

# Acomb Neighbourhood Plan

## Public Consultation – Spring 2017

### 1.0 Introduction

Based on the public consultations during 2016, the Acomb Neighbourhood Plan (NP) Steering Group developed a draft Vision and six Objectives, for further consultation with the residents and businesses in the Parish of Acomb.

The Spring 2017 Public Consultation consisted of a questionnaire listing the Vision and six Objectives and sought approval of their content. It also asked for comments which were collected and categorised as Land-Use and Non Land Use for future actions. The Land-use comments (i.e. those relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan) are appended in both their “raw” answer form (Appendix A) and also in an organised, themed form (Appendix B). The non-land-use comments (anonymised) were referred to the Parish Council and Action4Acomb for further consideration. Because they are not relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan, they are not appended to this report. The questionnaire was delivered to every property in the Parish by 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017 with a requested closing date of 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

The questionnaire was supported by a drop-in Open Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2017 to enable residents and businesses to discuss any relevant issues with members of the NP Steering Group. 34 members of the community attended the Open Day.

Of the 604 questionnaires which were distributed, 78 were completed and returned, making a return of 13% which was regarded as a good response rate.

Following these consultations and the feedback from the questionnaire responders, it was believed that the basis of a Neighbourhood Plan and its policies could be established.

This Report summarises the results of the consultations and the next steps. All of the Land-use (relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan) comments are shown, by Vision and Objective in their “raw” form in Appendix A. Appendix B shows the same comments in their analysed (themed) form. Some of the “raw” comments contained several themes, so they have been divided, producing a greater number of themed comments.

### 2.0 Vision

The draft Vision Statement for the Parish of Acomb was originally stated as:

**Value, protect and promote the parish of Acomb, by respecting its heritage, appreciating its current community and being aspirational when planning its future, ensuring Acomb continues to be a thriving and attractive place to live and work.**

With a few minor amendments, the Vision was approved with 91% of the total responders agreeing. Some responders neither disagreed nor agreed. This results in 96% agreement from those who did answer that question.

The Vision has been amended to reflect the Comments (Appendix 1) and has been adopted by the Steering Group. The new Vision is:

**Value, protect and promote the Parish of Acomb, by respecting its heritage, appreciating its current community and being aspirational when planning for future generations, ensuring Acomb parish continues to be a thriving, safe and attractive place to live and work**

### 3.0 Objective 1 – Community Facilities and Local Green Space

**We will protect the community facilities we have, and promote new community facilities. Our most highly valued outdoor spaces will be designated as Local Green Spaces.**

Objective 1 was agreed by 92% of responders (100% of those who answered that question) and therefore is adopted.

### 4.0 Objective 2 – Flooding

**We will seek to ensure that the impacts of flooding are reduced in Acomb and support measures to reduce those impacts**

Objective 2 was agreed by 90% of responders (100% of those who answered that question) and therefore is adopted.

### 5.0 Objective 3 - Traffic, Walking and Cycling in Acomb

**We will seek to reduce the negative impact that road traffic has on the village of Acomb. We will seek to enhance and develop the local network of paths and bridleways.**

Objective 3 was agreed by 95% of responders (98.7% of those who answered that question) and therefore is adopted.

### 6.0 Objective 4 – Housing

**We will support small-scale infill housing development within the settlement of Acomb, with a particular emphasis on providing housing that meets identified needs**

Objective 4 was agreed by 90% of responders (93% of those who answered that question) and therefore is adopted

### 7.0 Objective 5 - Local Employment and Business

**To support existing local businesses to meet their needs and provide a positive environment for new businesses to flourish**

Objective 5 was agreed by 94% of responders (96% of those who answered that question) and therefore is adopted.

### 8.0 Objective 6 - Heritage, Conservation and Buildings

**Preserve and where possible, enhance the character of our Conservation Area and wider Parish by requiring any new development to be high quality and reflect the principles in the Acomb Conservation Area Character Appraisal**

Objective 6 was agreed by 92% of responders (97% of those who answered that question) and therefore is adopted.

