

Acomb Parish Council – District Councillor’s Report April 2008

Over the last month I have attended a number of meetings and briefings about the new Belonging Communities, in particular the setting up of a Community Forum for Hexham and Hexhamshire. Although it is early days, there does seem to be a genuine willingness to work together.

Most residents of Acomb village should now have received their new garden waste recycling bins. Tynedale Council will begin collection during week commencing April 7th. If you need further advice or information, please ring Customer Services on 01434 652151 or email customer.services@tynedale.gov.uk. Some householders may not wish to keep their brown bins e.g. if they are already composting all their garden waste, or they do not have space. If so, Tynedale Council will remove their bins on request.

Continuing the recycling theme, I spent today finding out what happens to some of Tynedale’s recyclable waste. In the morning, Tynedale Council arranged a visit to the SITA North Tyneside Materials Reclamation Facility. After recyclable material is collected from your black wheelie bin, it is taken to first to the Hexham Waste Transfer Station and then to SITA; it is sorted, partly by hand and partly mechanically, and then dispatched for recycling.

Tins and cans go to Hartlepool, where the aluminium and steel is separated, and then melted down. Good quality newspaper goes to a plant in Wales to be reused as newsprint. Poorer quality paper is converted to toilet paper. Plastic bottles are ground into granules and then used to make new plastic bottles, stuffing for duvets and fleece clothing.

The SITA plant receives recyclable waste from Tynedale, Alnwick and Berwick districts, plus some material from Newcastle. A new, state-of-the-art facility for the whole of Northumberland is expected to open at the end of 2008.

Why do we need to take the tops off plastic bottles and put them in the (green) residual waste wheelie bin? We were told that there was no market for the type of plastic used in the tops, that bottles and containers without tops could be compressed more easily into bales for dispatch and that plastic bottles with their tops on were a potential safety hazard. If a bottle is compressed still with its top on, the top shoots off at speed, and could cause injury.

In the afternoon we were much closer to home, at DJ and SJ Recycling at Codlaw Hill, which processes garden waste collected from Tynedale Council’s brown wheelie bins and Hexham Waste Transfer Station. This garden waste is shredded and composted to produce a soil conditioner. The product is available to buy on site, through local garden centres and a national DIY chain. The Enderbys would welcome a visit from Acomb Parish Council, hopefully once the weather has warmed up!

If you would like to discuss any of these matters further or if you have suggestions or concerns, please contact me on 01434 681487, e-mail jane.wrigley@tynedale.gov.uk.

Jane Wrigley

March 20th 2008