

Kimblesworth and Plawsworth Parish Council

KPPC Newsletter

Issue 21

April 2024



cc-by-sa/2.0 - Kimblesworth Colliery... by P Glenwright - geograph.org.uk/p/246652

This Issue...

Page

What's been achieved?	2
The Community Centre Needs Your Support	3
Parking in Nettlesworth and Karbon Homes	3
B6312—speeding issues	4
Village entrance stonework	4
Nettlesworth Community Centre timetable	4
Contact us	4

Follow us on Facebook: [@kppcouncil](#)

Contact us: clerk@kimblesworthandplawsworthparishcouncil.co.uk

www.kimblesworthandplawsworthparishcouncil.co.uk

What's been achieved?

In the last year, several additions and improvements have been made to the parish's villages.

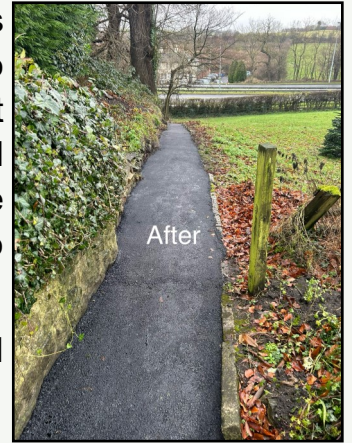
Playgrounds— A new climber and slide has been added at Nettlesworth and a new see-saw style swing at Kimblesworth, with funding arranged between our County Councillors, the Area Action Partnership at Durham County Council (DCC), and the parish council.



Before

Public Right of Way, Plawsworth— This frequently used right of way joins the A167 to Wheatleywell Lane. Works were funded by DCC but the effort from the Clerk to have the path refurbished was huge. Many emails, calls, and site visits, were made before the opportunity presented itself to renew the path.

And what a difference it has made! See before and after picture to the right and left.



After

Memorial bench, Tanhills— As a reference to the area's mining heritage, a seat was placed at the corner of the B6312 and Tanhills (picture right), in a newly paved area, which has recently has small whip hedging added to the boundary.

The installation was originally funded by the parish council but DCC later contributed as well, due to ongoing costs.



Planters at Westhill Close, Sacriston— Two new planters (picture left) have been placed in the West Nettlesworth Ward of the parish, where the streets of Daleside and Westhill Close, Sacriston (and the new estate on Cross Lane) fall within our parish boundary.

A new paved area and a bench is on its way to the top of Cross Lane in 2024, as the council continue to look at projects across all areas within the parish boundary.

The Water Trough— Following our trough refurbishment in 2023, we were successful with a grant application to fund a paved seating area which has been added in early 2024 (picture right). The bench is sourced locally from recycled plastic, but is hardwearing and retains an authentic look.

Signage will be installed soon to inform of the area's history and flowers will be planted to add colour.



The Community Centre Needs Your Support

The Parish Council do not manage the Community Centre, it is run by Plawsworth and Kimblesworth Community Association (PKCA). However, the council recognises its vital importance to the villages within our area and agreed with PKCA to an appeal for help.

The cost-of-living crisis and the huge spike in the cost of electricity and gas have created a serious financial challenge for the Nettlesworth Community Centre, and it needs the help and support of the community if it is to continue. Do you have ideas for groups, events, and activities that could take place at the Centre? Are there sports, physical activities, crafts, or meetings that you could help organise there? A number of groups already use the Centre, but we all need to increase its usage (and therefore income).



The simple message is, “use it or lose it!” Could you volunteer to help the Community Association, who run the Centre? They need volunteers not only to run groups there, but also to help with publicity, managing the website, fundraising, and buildings maintenance, amongst other things.

The Centre was built 100 years ago as a memorial hall, to honour the memory of the men from our villages who gave their lives in the First World War. It was an inspired decision to raise not just a war memorial, but a hall that would serve the community for decades to come. And so it has. But without the support of the whole community, its future is uncertain.

The land occupied by the Centre, and the Recreation Ground next door, is owned by the Lambton Estate. The original 99-year lease is now over-time, but it is proving exceptionally difficult to get an appropriate new lease agreed, despite the efforts of Durham County Council on the Community Association’s behalf. Without a new long-term lease, the Association cannot get the grants needed to refurbish the building, to make it fit for the future. The Community Association are deeply frustrated but hope this situation will be resolved as soon as possible.

Meanwhile all interested parties press on, but to adapt what was said in the First World War: Your Community Needs YOU! Please contact: enquiries@nettlesworthcommunitycentre.co.uk

Lack of communication by Karbon Homes a concern

In 2006, Chester-le-Street District Council granted itself planning permission to provide 12 parking bays on the green space in the middle of The Crescent, Nettlesworth, which it owned^[1]. The Council was disbanded in 2009. The land then passed subsequently to Cestria Homes and, latterly, to Karbon Homes.

