

Acomb Parish Tour December 1st 2015

As our Planning Officer Duncan Holness from the Communities and Infrastructure Team at County Hall didn't know Acomb very well, we invited him to join us for a tour round the village to see it during daylight hours.

The original plan had been to walk around the village, ideally in brilliant sunshine, and possibly drive to some of the outlying areas, but the weather had other ideas. As the rain was lashing down, we all (Duncan, Matilda, Norman, Sybil and Jane) piled into Charles Enderby's Range Rover and viewed the village while keeping dry.

We went all round the village, including from Millersfield up to East Wood, up Main Street to Fallowfield Dene, down Garden House Bank and A6079 to Howford Quarry and then back up past the Post Office.

A few initial thoughts:

- Most of the village area has already been developed for housing or other purposes and the village is tightly surrounded by the Green Belt. This means that the potential for development is limited, and we need to be creative about how we consider meeting the local needs of parish residents.
- The existing development in the village, whenever it was built, is of a high standard.
- The play area/playing field/ tennis courts/pavilion site is valued by the community, but has latterly been rather neglected. Both Acomb Parish Council and Action4Acomb are looking at ways to enhance sport and play provision. Perhaps the Neighbourhood Plan could contribute to this.
- There may be scope for further small-scale industrial units, either at the Industrial Estate or elsewhere.
- There may be a need for new footpaths e.g. linking Garden House Bank, the playing field and Orchard Avenue
- Apart from the pubs and the Post Office, Acomb has little provision for visitors. Given the proximity of the Hadrian's Wall Trail, St. Oswald's Way and several long- distance cycle routes, is there a need for more tourist facilities?
- As in many places, parking is a problem. Would there be space anywhere for a car park?

With thanks to all those who came on the tour, and to Charles for providing the transport.

Jane Wrigley
December 2015