

## **Action4Acomb (A4A) Report to Acomb Parish Council 3 February 2021**

### Acomb's Christmas Event 2020

Through a collaborative partnership between Acomb WI, Action4Acomb, Acomb First School, Little Oaks Nursery, the Methodist Chapel with the involvement of participating residents to bring some Christmas Cheer to Acomb Parish, this combined event was a great success. It included: A Wreath Trail; household Christmas lights, daily advent calendar sited at random sites along Main Street between 1 - 24 December organised by Acomb WI and the invitation to decorate the tree, donated by Egger, at the Pant. Our thanks go to all involved including Egger and Jim Wright who erected and took down the tree. The trail map donations came to the sum of £12.62 to go towards future Christmas decorations.

### Acomb Flood Group

The Flood Group has increased with a total of 4 new Flood Wardens. All flood zones continue to be covered. The Flood Group was tested the week of 18 January with Storm Christoph. Communication is working well between wardens through use of Whatsapp which Mark Dowthwaite, Lead Flood Warden initiated.

Action4Acomb request that the Parish Council acknowledge and thank those who have stepped down after 6 years supporting the setting up of the group and volunteering in this important role to benefit Acomb's residents at risk of the flash floods. Names and addresses can be made known.

Two of the 3 remote Hydro motes are offline currently. Envirowatch who installed them are sourcing new SIM cards. Despite paying for networks switching to the best available providers, this does not appear to be happening. A network scan with a signal analyser was undertaken. The signal strength would seem to have reduced significantly. Larger antennas are to be installed to overcome this problem.

Acomb Flood Group have been put forward to be considered as a pilot group for the recently announced Innovative Flood and Coastal Resilience Programme which is providing £150m over the next 6 years to fund 25 projects across the country. The programme aims to test and demonstrate innovative practical resilience actions, improve evidence on the costs and benefits of the innovative resilience actions, and use this learning to inform future choices. This is an excellent opportunity to try to improve the flood resilience of communities at risk across Northumberland, using new and innovative approaches embracing smart technologies to develop cost effective flood forecasting and flood warning systems. Working with partners including the Environment Agency, Northumbrian University and the Water Hub, Northumberland County Council are leading on a bid to improve the resilience of rural communities. Local community engagement and data collection will be key towards improving early warning systems and management of flood risk.

### Interactive Speed sign on A6079 South End

It is noted that this sign continues not to be functioning after several months. Action4Acomb request the Parish Council, on behalf of residents living along the A6079, for an update and what progress has been made towards restoration of the sign.

A local resident volunteered to take up the task of downloading data from the 2 signs and provide quarterly reports. Is training planned? A draft risk assessment for approval will be submitted. It is understood that the Parish Council insurance will cover this activity.

### Acomblocal <https://acomblocal.co.uk/>

Progress continues. Training for those involved in administering the site has taken place with further training planned. Various partners have been approached with some adding information about their organisations. The introduction of Acomblocal Facebook has been well received. There are 330 members.

### Acomb Volunteer Support Network

The Network remains in place with volunteers regularly in contact with those residents most vulnerable or in need. It is commendable how much time volunteers have given to support Acomb residents over an extended period. Links continue with Northumberland Communities Together. West Northumberland Food Partnership meeting was held on 21 January to explore how to improve the access to food provision and emergency food assistance through a coordinated partnership approach. All Parish Councils will be contacted as part of a mapping exercise to determine what support groups and activities are in place to identify where the gaps are.

Lorna Farr  
Committee Secretary on behalf of A4A Committee