

Kimblesworth and Plawsworth Parish Council

KPPC Newsletter

Issue 18

DECEMBER 2020



(© Neil The Walton Wanderer, Flickr)

Mill Lane Viaduct, 1982

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Parish Christmas Tree 2020

What is KPPC?

Local councils are statutory bodies funded principally by an annual precept. The precept is collected through council tax by the county council and is paid to the parish council each year. Parish councils can apply for other funding such as grants but they do not receive funds directly from central government.

If you have a question, suggestion, complaint, request or concern and think your Parish Council may be able to help, please contact our clerk (see back page for details). Alternatively, please come to one of our monthly meetings held on the second Thursday of each month (excluding August) at 7pm. Meetings are currently being held remotely - contact our clerk for information.

PACT—November 2020

Nettleworth

Theft: 1 (1 last month)
Road related: 2 (1 last month)
Domestic: 1 (1 last month)
Harassment crime: 2 (4 last month)
Concerns for safety: 6 (1 last month)
Suspicious activity: 7 (6 last month)
Domestic incident: 4 (2 last month)
ASB Personal: 3 (1 last month)

Kimbleworth

Harassment crime: 1 (1 last month)
Suspicious activity: 5 (2 last month)
ASB environmental: 4 (2 last month)
Vehicle crime: 1 (0 last month)



Plawsworth

Firearms/weapons incident: 1 (0 last month)
Public order: 3 (1 last month)
Theft: 4 (0 last month)
Robbery: 1 (0 last month)
Malicious communications: 2 (2 last month)
Domestic: 3 (1 last month)
Road related: 4 (2 last month)
Concerns for safety: 5 (10 last month)
Suspicious activity: 15 (13 last month)
ASB personal: 2 (0 last month)

PCSO contacts:

Luke.payne@durham.police.uk
Mark.Lumsden@durham.police.uk
Heather.bittlestone@durham.police.uk

Agendas

If there is an item that you wish to have discussed by KPPC please contact the clerk with details of the issue and, where possible, the decision you would like the council to make. The agenda for Parish Council meetings is set one week in advance of the meeting and is displayed by placing a public notice in the official Parish Council noticeboards across the parish. These noticeboards are on Wheatleywell Lane, Plawsworth; at the entrance to Tanmeads, Nettleworth; and at the junction of Westhills Close, and Edmondsley Lane (in West Nettleworth) - see map below.



You asked - we did

- We have agreed and budgeted for plants in Plawsworth and the far west of the parish in 2021.
- We have purchased a salt bin for Boyntons, Nettleworth after it did not meet DCC criteria.
- The Council installed a Christmas tree within the parish, at Nettleworth.
- We successfully petitioned Northern Gas throughout 2020 to install new fencing at Tan Hills.
- We negotiated the re-routing of the X20 on evenings/Sundays through Kimbleworth (see page 4).

What else is being considered by KPPC?

- We will investigate the feasibility of a Christmas tree in each of the three villages in 2021.
- We will be looking at features across the parish including a carving from resident, Richie Barnes.
- We will soon be funding a salt bin for Hillmeads, at the cut to The Crescent.

A 'lost' station - Plawsworth

Plawsworth Station opened on 1st December 1868 (as reported in the Newcastle Journal 1st Edition) and closed to passengers on 7th April 1952. It closed to goods trains in 1963.

The station itself was not demolished until later that decade but the line remained open, of course, as part of the East Coast mainline.

The station was in disrepair during the 1960s and dismantling took place over time, as can be seen by the removal of the platform and front canopy in the photo on the right.

The station was built to a standard design for its time and although Plawsworth Station has now sadly gone, some disused stations in the north remain.

The road bridge at Wheatleywell Lane, travelling over the railway line at the site of the former station, is still the original but on electrification they removed the arch and placed a prefabricated concrete arch on top of the existing abutments.

Few passenger trains would stop at the intermediate station of Plawsworth, compared to the many trains that utilised the main line. Perhaps due to Plawsworth being on the main bus route from Durham to Newcastle, it is said that commuters did not always frequent the station in the numbers you may expect, particularly on evenings.

The station also operated a branch line to Kimblesworth Colliery to haul coal across the old A1 (now A167), over a viaduct which was demolished in the 1970s. The viaduct was pictured on the front page of our Summer newsletter.



*Plawsworth Station, platform removed, early 1960s
Photo courtesy of Roy Lambeth*



*Site of Plawsworth station, ECML 2002
cc-by-sa/2.0 - © Ben Brooksbank*



*Train heading southbound from old Plawsworth Station site, under a viaduct (now demolished), 1983
© Robert Patterson (Flickr)*

A viaduct over the viaduct

Travelling southbound from the station, the railway line crosses Mill Lane viaduct, and over the wooded dene.

Until the late 1980s, another viaduct ran across the railway line from the direction of Southill Hall.

This now demolished viaduct can be seen in the photo on the front page of the newsletter and in the photo on the left.



*Plawsworth Station and Wheatleywell Lane road bridge
Source and date unknown*

Do you have any memories of the station or suggestions on how it can be remembered? If so, contact the clerk (see last page for details).



Trading Standards

Durham County Council have a new Trading Standards Facebook Page to share scam awareness posts and consumer protection campaigns: www.facebook.com/durhamts

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? Or do you have a photograph from more recent times that can be used to promote the beauty and diversity of our green and beautiful parish? If so please send them to our clerk (see details at the bottom of this page).



*Miners Gala, Kimblesworth banner 1923
Photo courtesy of Durham Mining Museum*

X20 bus route

After a trial run of the evening and Sunday bus travelling through Kimblesworth, from Durham, Go North-East (GNE) decided to make the change permanent. The Parish Council has been successful in petitioning Durham County Council and GNE during 2020 and are pleased that this change means earlier and later services for the village, every day of the week.

Contact your Parish Councillors

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Nettlesworth Community Centre

The Parish Council do not own the Community Centre but do recognise its importance to the parish. Plawsworth and Kimblesworth Community Association (PKCA) hold the lease for the building.

The centre has kindly provided storage for the Food for Thought foodbank in recent months.

Meetings rooms, halls and kitchens are available for hire. More information is available on their website:

www.nettlesworthcommunitycentre.co.uk

Food for Thought hot meals

Hot meal provision continues on a Tuesday at The Fells and Thursdays at Nettlesworth Community Centre. Twelve residents at The Fells attended a full day food safety training course and now have the opportunity to start a catering qualification.

If you, or a family member or friend would benefit from a free hot meal on these days, please contact Food for Thought on 0191 9097474.

Water Spring and Trough

The Council's Spring Working Group is continuing its research into the history of the spring and water trough at Broadmires. We believe this has historic value and can act as a focal point for the area. We are looking at funding to assist with refurbishment of the feature.

The Council have agreed to dedicate the project to 'Community' and the design of any work will reflect this.

We would still like to hear if you have any photos, stories, or recollections regarding past use of this area and feature? Please contact the Clerk or County Cllr Wilson at swilson@durham.gov.uk

KPPC would like to wish all our residents a peaceful and Merry Christmas.



Our Parish Council has a new website in 2020:

www.kimblesworthandplawsworthparishcouncil.co.uk

Follow us on Facebook @kppcouncil

Contact us: clerk@kimblesworthandplawsworthparishcouncil.co.uk