

# COMMUNITY QUESTIONNAIRE 2022

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

## AND A4A HISTORY, BACKGROUND

## AND ACHIEVEMENTS



### How did it happen? .....

Acomb Parish Council extended an invitation to all residents to a public meeting in April 2012 to take forward and lead on a Community Led Plan (CLP). This in turn led to the formation of Action4Acomb as a constituted group who produced the CLP which was endorsed by the Parish Council.



### Local People.....Local Priorities





# What is a Community Led Plan?

- It focuses on what is important to the people living and working in Acomb Parish
- It addresses a wide range of social, economic and environmental issues identified by local residents
- It provides a working document with a clear action plan for the community of Acomb to work together with Partners - Parish Council, County Council, Environment Agency and others - in influencing local and national decision making to achieve and make real change to benefit Acomb residents
- It provides a structure to finding resources, applying for funding and gaining external support for projects to improve facilities and services for Acomb residents
- It helps to bring the community together with a common purpose



## Example of Interactive Speed Sign data on A6079 Period over 36 days 27 July to 31 August 2018

### South site travelling North towards Wall    North site travelling towards the A69

- Total Number of vehicles  
➢ 137,388 over 36 days
- Daily 3,816 vehicles passing sign
- Overall average speed 25.8mph
- Percentage over 30mph was 19%
- Highest recorded speed 78mph

- Total Number of vehicles  
➢ 83,467 over 36 days
- Daily 2,319 vehicles passing sign
- Overall average speed 26.5mph
- Percentage over 30mph was 30%
- Highest recorded speed 83mph

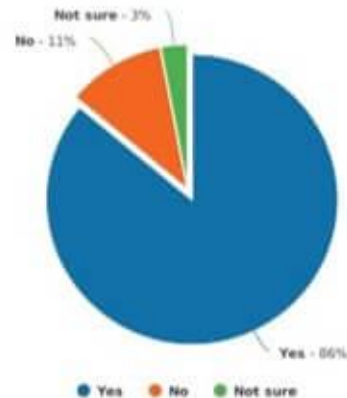
## Were you aware of the Acomb Voluntary Support Network?

In mid-March 2020, resident, Amanda Wilson raised a need for support within Acomb following the rapidly changing situation with the Coronavirus outbreak.

In putting out the call, over 40 residents came forward which was tremendous, allowing for a manageable number of households to be covered by each volunteer. An Acomb Volunteers' WhatsApp was set up to ensure instantaneous communication, to support each volunteer ensuring they were safe and that recipients were not compromised.

Lorna Farr and Amanda Wilson coordinated the network. Links were made with Northumberland Communities Together, a team drawn from health and social care who provided practical advice, contact with partner agencies, and help with food supplies and referrals via GP practices of those individuals 'Shielding' and identified as requiring practical support.

Volunteers delivered within their allocated patch, appropriate updated information to every Acomb Parish household during the Lockdown in 2020 clearly indicating who their volunteer was and how to contact. It was important that all households received the information so that no-one was missed. This appears to have been successful with 86% aware of the support available even if they did not require to take it up.