## 9.0 Garden House Bank Housing Development

It is recognised that the current housing development being carried out on Garden House Bank has affected the comments in relation to future housing requirements in the Parish. Therefore, for the purposes of this consultation, it has been necessary to acknowledge that some of the comments reflect current bad feeling.

## 10.0 Next Steps

The amended Vision and all six of the Objectives will be adopted by the NP Steering Group as the basis of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Policies will be drawn up by the NP Steering Group, with the assistance of an independent Planning Professional, referring to, where appropriate, the appended comments, and a draft Plan will be compiled. This will be supported by a Northumberland County Council Strategic Planning Professional. There will be further Public Consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan before it is submitted for the process of Inspection.

## Appendices

### Appendix A – Original “Raw” Vision and Objectives Comments

- A.1 Vision
- A.2 Objective 1 – Community Facilities (A.2a) and Green Spaces (A.2b)
- A.3 Objective 2 – Flooding
- A.4 Objective 3 – Traffic, Walking and Cycling
- A.5 Objective 4 – Housing
- A.6 Objective 5 – Local Business and Employment
- A.7 Objective 6 – Heritage, Conservation and Buildings
- A.8 Further Comments

### Appendix B – Comments organised by Theme

- B.1 Vision
- B.2 Objective 1 – Community Facilities (B.2a) and Green Spaces (B.2b)
- B.3 Objective 2 – Flooding
- B.4 Objective 3 – Traffic, Walking and Cycling
- B.5 Objective 4 – Housing
- B.6 Objective 5 – Local Business and Employment
- B.7 Objective 6 – Heritage, Conservation and Buildings
- B.8 Further Comments

## Appendix A.1

### Acomb Neighbourhood Plan – April 2017 Public Consultation

#### Land-Use Related

(Numbers following Comments refer to Questionnaire Number)

#### Vision Comments

1. Should include “, safe” between “continues to be a thriving” and “and attractive place to live and work” (21)
2. The future should also include new families, young families being attracted to the village to maintain the school community(29)
3. In principle I agree with the vision. However, I think it will be an uphill struggle trying to make significant changes. The views of the residents in Acomb are not listened to, as shown by the housing development going on! Acomb is little more than a suburb of Hexham and will soon be joined up to it. Making it into a very pretty little village with a thriving community is just wishful thinking, or a pipe dream. (37)
4. Change second use of Acomb to Acomb Parish. Too much focus on the village and not the surrounding area. (43)
5. The attraction of Acomb is its village atmosphere. We need to fight proposals for increasing dormitory housing and protect the village environment. (Event)
6. Hear, Hear (to comment 5) (Event)
7. Developing “community spirit” is a constant challenge perhaps dependent on leadership (55)
8. (Villages evolve – people make villages and not all plans/policies will please or affect everyone) (68)
9. Acomb most certainly is not an attractive place in which to live. The approach to the village incorporating the grassy mound opposite Morrison Terrace is a disgrace – long grass, never cut, daffodils struggling to emerge and in wet conditions mud bordering the road. This approach to the village requires considerable attention. (70)

## Appendix A.2

### Acomb Neighbourhood Plan – April 2017 Public Consultation

#### Land-Use Related

(Numbers following Comments refer to Questionnaire Number)

