

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

First of all, Happy New Year! It seems a long time since the last Parish Council meeting in November, and quite a lot has happened since then.

At the Full Council meeting on January 16th, it was agreed to raise the Tynedale element of Council Tax for 2007/8 by 1.5%, which will give a charge of £158.33 for a Band D property and a provisional expenditure level of £8.651 million.

At the same meeting there was also a long discussion on Tynedale Council’s bid, in partnership with the other 5 district councils in Northumberland, for a 2 unitary model of local government for Northumberland. You can find out more about the district councils’ joint bid by visiting <http://www.tynedale.gov.uk/residents/newsviewsdetails.asp?newsid=563>. If you want learn more about Northumberland County Council’s plans for a unitary council to cover the whole of Northumberland, go to <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/>.

Last week I went to Haydon Bridge Village Hall to hear an update on the Haydon Bridge by-pass. Work has actually started on creating the necessary site compounds. The bypass is planned to be a 1.8-mile long, single-carriageway road and the project will include the construction of a new multi-span viaduct over the South Tyne River and Newcastle-Carlisle Railway, as well as the construction of three further new bridges. The work is scheduled for completion by spring or early summer of 2009. All the local residents at the meeting which I attended were absolutely delighted at the news and are looking forward to having a “whole” village again, rather than 2 communities split by a busy and dangerous trunk road.

On January 31st at 6.30pm I will be chairing a meeting of Tynedale Council’s Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee. We will be discussing the government’s proposals for supporting the Post Office network, in consultation with Mr. Ian Carlton, our local Field Change Adviser from Post Office Ltd. We will also be looking at Tynedale Council’s Draft Economic Strategy, which is a very comprehensive document, which can be found at <http://www.tynedale.gov.uk/residents/newsviewsdetails.asp?newsid=559>. Everyone’s views on the document are welcome – the closing date for comments is February 16th.

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,  
January 26th 2007