Local Government Boundary Commission England website: www.lgbce.org.uk

The Parish Council's proposal originated from consistent views expressed by a number of electors. At the previous public consultation, this proposal was overwhelmingly favoured, in being also supported by the County Council, North Lodge Residents' Association, North Durham Labour Party, County Councillor May, County Councillor Shiell and 31 local residents.

PARK VIEW LOWER SCHOOL APPROACH

"No Stopping" and "No Waiting" signs and road markings are nearing full completion, from 8am to 9am and from 3pm to 4pm, on Lombard Drive.



PAVEMENTS AND CAR PARKING

If you decide to park on a pavement (strictly speaking outside the law) please continue to ensure that this does not prevent safe passage along the pavement by pedestrians, including those with wheelchairs and twin prams. A maximum obstruction of one third of the pavement may keep you free from objections.

Where there are houses on only one side of a road, there is usually no need or justification for parking on pavements.

TRANSIT 15 - NORTHLANDS ROUNDABOUT / A167 NORTH ROAD

In continuing to make suggestions to Durham County Council for modifications to this major scheme, the Parish Council has sought to promote the safety of pedestrians and the needs of cyclists, with the retention of as much of North Road's green and leafy nature as possible. As a result, the County Council has, for example, removed the southbound bus lane from its plan and made some positive modifications to the positioning of cycle lanes along North Road.

The Parish Council continues to press for more attention to safe pedestrian crossing measures on the A693 and Blind Lane.

Residents are alerted to the County Council's probable intention to put the modified scheme out to further public consultation, at which time residents' views will be very important.

WWW. PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE @

The launch of this website is due in the autumn and will be announced on the Parish Council notice boards.

...and as usual



OVERHANGING BRANCHES

Please continue to ensure that your hedges, shrubs and trees do not extend at all beyond your property's boundary with public footpaths (Highways Act 1980). Giving clear headroom of about 7 feet 6 inches is also important. This action reduces the risk of facial injury or damage to clothing and umbrellas, from thorns and branches, for any pedestrians, including the young and those who are disabled or visually impaired.

PAVEMENT IMPERFECTIONS

Holes or ridges of at least 2 centimetres drop or rise can continue to be reported to the Highways Action Line (HAL) on 0191 370 6000 or hal@durham.gov.uk for email. Use the nearest numbered lamppost as a position marker and ask for a HAL reference number. The use of the website "FixMyStreet" is particularly helpful if you wish to pinpoint the position of a problem by using the maps provided.

Concerns about roads can be similarly reported.

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

Durham County Council is committed to help homeowners to live in dwellings that are warm, comfortable and safe. The Council is hoping to achieve this by offering financial assistance to those who need it most. If an owner/occupier finds it difficult to fund repairs, essential improvements or adaptations, an affordable loan may be available.

See the web page: Decent Homes Assistance or contact: Housing Services, Regeneration and Economic Development, Durham County Council, Seaside Lane, Easington, Co Durham, SR8 3TN

DEREK YORKE

It was with great sadness that the Parish Council learned of the death of Derek who previously served as a Councillor for very many years (often as Chairman). His contribution to the local community was greatly appreciated and he will be missed.

He also devoted much of his time to working as a hospital volunteer and as a member of the local Cancer Research Committee.

POLICE MATTERS

Report from Police Community Support Officer [PCSO] Lesley Hunter

Over the past 12 months, crime generally has reduced in the Chester-le-Street area. However, there was an increase in the North Lodge area of damage to property which, over the past couple of months, seems to have abated. All other areas of crime and nuisance recorded in the area have fallen, including youth and vehicle nuisance incidents reported. Patrols have been stepped up in the area and several youths from the Birtley area have had alcohol confiscated and been told not to return. This seems to have had the desired effect. Good working relationships with Park View School have been established, with visits to talk to pupils, by myself and other colleagues, on several issues which affect them and the area in which they live.

ACTIVITY WEEK

CHESTER-LE-STREET MARKET PLACE

22-26 August 2011 - 10am to 3pm

This project is targeted at providing a full week of varied fun and educational activities for young people.

The Markets held on Tuesday and Friday will continue to operate and it is hoped that this will increase the economic benefits to local businesses in the town centre.

A wide range of youth agencies, uniformed services and other partners will present over 30 different activities. The project will be co-ordinated and managed by the local police.

WINTER WEATHER

The Parish Council would like to thank everyone for their patience with the road and pavement snow clearing problems during one of the coldest and snowiest winters on record.

In particular, thanks go to all those who showed community spirit in clearing roads on behalf of their neighbours and helped to keep traffic flowing at strategic points in the Parish.

On 14 April 2011, from 10.30 to 11.30 am, the first arranged speed watch took place on North Road. This was in place of the previously arranged watch in December which was thwarted by the bad weather. During one hour, 395 vehicles passed by and out of those, 50 were travelling at more than 30 mph, 14 of which could have been ticketed if caught by the official Road Policing Officers. Only one vehicle belonged to a local resident.

On a personal note, I enjoy working in the area and talking to everyone. I also now have help from the newly created Neighbourhood Wardens for Durham County Council, who can assist in the Parish with problems of: graffiti; fly posting; abandoned/untaxed vehicles; dog fouling; untidy yards and gardens; fly tipping; low level anti-social behaviour. I look forward to a good year ahead.

NORTH LODGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

With a guest speaker giving a talk on something topical and of interest, meetings take place on the first Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September and November. They are held at Park View Lower School, Lombard Drive, North Lodge, starting at 7 pm. New faces are always welcome.



We will...

- Tackle anti-social behaviour
- Reduce harm from alcohol and drugs
- Protect vulnerable people from harm

We asked what matters to you...

Your Views Count

Durham Police Authority & Durham Constabulary