#### Appendix A.2a - Community Facilities Comments

1. Village Hall should be protected as a building available to all, strengthening the community (4)
2. Village Hall and Pavilion should be protected (5)
3. The Village Shop to re-open (5)
4. Village Hall, PO, Pubs, Pit Heaps, Woodland Walk, Playing Field and Play Areas should be protected for leisure purposes (9)
5. Village Hall because of its central situation (11)
6. Village Hall and Gaps should be protected (12)
7. Redevelop Village Hall - Need a central meeting place, and for the Annual Village Show (13)
8. Protection should include Village Hall, Playing Field, Play Areas, School, Fish and Chip Shop, Post Office, Pubs and Green Spaces. All of these serve peoples needs well and keep the village connected. (16)
9. Protected areas should include: Village Hall, Tennis Court, Playing Field, modernised Pavilion (17)
10. Village Hall, Play Areas, School, Post Office, Woodland Walk to Watersmeet should be protected (23)
11. All stated community facilities should be protected, plus PO and General Shop, Acomb Methodist Church (for Coffee Mornings, social events, children's activities
12. Promote new Community Facilities as the current Pavilion and Village Hall are no longer fit for purpose. In long term will become more dilapidated. (31)
13. Post Office – all want to be looked after. We've fought for them – they need protecting. (32)
14. Protect Village Hall. Could have environmentally friendly buildings if the Pavilion is replaced – solar energy or green roof etc – ground source heating (like Bardon Mill) (34)
15. Village Hall, Pavilion and Post Office should be protected as these are central to our community (35)
16. Village Hall and playground – although they are very under – used! (37)
17. Village Hall Playing Fields/playground/tennis court. Post Office – To keep a good community for all ages. (41)
18. St John Lee Church and church hall. Protected and promoted to increase use. (43)
19. All community facilities are important. (44)
20. The old pavilion should be demolished and a new COMMUNITY HALL built on the site. The old village hall could then be sold off. (45)
21. All of the above mentioned. They are all valued facilities to the youngest and the oldest Acomb residents (47)
22. All of the above if possible. The post office/shop should particularly be protected (51)
23. All of the mentioned facilities need to be protected as they offer essential local services and meeting places for local people (54)
24. Protect all of the above (55)
25. Village Hall should be protected (65)
26. (Protect) as outlined above, but Village Hall is especially important – a case for applying for grant towards a major upgrade/replacement (See splendid example set by Bardon Mill) (67)
27. All (community facilities) should be protected as so few. Should be maintained (68)
28. All the above (should be protected) (74)
29. All of the above highlighted in blue. They are all integral to life in the village (75)
30. All of the above because they are vital for a flourishing community and an integral part of the character of the village (78)

## Appendix A.2b - Green Spaces Comments

1. Riverside Walk (1)
2. Green Spaces – River Walk and the joy of walking through open spaces (4)
3. Land for Allotments/Community Orchard if there is a demand for it. (4)
4. Millersfield Play Area should be protected for children's play area (5)
5. The Gaps could be allotments (5)
6. Green spaces – definitely Pit Heaps and Woodland Walk. Again having known the area before landscaping, it is now a lovely peaceful walk (7)
7. Allotments at the bottom of Garden House Bank and Howford Lane if this is affordable. (7)
8. Walk from Acomb to Military Road (8)
9. Pit Heaps, Woodland Walk, Playing Field and Play Areas should be protected for leisure purposes (9)
10. Protect all Green Spaces listed (10)
11. Protect Play Area on Playing Field and Woodland walk to Watersmeet. Love spending family time in these places (10)
12. Allotments/Community Orchard somewhere easily accessible to elderly residents (10)
13. Pit Heaps and Woodland walk for exercise, Land to south of Playing Field as a Wildlife habitat and possibly Village Orchard (11)
14. Gaps should be protected (12)
15. Allotments/Orchard – Yes but not sure where (13)
16. All Local Green Spaces should be protected (15)
17. Public Rights of Way are special (15)
18. Allotments/Orchard on land south of playing field (15)
19. Protection should include Playing Field, Play Areas and Green Spaces. All of these serve people's needs well and keep the village connected. (16)
20. All Green Spaces are equally important (16)
21. Some fruit trees could go in The Gaps. Perhaps a Community Orchard is too formal and aim. (16)
22. Protected areas should include: Tennis Court, Playing Field, modernised Pavilion, Walks to Watersmeet and St John Lee, areas alongside Millersfield, where the burn flows along the bridle path. (17)
23. Allotments/ Orchard possibly on the way to Watersmeet (17)
24. Community facilities to be preserved include bridle path from chipshop to the pant, Playing Field, Gaps, Millersfield Play Area, Playing Field behind Millersfield Houses. (18)
25. Allotments/Orchard next to School or Park, like Riding Mill (18)
26. Protect 2 Village Commons. No one looking after them. (19)
27. Allotments/Orchard on Village Commons (19)
28. Historic Fallowfield Mine Site should be protected (21)
29. Allotments next to current allotments or School Garden (21)
30. All Green Spaces should be protected for nature (21)
31. Riversmeet and Playing Field should be protected (22)
32. Play Areas, Woodland Walk to Watersmeet should be protected (23)
33. Play Areas and Local walks should be protected(24)
34. River Walk should be protected (25)
35. (Protect) Pit Heaps and Woodland Walk (26)
36. Allotments next to school (26)
37. Protect Playing Field and Watersmeet (27)
38. Community Orchard is good (28)
39. Allotments can become an eyesore (28)
40. If Orchards/Allotments involves the local school, then yes. The area used for woodland work by the school could be used (29)
41. Need to plan Green Belt around Acomb – Pant – open spaces around Millersfield – Playing Fields (31)
42. Extend current space for allotments with blessing of landowner/ Land agent (31)
43. Special Green Places – Every place. Don't want houses everywhere. We've got enough (32)

