

## **Action4Acomb (A4A) Report to Acomb Parish Council 8 August 2021**

### Acomb's Annual British Spring Clean – Carried over from cancelled July PC meeting

This event took place on Saturday 5 June 2021, starting at 10 am over a 2-hour period from the Village Hall with participants collecting equipment provided by Northumberland County Council and agreeing their allocated areas to litter pick.

Eleven bags of rubbish were collected. Overall, everyone thought that the amount of litter around the village was less. However, it is later in the year than the normal time of this event due to the Covid-19 restrictions with a lot more vegetation which could be hiding litter. The main areas for litter were Old Hexham Road - 6 bags and though less but still a problem for residents - the green play area at the bottom of Millersfield. A request for a further bin has been made to Bill Grigg and the Parish Councillors for this site. The resident who raised it will also make a direct request.

A second bin at the Acomb entrance to the Old Hexham Road is requested as the bin in situ is often full and given the amount of litter to be found along the bridle path.

***Acomb Parish Council are therefore requested to consider the purchase of two bins at their next Precept planning meeting in December 2021.***

### Acomb's Annual Scarecrow Trail

This year's Scarecrow Trail took place across the Parish over the week commencing 17 July to 25 July, with the announcement of the winners on 24 July via Facebook and Village Notes in the Courant. Though only a small number of scarecrows were displayed this year, the event was well received by residents as reflected in postings on Acomblocal and the Past and Present Facebook. Judges were drawn from willing residents who independently marked up each scarecrow according to an agreed criteria and then pooled their marks together to determine the winners.

### Acomb's Liberation Event on the Playing Fields – carried over from cancelled July PC meeting

This event was planned for Acomb Residents to attend a day of activities on the revised date of Saturday 24 July. However, despite the Government's announcement of a relaxation of the past Covid-19 restrictions as from 19 July it was decided to further postpone this event until Spring 2022 due to the number of local cases of the Delta Variant doubling every 9 days in July. Many different local people expressed willingness to participate in the village event and that there was generally real enthusiasm for this.

The event is not intended to be a profit-making but merely to facilitate a free day where families can bring picnics and their own chairs/rugs to participate and enjoy a varied, timed itinerary of fun activities provided by trained volunteers.

A risk assessment will be prepared, stewards drawn from the local community will be in attendance. A Northumberland County Council (NCC) Event Notification Form will be completed to identify whether an assessment requires to be conducted by the local Safety Advisory Group - SAG (NCC, Police Force and Ambulance Service) and to identify if any licences or consents may be legally required to enable the event to take place. There will be no alcohol sold. Residents will be encouraged to attend the event on foot to reduce parking on Main Street with no parking permitted on the Playing Field. Stewards will be manning each of the entrances. The First Aid box from the Village Hall will be on site for the period of the event. Any refuse will be removed. Contact will be made with NCC for arrangements for extra rubbish bags to be lifted following the event. Parish Council Public Liability Insurance will be in place.

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Afternoon teas are planned to be provided from the front of the Pavilion with residents having limited access to the inside of the building other than toilet facilities. The Pavilion will be cleaned both before and after the event. It is hoped that Acomb Parish Council/Trustees as custodians of Acomb Playing Field will be supportive of this village event.

### Village Hall Activities

Activities supported by A4A are recommencing with Let's Sing on Tuesdays throughout August, a successful group well received by residents prior to the Covid Pandemic Lockdown period. Funding successfully applied for by A4A is available to backfill any costs until groups can be self-sufficient. This in turn brings in income towards the village hall in the way of rental for the room.

We hope to increase the numbers of groups using the Village Hall. In considering the users of the Village Hall Group recently set up, A4A would welcome opportunity to contribute towards this group given the investment into the Village Hall for the benefit of residents.

### Acomb's Voluntary Support Network

The support network remains in place though the level of activity remains low at the present time. Links continue with NCC Communities Together and Age UK Northumberland. Volunteers are willing to be available should the need arise.

### Parish Wide Questionnaire

The questionnaire is being prepared for circulation to all households in September 2021. Approaches have been made to groups to ask whether they would like to add any questions to inform their agenda and raise awareness of the work undertaken by each group. Data can readily be analysed and shared with those wishing to piggyback the questionnaire. Any other groups including the Parish Council are welcome to add to the questionnaire. Deadline for questions would be 31 August 2021.

Lorna Farr  
Committee Secretary on behalf of A4A Committee