

## **Minutes of the Acomb Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting held in Acomb Village Hall on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

**1. Present:** Jane Wrigley (Acomb Parish Council, and Steering Group Chair)  
Matilda Bevan (Local Resident)  
Lorna Farr (Acomb Parish Council/Action 4 Acomb)  
Rachel Gagliano (Action 4 Acomb)  
Sybil Gill (Acomb Parish Council, Minutes Secretary)  
Bill Grigg (Clerk to Acomb Parish Council and Steering Group  
Secretary/Treasurer)  
Naomi Liller (Acomb Parish Council)  
Norman Robson (Local Resident)  
Beverley Warhurst (Local Resident)

**Invited guests:** Duncan Holness and Peter Rutherford  
Planning Officers, Strategic Planning and Housing, NCC  
Peter Rodger (website consultant)  
David Penn (Action4Acomb)

**2. Apologies:** Charles Enderby (Acomb Parish Council)

**3. Discussion on proposed Neighbourhood Plan website:** After introductions, Jane welcomed Peter Rodger to the meeting. Peter produced various logos for consideration, and a draft layout at [www.acombneighbourhoodplan.co.uk](http://www.acombneighbourhoodplan.co.uk). He suggested that the website should be simple and easy to use, and that steering group members should look at similar local websites by going to <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Planning/Planning-policy/Neighbourhood.aspx>. Duncan pointed out that the demographics of the target readership should be considered. Peter was thanked for his advice, and it was agreed that Rachel and Jane would work with Peter to set up and maintain the website.

**3. Presentation and discussion of Action4Acomb Questionnaire Results:** Jane welcomed David Penn, who had worked with Lorna, Naomi, Rachel and several others to devise, deliver and analyse the results of the questionnaire. They had begun the process by approaching established groups, young and old to find out the issues which concerned people, and looked at existing data e.g. census information to guide their questions. They used volunteers to deliver and collect the questionnaires from the entire parish, then produced a summary report, which has been widely publicised at public events in the village. Several issues have already been acted on e.g. youth provision, flooding concerns and enhancement of the approach to the village. David was thanked for attending the meeting. It was agreed that the questionnaire report would provide a useful basis for the Neighbourhood Plan, with the underlying data giving additional information where required.

**4. Brainstorming session to identify possible themes for the Neighbourhood Plan:** Peter Rutherford introduced the session by distributing packs of existing data about Acomb, including the relevant planning policies and census information. He pointed out that Acomb has fewer young people (0-15) and more older people (64+) than average. He asked what kind of community the residents of Acomb would want. What was the best way to attract families and keep the school viable? How would we provide for a potentially ageing population? Acomb is surrounded tightly by the Green Belt and there is very little land now available for building in the village itself, apart from the land on Garden House Bank already

allocated for housing. This made any further development challenging. Steering Group members discussed the possible issues for the Neighbourhood Plan (see attached summary). It was agreed that a public meeting might be a useful way to check if these issues were shared as concerns by local residents. It was also agreed that it could be useful for Duncan to visit Acomb during daylight hours to familiarise himself with the parish, and Jane offered to arrange this.

**5. Minutes of the last meeting held on Tues October 13<sup>th</sup> 2015:** were agreed a true record. There were no matters arising which had not been covered elsewhere in the agenda.

As it was 9.15pm, it was agreed that the remaining agenda items **Acomb Neighbourhood Plan Terms of Reference** and **Forward Planning** should be deferred to the January meeting.

**6. Date of next meeting:** Tuesday January 19<sup>th</sup> 2016, subsequently changed to **Thursday January 14<sup>th</sup> 2016, in Acomb Village Hall.**

Jane thanked everyone for their attendance, wishing them a safe journey home and a very happy Christmas. The meeting closed at 9.20pm.