44. Allotments/Community Orchard at the Gaps or next to school playing field (32)
45. Protect Playing Fields x 2, land to the south, The Pit Heaps and Watersmeet. (34)
46. Special Green Spaces - Playing Fields x 2, Land to the south, The Pit Heaps, Watersmeet, The Pant, the bridleway and walks, green space round the school site, around Watersmeet up to the industrial estate and between the river and the A69 entrance (34)
47. Allotments/Community orchard – The Gaps next to the school or next to the old Garden Bank Farm. Is there room for some on the bottom right of the playing field behind the Post Office. (34)
48. Playing Fields, Tennis Courts, Pavilion should be protected as these are central to our community (35)
49. Special Green Spaces are above (See 135) and Fallowfield Walk (35)
50. Woodland walk to Watersmeet. Playing field and play park.(42)
51. Village Hall and playground – although they are very under – used! (37)
52. Village Hall Playing Fields/playground/tennis court– To keep a good community for all ages. (41)
53. All footpaths should be protected and improved (50)
54. All green spaces are special but we do not have the power to protect them or influence decisions (37)
55. Watersmeet and woodland walks – what an amazing beautiful, everchanging place to have on our doorstep! (38)
56. Woodland Walk, Bridle path – St John Lee (41)
57. Woodland walk to Watersmeet. All public footpaths/bridleways around Acomb/St John Lee. (42)
58. Pit Heaps and woodland walk to Watersmeet and old rail line. Pleasant easy walking in tranquil settings. (44)
59. All of them! Public pathways give access to the countryside. Watersmeet and the riverbank to Warden Rocks is a great asset. Discussion please with Egger. Their fishing rights do not extend to being abusive to walkers. Fishermen need to be briefed about the Rights of Way down to the Meetings and the existence of the ford. (45)
60. The woodland walk to Watersmeet. I use regularly and is a favorite dog walk. As is the field next to the allotments (though boggy most of the time) (47)
61. Playing fields are well used and should be protected for future generations (50)
62. All footpaths/bridleways for country walks. (51)
63. Allotments Where ever there is opportunities – but again I think this is unlikely because of 1. lack of influence 2. pressure from developers 3. Council decisions (37)
64. Allotments Around playing fields as plenty of space (38)
65. Allotments did exist in the Gaps(39)
66. Allotments would need to be accessible for all. From previous experience, if persons have to travel too far between home and allotments, interest soon fades. (44)
67. If possible, yes. It is unfortunate that there is no village green as such, such as in Wall or Simonburn,(47)
68. Take out the last infill buildings – stop the development at Garden House Bank (that would leave lots of space). (48)
69. Land at bottom of playing fields behind Redburn Crescent (50)
70. Common Land very important. Forest School is booming in the School Common and I'm sure the other common land could be used in a similar way (Event)
71. Do not forget the Common Land in Parish. School Common used, but others could be used as Community Resource as well. (Event)
72. Most of Green Spaces in and around Acomb are farmland which is perfect.(52)
73. Allotments/Community Orchard – Your building on it now. Could have been allotments (52)
74. Playing Fields, Pit Heaps walk to river (53)
75. Pit Heaps and Playing Field are special. Good walking area and safe play for children (54)
76. Green Spaces are the lungs of the village (55)
77. Footpaths around the village. We have already lost the right to use the driveway of Acomb House which led to the gates of path from “The Lonnen” to Church. This may be private but was in common use for over 60 years (56)
78. Orchards/Allotments behind Millersfield where they used to be. (56)

