

Acomb Parish Council – District Councillor’s Report November 2007

Recycling is back on the agenda, not that it ever went away! Since September 2005, nearly 7,000 homes in Tynedale have been able to recycle their garden waste at home by putting grass cuttings, hedge trimmings, small branches and twigs, plants, flowers and weeds in a new brown recycling wheeled bin. The bins were delivered to homes in Hexham, Prudhoe and Wylam that have a suitably sized garden, and the scheme seems to be very popular with residents.

In order to achieve Tynedale’s current statutory recycling target of 30% by March 31st 2010, it has been agreed that the garden waste recycling scheme should be extended to the rest of the Tyne Valley along the A69 corridor and north and south of the Tyne to include Bellingham, Wall, Wark, Acomb and Allendale. This means that there will be fortnightly collections from those of the 8,000 suitable properties who choose to take up the service, with effect from April 2008.

In addition, Tynedale Council has agreed to investigate the possibility of providing glass recycling facilities to each Parish Council where Parish Councils can identify a site. As you may know, our Clerk Mr. Bill Grigg and I have been trying for some time to get a bottle bank for the Village Hall car park. Unfortunately, it appears the glass recycling facilities presently available are really too large for the site, but we will persevere!

A special Full Council meeting of Tynedale Council was held on October 16th to consider changing Tynedale’s governance arrangements. Until recently, the council was run on a “streamlined committee” system, with a single policy committee, the Corporate Policy and Management Board, which was multi-party. On October 16th, following a public consultation, it was agreed to move to a leader and cabinet model, where all but one of the Cabinet members belong to the ruling Conservative group. It will be interesting to see how much difference these changes make to the way Tynedale Council is run.

Members of the Parish Council will remember that Ms. Lucy Greenfield from Tynedale Council’s Planning Department ran a training session on planning matters for Acomb Parish Council back in February this year. Much of the training centred on the new Local Development Framework and the changes this would bring to the planning system. At the same special Full Council meeting on October 16th, the Core Strategy of the council’s Local Development Framework was formally adopted, following its formal examination by the Inspector Mr. Robin Brooks. The draft Core Strategy has been amended to include all the changes considered necessary by the Inspector to make it sound. The Core Strategy will now form part of the Development Plan for Tynedale and will replace a number of policies in the Local Plan.

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

October 26th 2007