

Acomb Parish Council – District Councillor’s Report September 2006

As you probably know, Tynedale Council is currently preparing its Local Development Framework (or LDF). The Council is very keen for the public and other interested bodies to be closely involved in producing the LDF, especially in its early stages. The LDF will eventually consist of several documents and plans which will form a framework for planning future development in Tynedale, such as the location of new housing, employment and community facilities.

The next stage of the process is the production of a site allocation document, which has the potential to allocate land for various uses e.g. housing, community facilities, leisure, retail and employment. The Council is keen to look at previously developed or “brownfield” sites, and would be interested to hear from people who might have sites suitable for affordable housing, as this is a key priority for the Council.

Anyone with an interest in site allocations should put sites or ideas for particular developments forward by Friday September 15th. You can contact Tynedale Council’s planning department on 01434 652460 or at ldf@tynedale.gov.uk for further information, or to make your views known. I suggest that we discuss the current site allocations at the September Parish Council meeting, and see if we have any new suggestions.

Last month I attended a presentation on Northumberland STARS (Small Tasks and Repair Service). This scheme, open to the over 60s and those with a disability, is currently operating in the east of the county, but hopefully will be up and running in Tynedale by April 2007. The service cannot carry out major building repairs e.g. electrical or plumbing work, although they can fix dripping taps, but they can do a host of other jobs which become harder as you get older, such as putting up curtains or fixing locks, intercoms and smoke alarms. Residents pay for materials, but the labour is free. They have also just started a gardening service, which is tremendously popular, for which there is a charge of £10.50 per hour for the over 60s or disabled. Both these initiatives are great news for Acomb – one of the key issues identified in our consultation with older residents last summer was the need for a handyperson/gardener.

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

August 25th 2006