79. Protect all facilities listed. Playing field and land to South – Green oasis! Green Spaces of Recreation/Sport space, Pit Heaps and associated walking routes (57)
80. Allotments/Orchards are aspirational but only small tracts of land seem to be available/suitable (57)
81. The Common Woodland north of Acomb School is special for the benefit of the schoolchildren. Also common land south of School House (58)
82. If pavilion not protected, playing fields will go and end up with more “luxury houses” (58)
83. Walk from The Pant and along to St John Lee is special – beautiful countryside and we should all be exercising. Community Orchard below Millersfield on slope opposite Old Chapel – include perennial wild flowers with grass being cut at end of summer only – useful for fruit and beautiful - beneficial for bees and butterflies (58)
84. Watersmeet riverside walks with dog (64)
85. Woodland walk and Watersmeet (65)
86. Without a survey, do we know how many people want an allotment? (65)
87. Pit Heaps and Woodland walk to Watersmeet. East wood/Codlaw Dene. Old Road (66)
88. Trees around playing fields periphery (66)
89. Watersmeet, Woodland and river Walks. Green buffer zone between Acomb and A69. (63)
90. Keep Allotments on Garden House Bank (63)
91. Playing Field and Woodland walk – extend latter to overbridge at The Hermitage (67)
92. Expand allotments at foot of Garden House Lane (67)  
All (green spaces) as long as maintained (68)
93. There are allotments in Acomb. Whose land can ANP allocate? (68)
94. There are many footpaths in and around the village (not just Pit Heaps/Watersmeet) which are important for physical and mental health and socially.(69)
95. Bridleway to the Ridings – A real feeling of being in the countryside. Fantastic views. Butterflies (69)
96. Yes to Allotments and Orchard if there are enough people interested in taking them on. (69)
97. The green areas on the entrance to the village should be protected. The approach to the river walk is uninspiring (70)
98. The green spaces as outlined above (are special) – At present most unattractive. (70)
99. No ideas re allotments/orchard (70)
- 100 All the above (should be protected) (74)
- 101 Have just relocated to the area. Any plans (allotments) should be discussed with local people (74)
- 102 All Green Spaces are special and need to be protected and improved. The School Common is an additional area which could be enhanced (75)
- 103 With the pathway through from the new development the playing field and play area together with a new village hall (with pavilion facilities) on the site of the pavilion could become a real hub for the village. Allotments and Orchard could be sited there also. Alternatively, or in addition, the Gaps field could create a site for village allotments with a small orchard in the centre. (75)
- 104 Protect Millersfield Play Area, The Pit Heaps and Woodland walk, and Watersmeet. Special Green Spaces are The Pit Heaps and Woodland Walk to Watersmeet: a conservation area, beautiful to walk through (76)
- 105 Special Green Spaces – The Pant and footpaths south and west. Allotments – yes, depending on site (77)
- 106 Special Green spaces – Acomb Playing Field, Pit Heaps/Walk to Watersmeet, fields to south of Garden House Farm, fields to west of A6079. all are vital to setting of the village as well as amenity value for leisure/pleasure/well-being. (78)
- 107 Allotments/Orchard – In principle yes, but unsure where. (78)

## Appendix A.3

### Acomb Neighbourhood Plan – April 2017 Public Consultation

#### Land-Use Related

(Numbers following Comments refer to Questionnaire Number)