## Acomb Volunteer Support Network



Cakes individually wrapped for distribution

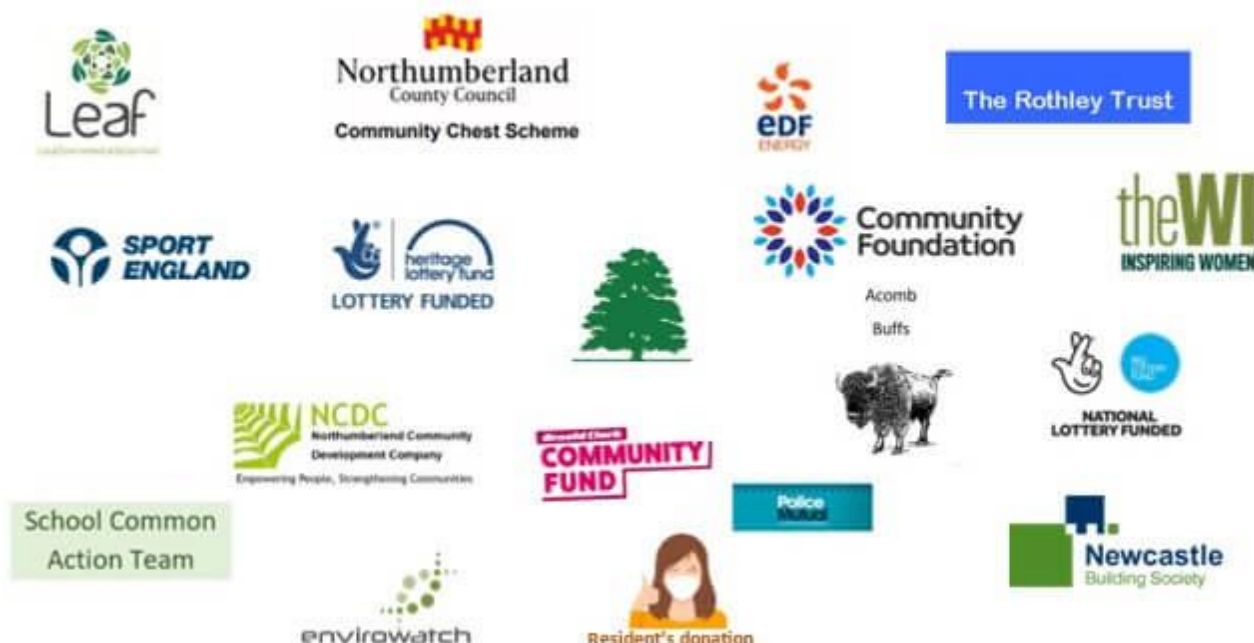


Food parcels and ageukboxes for distribution by volunteers having been prepared, ready to go!

- A shopping voucher scheme was established for those residents who were unable to pay for shopping other than by cash which worked well when called upon.
- Action4Acomb registered with FareShare for weekly food deliveries to 48 households, including a few families referred by Acomb First School, over an 18 - week period from April to August 2020. Though the food was surplus and free, both Action4Acomb and Acomb WI equally covered FareShare's petrol costs. To boost this further, one of the volunteers made masks to order with the proceeds going towards further deliveries.
- Along with the FareShare food, Acomb was in receipt of fortnightly food boxes coordinated by ageUK Northumberland made possible due to the generosity of media personality Vicki Pattison, a Geordie living in London wanting to support individuals in the North -East. Thanks are extended to residents, Linda and Jim Wright; John Henderson and Steve Farr who kindly collected these from ageuk.
- Delicious homemade cakes and treats provided by WI members were added to the weekly food parcels, a treat much appreciated during lockdown.



## SOURCES OF SUCCESSFUL GRANT FUNDING APPLICATIONS



**£72,502.98**

### Grant Funding Success for Acomb

2014/2015

**£15,924**

- £1,000 PC Grant – Events/questionnaire
- £1,000 Community Chest– CLP
- £4,500 LEAF Grant – Citizen Science
- £9,224 Awards for All–Youth Club (YC)
- £200 School Common Action Group – Citizen Science

2017/18

**£18,393**

- £1,500 Acomb Buffs – Youth Club
- £100 NCDN – Village Activities
- £4,330 Awards for All– Village Activities
- £800 PC Grant - events
- £10,063 Heritage Lottery Fund – Blast from the Past– Youth Club

2019/20

**£1,148**

- £850 PC Grant – Xmas lights, leaflets, web
- £120 Acomb WI – FareShare deliveries
- £178 Resident's donation– FareShare deliveries

2015/2016

**£1,200**

- £1,200 PC Grant



2020/21

**£1,220**

- £700.00 Rothley Trust– Acomblocal web
- £500.00 Arnold Clark – Questionnaire
- £20.00 Police Mutual– Acomblocal web

2016/2017

**£18,013.98**

- £880 Rothley Trust– Boards/laptop
- £3,000 EDF Community Foundation – YC
- £11,900 Heritage Lottery Fund
- Blast from the Past– YC
- £2,233.98 Tennis Club– Tennis activities

2018/19

**£16,404**

- £1,000 Acomb Buffs – Youth Club
- £1,000 Community Foundation– Youth Club
- £9,558 Sports England Small Grant – activate planned MUGA
- £2,846 Newcastle BSociety– Playground tables
- £2,000 Community Chest- Playground tables, benches

2021/22

**£200**

- £200 – Community Chest- CLP





### AcombYouth Club

re-established in 2014 supported by Hexham Youth Initiative providing a variety of activities, a safe place for Acomb children and young people to come together, well supported by dedicated youth workers



