

Acomb Parish Council – District Councillor’s Report December 2008

Most residents of Acomb will be aware that part of the village is a conservation area. The Acomb Conservation Area was designated in April 1991 in response to the clear historic and architectural significance of the village with buildings that can be traced back to at least the sixteenth century. Broadly speaking, the Conservation Area runs from Townfoot Farm up Main Street to Acomb School. This designation means that there are additional protections and conditions imposed on any planning applications to safeguard the area.

Now the process has gone one step further, with the publication of the draft Acomb Conservation Area Character Appraisal, which gives a very full history and description of the Conservation Area, together with some recommendations for its enhancement. This document is now available on the Tynedale Council website www.tynedale.gov.uk and local organisations and individuals are invited to give their views. The closing date for comments is Friday January 9th 2009.

Earlier this month I went to a very interesting presentation given by Transition Tynedale, the local arm of the Transition Towns movement. Their concern is the twin challenges of climate change and peak oil, which is the point where we have used half the available oil and are at the peak of production. From this point onwards oil extraction will decrease whilst demand increases, oil will be less easily collected and prices will rise. The aim therefore is to reduce our dependence on oil, gas and coal. Each one of us can make a difference but together we can make a big difference, often through local initiatives or by reducing food miles. On a very local level, how many more people would cycle or walk into Hexham along the old road if the last leg of the journey from the Hermitage road end into Hexham was safer and pleasanter? I’d be interested to hear your views.

Are you over 60 or with a disability? Do you know somebody else who is? This week I met the staff from the Small Task and Repair Service or STARS, who provide a free handyman service across Northumberland. Services on offer include small repair jobs such as fixing curtain rails, checking and fitting smoke alarms, moving furniture, unblocking sinks or changing light bulbs. Please ring 01670 351135 for further information or to make an appointment.

Lastly I was honoured to represent the Parish Council at the Remembrance Day Service at St. John Lee on November 9th. I always find this service very moving, especially since the congregation always includes relatives of local men who sacrificed their lives in two world wars.

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
November 21st 2008