#### Flooding Comments

1. Ensure Policies for future development are complied with (potential Flooding) (10)
2. To encourage the planting of trees throughout the parish to take up some of the increasing rainfall in the catchment areas of the Red and Birkey Burns (11)
3. Can anything be done higher up Blakett's Burn to hold the water back? (17)
4. Stop building on land subject to flooding. (31)
5. Parish Council to actively support community projects (flood management) to sustain and maintain what is already in place.(31)
6. Proactively work with landowners to bring them round to taking up natural flood management schemes. (31)
7. Grants for Landowners to plant trees on the Fell. (33)
8. "I am worried by the development on Garden House Bank – that the removal of natural drainage – trees, hedges and soil to be replaced with hard materials – will cause flooding even with the tank" (34)
9. Support the use of natural flood management and link in with wildlife corridors and promoting wildlife and the environment (34)
10. Drainage of fields bordering the A69 to be checked as excessive water is flooding larger areas year on year. One may say that this is as a result of a higher water table following a period of heavier than usual rainfall in the Tyne Valleys and hence the river is higher but the conditions have derailed over previous years without the said fields flooding to the extent of recently (44)
11. Work with Action4Acomb to secure funding for flood defence works. (50)
12. No suggestions at the minute(52)
13. The Environment Agency mentioned about providing a "resevoir" further up the village to facilitate excess water and hopefully reduce the flood risk to Morrison Terrace, by providing somewhere else for the the excess water to go – what happened to this as no further mention of it? (54)
14. Do not allow developments on areas which flood eg Garden House Bank (63)
15. Do not feed drainage from new developments into a drainage system which is unable to cope at times of heavy rainfall eg Birkey Burn and Redburn ((63)
16. SuDS: has this been considered for Garden House Lane development? (67)
17. Use of "soft" retention systems on some of the steeper field slopes would help (67)
18. Bullet Point 2 with regard to flood management schemes probably needs more emphasis as this aspect of the flood prevention work has not progressed. Suggest rewording slightly so that it reads: "Prioritise working with landowners in and around the parish to reduce flooding and vigorously pursue natural flood management schemes, working closely with the local landowners, NCC and the Environment Agency".(75)

## Appendix A.4

### Acomb Neighbourhood Plan – April 2017 Public Consultation

#### Land-Use Related

(Numbers following Comments refer to Questionnaire Number)

#### Traffic, Walking and Cycling Comments

1. It's stupid to only emphasise negative input of traffic. The village is becoming anti-car and the approaches have been ruined by an overabundance of signs and potentially dangerous speed bumps, which cause pollution too (15)
2. What does a better route between Acomb and Hexham mean? (16)
3. It would be good to have cycle paths aren't on the road eg down from the chippy and along the main road (17)
4. The main road past the new development needs to be widened and resurfaced – also possible a one way system put in place. (20)
5. We need a roundabout at the A6079 junction with Morrison Terrace, to slow traffic, improve access to Industrial Estate and prepare village for One way System (Orchard Bank one way) (21)
6. Two bed rental properties needed (21)
7. There are a lot of parked cars on Main Street. Are there any possibilities for providing (convenient for residents) parking off-street? (25)
8. Lobby our local MP to encourage Parliament to stop NCC completely ignoring peoples wishes and bulldozing democracy for the sake of political advantage (26)
9. Pavement and recovered (for cycling) Garden House Drive. (27)
10. Although the speed reduction is good, the signage of this shouldn't increase. The entrance and exits to the village have been "re-signed" to extreme and has taken away the "countryside-feel" to the village (29)
11. Some of this has already happened. There is a pathway group – need to have systematic review of paths/bridleways meeting with Tim Fish, NCC and Parish Council – A great deal undertaken to date – A6079 – 20s plenty (31)
12. Too many cars up and down the village (32)
13. Old paths have been lost or taken by homeowners.(32)
14. All the above plus extend paths so that BWs etc meet up and provide loops. Allow multi use of paths which are suitable Plan paths which help people, cyclists and riders avoid roads (especially busy ones) (34)
15. Work with Sandhoe, Wall and Warden to provide links and paths which allow greater routes to villages alongside Acomb (34)
16. In the last 20 years, the number of cars parked on the main street has grown to unacceptable proportions. A large car park and restricted parking on Main Street would be a start. New paths and bridleways wherever opportunity arises – and if you can influence the local authorities (37)
17. Better paths and bridleways would make area better accessible for walking and running.(38)
18. MAIN STREET PARKING: A DISASTER FOR BUS & PRIVATE DRIVERS . NEED TO SORT. (52)
19. Shared cycle and footpath along Pit Heaps. This would connect onto the existing bridleway towards Wall village (54)
20. Agree with safer path to School. Could it be widened? (Other) Footpaths are fine (58)
21. Ensure there is a pedestrian/cycling route created/maintained through new "Birkey Heights" development. Improve link from Garden House Drive to "Old Road" – widen path/develop alternative route. (62)
22. Yes – but put the second sentence first. (69)
23. Back roads have been totally neglected. These should be the "safe" roads for cycling and walking but are becoming hazardous. Examples: Road from foot of Garden House Bank to junction near St John Lee and both roads off the junction; The old road to Hexham (parallel to A69). Pleased that the awful pot-holed road at the top of the village has finally been resurfaced, but we need to do much more to encourage healthy lifestyles. (69)