Aware of difficulties concerning parking in the villages, the Parish Council planned additional provision in places, including The Green. This was a major reason why, at its meeting in January 2018, it increased its precept (what council tax payers contribute to the council). Since then, the Council has attempted to engage Karbon Homes in discussion to make additional parking provision in The Crescent.

What has occurred since 2019 has been a total failure by Karbon to reply to the Parish Council. County councillors have been go-betweens occasionally reporting verbally that Karbon has “no plans” to create further parking or ‘hard standing’ areas in Nettlesworth. Sometimes “Karbon is aware of the issues”, though more often there has been no reply at all. Even the involvement of Kevan Jones MP in May-June 2022 failed to yield a result. For a summary of this, please visit our website^[2].

There is apparently nothing in practice to compel Karbon Homes to communicate with the Parish Council. However, Karbon’s registration document states, *“Its charitable objects shall be to carry on for the benefit of the community... the business of... providing help house people and associated facilities, amenities and services, for poor people or for the relief of aged, disabled (whether physically or mentally) or chronically sick people.”*^[3] Draw your own conclusions!

[1] <https://publicaccess.durham.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=IZ3YZTEQ22000>

[2] <https://www.kimblesworthandplawsworthparishcouncil.co.uk/blog>

[3] <https://mutuals.fca.org.uk/Search/Society/21040>

Pictures of our Parish Do you have any interesting, new or old, pictures of our parish? Would you be happy to share them with us and other members of our parish? If so please send them to our clerk (contact details on front page).



The third Kimblesworth banner was purchased and amended circa 1960, replacing 'Ushaw Moor' with 'Kimblesworth'. Photo courtesy of Durham Mining Museum.

B6312 - Speed signage

We recently met Kevan Jones MP to ask for his support in promoting a safer road through Nettlesworth (B6312). He wrote to Durham County Council and this was their response regarding improvements: *"The proposal of an advisory 20mph zone in Nettlesworth has been discussed between DCC and local councillors. We would always support this type of proposal although this would require external funding. The cost to install an advisory 20mph zone is approximately £15k (this includes a £2.5k package of education and marketing delivered by the Road Safety team). I must confirm that this is only an estimate"*.

Contact your Parish Councillors

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| Donna Bruce | dbruce6666@gmail.com |
| Elaine Burnip | elaineburnip32@gmail.com |
| Gareth Craig | gcraig.kppc@gmail.com |
| Daniel Inman | dgp.inman@hotmail.co.uk |
| Bill Jackson | bill.jackson01628@gmail.com |
| Heather Rippon | heatherrippon.kppc@gmail.com |
| Lillian Walker | Lillian.walker240@gmail.com |
| Rachael Elley | relley.kppc@gmail.com |

We currently have three vacancies - contact the Clerk if you would like to join us.

Nettlesworth Community Centre

Meeting rooms, halls and kitchens are available for hire. More information is available on their website: www.nettlesworthcommunitycentre.co.uk

Centre timetable

Monday	11am-3pm 6.30-7.30pm 6.30-8.30pm	Community Café Durham HiIT Club Step This Way
Tuesday	5-6.30pm 6.30-8.30pm	SYP Senior youth group Waldridge Fell dog training
Wednesday	1-3pm 6-7pm 7-8.30pm	Phoenix Events (line dancing) Zumba KPPC Dog Training
Thursday	10am-midday 6.30-7.30pm	Mona Lisa Art group Durham HiIT Club
Friday	9.15-10.45am 1-2.30pm 4-5.30pm	SYP Baby and toddlers SYP Baby and toddlers SYP Inters & Minis/Juniors
Monthly: 1st Tuesday	5.30-7pm	Little Treasures Teen Group

Other groups meet regularly throughout the year. Durham Musical Theatre group rehearses at the centre and the National Flower Arranging Society holds classes there.

The Community Centre Committee meet the second Tuesday evening of every month.

For further details please email: enquiries@nettlesworthcommunitycentre.co.uk
Or call 07757238257.

New Village Entrance Signs

We have been successful in a grant application for funding to install stone signs at the entrances to Nettlesworth, Kimblesworth, and Plawsworth, similar to the ones already at Sacriston.

The stones will be carved to show a Davy lamp and pit wheel to recognise the area's mining heritage, and wheat will be included on the sign for Plawsworth due to its farming past.

A contractor was agreed in 2023, and we await final agreement from the Highways Service at DCC on their location but hope these will be installed by Summer 2024.

D-Day 80—following the recent poppies (on lamp-posts) for Remembrance Day in 2023, the council will look to commemorate D-Day this June.