

## **Acomb Parish Council – District Councillor’s Report December 2007**

You will remember that in last month’s report, I mentioned that the garden waste-recycling scheme would be extended to the rest of the Tyne Valley along the A69 corridor and north and south of the Tyne to include Acomb. As I write, a report is going to the new Cabinet at Tynedale council on November 22nd, recommending the introduction of the service to the main villages, including Acomb. The route has been plotted to include the larger settlements where garden waste can be collected more efficiently and also follows the current refuse and recycling routes for those areas. This means that collections will be concentrated in the main settlement of Acomb and will not include properties in the surrounding area at this time, although these may be added at a later date.

On November 20th, employees and elected members from Tynedale Council visited Egger to see first-hand the new plant. I was very impressed, both by the design and cleanliness of the new plant, and by the company’s willingness to engage with the local population and to respond to residents’ concerns. They have around 460 members of staff, including quite a few from Acomb, and emphasise that the main strength of the Hexham operation is the high calibre and motivation of their employees. Interestingly, they aim to use 45% recycled wood in their chipboard, with the remainder being virgin timber coming from Kielder Forest.

The Egger (UK) chipboard plant in Hexham is one of eight similar factories in the UK. The new plant is much improved over the old factory as designs and equipment have developed in the last 20 or so years. The new plant includes a number of green initiatives, including reed beds to filter surface water before it is returned to the River Tyne, and the planting of thousands of trees to screen the factory. The company hopes to be able to demolish the old plant before too long and this will improve greatly the appearance of the whole operation.

The operating Permit issued by Tynedale Council applies national standards to environmental controls including, emissions to air, water and land, noise, energy efficiency and waste minimisation. Regular inspections are made and action can be taken to require improvements if Permit conditions are not being met. Tynedale Council has set up a special webpage to keep residents up to date about Egger. Go to: <http://www.tynedale.gov.uk/residents/serviceinfo.asp?type=456>

Lastly, like many others, I was very sad to hear of the death of Cllr. Barry Pickering. As County Councillor for Hexham Central with Acomb, he worked hard for local residents and always had a kind word for everyone. Although we had our political differences, he was keen to work closely with me for the good of the community and conscientiously followed up every County Council issue I referred to him. He certainly was a character and we shall all miss him.

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](mailto:jane.wrigley@tynedale.gov.uk).

Jane Wrigley

November 21st 2007