24. Wholeheartedly agree with identifying routes for upgrade. It's important to identify routes regularly used by villagers, especially schoolchildren and older people accessing village facilities and bus services (75)

## Appendix A.5

### Acomb Neighbourhood Plan – April 2017 Public Consultation

#### Land-Use Related

(Numbers following Comments refer to Questionnaire Number)

#### Housing Comments

1. Stone built (1)
2. Infill not new housing developments like recently on roadside below Queens Head (1)
3. No more housing in the village (2)
4. Small groups of houses rather than more estates. I feel that the GHB development is going to cause major problems. Garden House Drive was the first nail in the coffin for the village, turning it into a "dormitory" village, like Hexham. Hexham has become a dormitory town. Everyone works/ shops/ socialises in Newcastle/Carlisle. A dying "Front Street" (4)
5. We need Social Housing and have enough Executive Housing, although Bishops Hill was very sympathetically designed (7)
6. Affordable 2 bed bungalows for retired people downsizing, or people wishing to move to accommodation with improved mobility facilities (9)
7. Bungalows and easily maintained properties may be attractive to people of retirement age. (10)
8. I'm not sure where but perhaps at the village hall site if this was to be incorporated into the pavilion. (10)
9. Rented 2 bedroom bungalows should be available (12)
10. Private smaller bungalows to release larger properties for families (13)
11. Housing for 1<sup>st</sup> time buyers – especially part purchase with a Housing Association (17)
12. Local housing for Older people who want to stay in the village (17)
13. Don't know where else you could build without spoiling green and creating more traffic, spoiling village and community (18)
14. Spoiled field where flats were built – children used to play there. (18)
15. Infill between houses etc (19)
16. Only build in-fill (21)
17. More housing for the elderly. (22)
18. First time buyers and shared ownership should be encouraged so young people stay in the area. (23)
19. Housing Location – The Green? (24)
20. Bungalows/two bedroomed houses/affordable homes (26)
21. A range of Housing (27)
22. Type of Housing that young families can afford. The community is increasingly ageing and new families and young families need encouraging to live here(29)
23. Acomb needs no more houses (30)
24. No new housing – not identified in Housing Needs Assessment (31)
25. Only housing that is in keeping with the village(32)
26. Housing in keeping with the traditional stone feel of the village (34)
27. Housing locations – Infill areas and industrial areas, opposite the industrial estate, at the bottom of Fallowfield Road. (34)
28. Affordable (under £200K) 3 bed accommodation for newly weds and young families (35)
29. Potential locations for housing – Garden House bank, Field off A6079, possible fields near to school/Bishops Hill so long as sensible planning and flood consideration is undertaken(35)
30. The 'village feel' is already lost. Any further development will impact on congestion and infrastructure (37)
31. Affordable housing (38)
32. No more large estates of large houses. Affordable & 2 bed bungalows. (41)