Carols around the Tree

ACTION4ACOMB

## Acomb's Annual events

### Great British Spring Clean

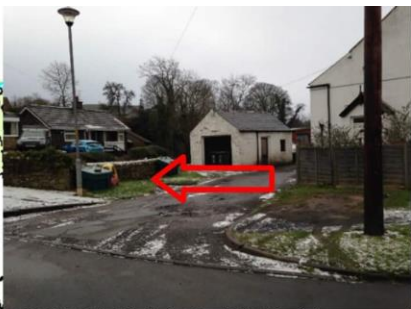
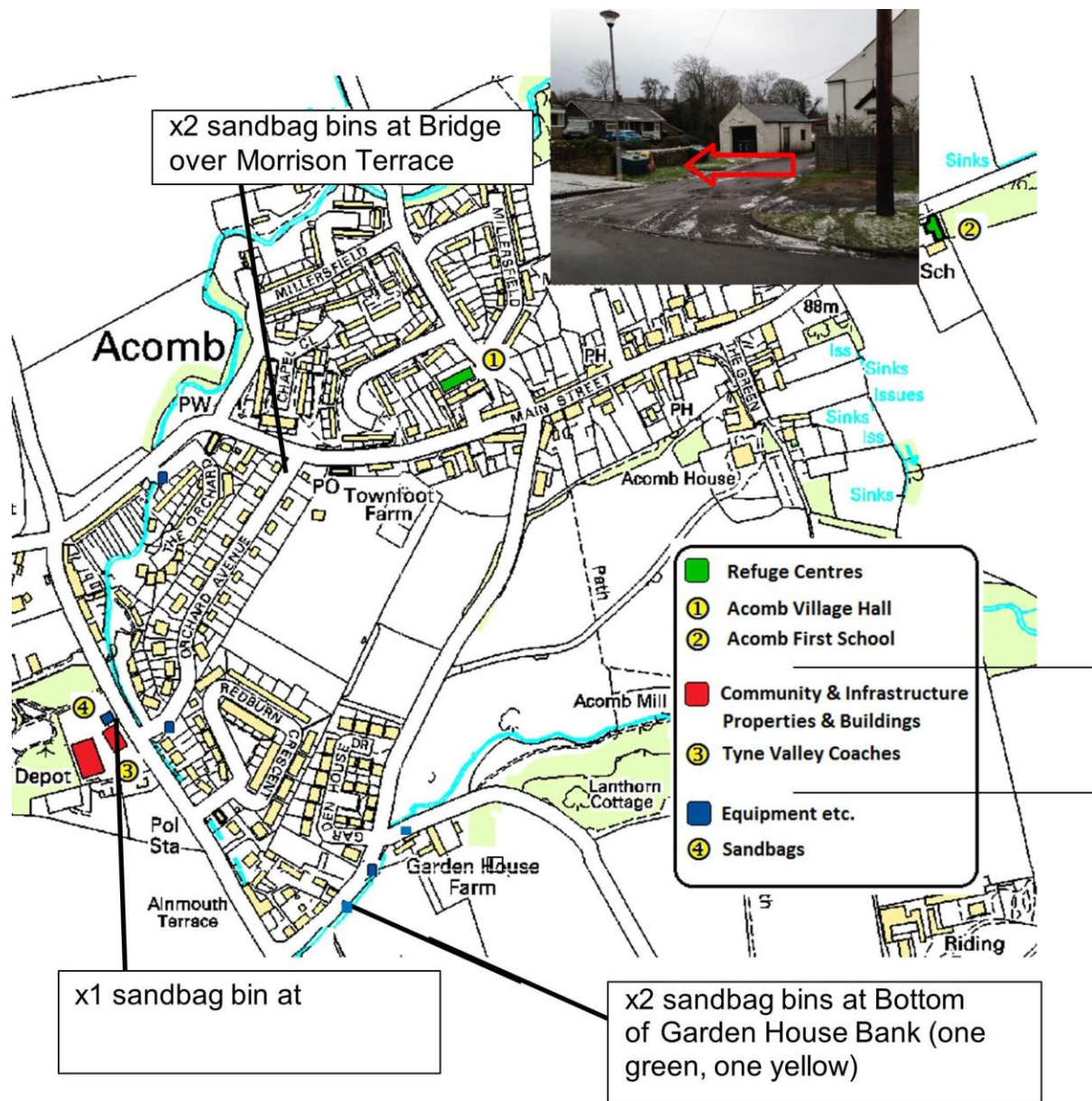


Scarecrow Event

Date to be arranged  
25 March – 10 April 2022



# Sandbag sites & Refuge Centres









## Acomb's Natural Flood Alleviation Programme

The Environment Agency(EA) and Tyne Rivers Trust have collaborated with local landowners to create and install natural management features on the Birkey Burn and Red Burn catchments upstream of Acomb



Started at end of 2021, the £260,000 project is planned to be completed by Spring 2022 with Tyne Rivers Trust contracted to undertake the work on behalf of the Environment Agency.



At the end of 2020, construction work was undertaken in the village to further alleviate flooding. These new upstream measures will slow the flow of water before it reaches the village alongside the village defences to provide more robust defences. Through Acomb's Flood Group in partnership with the EA there has been campaigning for an alleviation programme from the Flood Group's inception in 2014. At last, these benefits will help mitigate flooding for those most at risk in the village.

# Increasing Flood Resilience in Acomb

The Environment Agency (EA) and Northumberland County Council are urging people to think about how they can reduce their risk of flooding in light of the recent bad weather across the County.

Flooding is no longer only an issue for communities living near to rivers or the sea, as **surface water flooding** now poses just as much of a risk.

The impact of climate change now means that many areas are potentially at risk of flooding from a significant rise in heavy downpours putting pressure on existing drainage.

Some ways that you can increase your resilience to flooding are:

Colin Hall, who is EA's Northumberland's Flood Community Engagement Officer, said:

*"Being flooded is absolutely devastating and any steps that can be taken towards better protecting your property, business and community can significantly lessen the impact".*



- Sign up to the Flood Warning Service to receive flood warning messages by visiting - [www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings](http://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings).
- Create a Personal Flood Plan and pack a grab bag with essentials – visit for advice [www.gov.uk/government/publications/personal-flood-plan](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/personal-flood-plan).
- Look to install flood protection products if required – visit for further advice. <http://bluepages.org.uk/protecting-my-property/>
- Make sure you have the right level of insurance cover needed – visit [www.floodre.co.uk/](http://www.floodre.co.uk/)
- Check your flood risk from rivers or sea and surface water on the flood warning information service flood maps - <https://www.gov.uk/check-flood-risk>
- Regularly check for weather updates - <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/>



As part of Acomb's Flood Alleviation programme, a bund, increased drainage and a new raised wall have been installed at the Red Burn across from the Chapel to reduce risk of flooding to households in Morrison Terrace and beyond on A6079.



Trash Screen installed with remotely accessed camera to view the screen. The EA and local flood wardens can access this. The EA support us when we are at risk of flash flooding by clearing the screen.



Flood wardens installing water gauges funded through LEAF grant funding which also funded the Hyromote seen in the background to give early warning of water rising in the burns. These can be viewed remotely.



## To reduce Acomb's risk of Flash Floods



## Open Door Events

### Comments/Q&As

#### 28.02.2022

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Around a quarter of respondents have moved to Acomb in the last five years but almost two-thirds have lived here for ten years or more.

Reversal on the outcome on the Bus service to the question 'Does the bus service meet your needs.' This time 62% said 'Yes' and 38% said 'No.'

#### 5.03.2022

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Garden House Bank (GHB) busy but due to the bumps it was raised that Orchard Avenue has increased traffic flow due to people avoiding the bumps.

Concerns That the new development will increase the traffic on GHB.

Question about the camera on A6079. Informed that this is due to be digitalised in April/May this year which will mean the camera will be in use all the time.

Buses – too long to wait in Hexham to return to Acomb – can be 2 ½ hrs wait. It was suggested that the service has deteriorated due to not being able to get enough bus drivers rather than Covid related.

Suggestion to perhaps add further interactive speed signs e.g. on GHB.

Suggestion to add flood information on social media.

#### 8.03.2022

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Q. Where are the sandbags?

A. 2 sites at bottom of GHB; one at the bottom of Orchard Ave and the other site at the back of Morrison Terrace close to junction to The Orchard and Cross Banks bungalows.

Q. Has there been much change to the demographics of the Parish?

A. 25% (Quarter) of respondents had moved within the last 5 years. 2/3 of respondents had lived in the Parish more than 10 years.

Q. What will happen with this information from the questionnaire?

A. A summary report will be pulled together to include headline stuff. Possibly basis of a further Community Led Plan but dependent on the outcome of the extraordinary meeting on Monday 28 March to determine the future of A4A.

One resident stated she was impressed by the numbers of these meetings at different times and dates.

One resident wondered about the Sports Field – terrific to see a football match being played on Saturday but only second one seen. What is happening? Roof of the Pavilion is being replaced but rest is a mess despite a wonderful view.

Norman Robson, Chair of PC responded that there was the funding to do the Pavilion up but however it has been difficult finding contractors to undertake the work.

Lorna Farr, previous Parish Councillor, interjected to say that there was an omission to say this as a contractor had already been found but due to not proceeding with previous plans, both for the pavilion and the village hall, this contractor was unable to provide a similar quote due to changes to specification and the extended delay for the work.

It was noted by resident that the tennis courts are neglected. Another resident stated that as a past tennis club member there was a good Friday event each week where club members would get together to sweep the courts and maintain them in the past.

Another resident raised that the real core issue was the need for the community to engage and make a contribution as it was not possible to sustain the progress of projects unless the community were to be involved and not leave to a few.

### **11.03.2022**

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Q. About the closure of the post office – residents unhappy - residents very much want this to reopen.

Q. Flood and emergency information – need to revisit sharing this again.

Q. About the speed of traffic – whether any accidents along A6079.

A. It was thought that there were probably several bumps and scraps but nothing reported.

Communication – to be noted that not all on Internet wish to access social media – other ways of communicating need to be considered.

Q. what progress with the Pavilion.

A. Roof replaced.

### **14.03.2022**

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Q. How does PC fit with A4A?

A. Different roles – PC have statutory responsibilities. A4A independent Community Group. A role of advocacy working with the community and a variety of partners, including the PC. *(Need to expand on this a bit more within the report perhaps).*