33. I suspect all the identified potential building land within the Acomb area has been built on, and unless Govt. policy allows development of Green Belt, there will only be very limited future development, ie, infill. (45)
34. Low cost (46)
35. More affordable housing perhaps. Our younger residents will never afford to buy their own homes in their village otherwise. Also if future housing developments go ahead, then Acomb must keep up with amenities/facilities to match this. Pubs we're fine with but a larger shop/tea room/café? (47)
36. Cottages suitable for elderly couples to downsize into to release larger houses for families with children. (49)
37. Smaller affordable houses (50)
38. Small cottage style stone built 'affordable' houses in keeping with existing houses in the village. (51)
39. If the Gaps not used for Allotments, could it be used for housing (39)
40. No more infill (that's the wrong way) (48)
41. Close to the village centre (49)
42. Preferred 2 bedroom bungalows for aged persons in village. All aged bungalows are one bedroom (52)
43. If provided, one bedroom bungalows could help solve problem for single persons. As flats for single/couples rent or buy. 1 bedroom suitable for couples if to buy must be reasonably priced. (52)
44. Don't make boundaries \* found land for Bishops Hill. Lots of Green Land dotted around where could build odd 2 bedroom bungalows around village on bus route. Maybe some 1 bedroom bungalows could have extra bedroom built on or update bungalows OAP. (52)
45. 1&2 bedroom flats rent or buy could do for single persons/couples. Do with a couple around the village. (52)
46. More homes to rent (53)
47. Homes for first time buyers and no more large expensive executive-type housing in the village. This would encourage younger, local people to stay within the community and continue to be part of it. (54)
48. Affordable/Social Housing wherever possible. (55)
49. Enough of "Executive-type" houses. Only reasonable priced property for locals. No more locations. (56)
50. What is classed as Small Scale Housing? Is Birkey Heights in that category and will it be the last new development, or are other 3,4,5 bed developments being planned? (58)
51. 1-2 bedroom homes for First Time Buyers – not more 4/5 "Luxury Housing" alla Birkey Heights. Also more housing for the elderly – all to keep Acomb a village. (59)
52. Affordable (62)
53. New Housing at Birkey Heights is 5/4/3 room houses which should be OK (64)
54. Fields on left and right leaving village going up Fallowfield Road might be Ok if more housing needed, which I am not sure is needed (64)
55. Affordable Housing. The small fields above the School which are no good for agriculture (65)
56. Co-operative? Social Housing (66)
57. Avoid the type of "suburban" design used on garden House Drive. Preserve trees/hedges (66)
58. Affordable (ie cheaper, as developers don't seem to understand what "affordable" means. Scale does not require to be too large. (67)
59. Land to north of Millerfield (67)
60. Each proposal should be considered on its own merits. Nearby residents objections, or otherwise, should carry most weight. (68)
61. Need to ensure sewerage, drainage and other services are able to cope. We are still faced with the annual drain stench as soon as the caravan site gets into its season (69)
62. Housing for young families (70)
63. More council houses are required. Enough private houses in the village to give the younger people a chance to get a house. (72)
64. Housing for local people (young people) (73)

65. A good balance of housing with sufficient for local people. Any increase hopefully would encourage use of existing facilities and may attract a new shop – or two! (73)
66. There needs to be more shops. Local people, of course, would have to support village shops in order for them to survive. (73)
67. Sheltered Housing and/or bungalows for elderly or infirm. (75)
68. If the Village Hall was rebuilt on the site of the pavilion, then the village hall plot would be a good position, adjacent to the bus stop and near the Main street. (75)
69. We need a balanced approach to housing. Good quality houses plus affordable housing for local people (76)
70. The Garden House Bank development makes a mockery of these policies (78)

## Appendix A.6

### Acomb Neighbourhood Plan – April 2017 Public Consultation

#### Land-Use Related

(Numbers following Comments refer to Questionnaire Number)

#### Local Employment and Business Comments

1. The village shop should re-open (5)
2. Local businesses on the Industrial Estate are useful and good. (7)
3. Remove eyesore at Howarth Quarry that has not complied with existing planning restrictions and causes noise pollution and light pollution (in winter) (8)
4. Fully support working with local businesses and creation of small (business) units (10)
5. Business Units should be confined to the existing industrial estate (15)
6. Small business units would be good (17)
7. Decent internet speeds for those living in farming communities or isolated housing, as well as in the village. (17)
8. Encourage people to work from home (19)
9. Improve access to Industrial Estate to attract more business (21)
10. Apply for Enterprise Zone Status (Rules will be more relaxed after Brexit)(21)
11. A village shop would be beneficial. The Post Office has a very small selection of certain items but an independent store/ Co-op style shop would benefit the area. This would help Mums of young children and the elderly as well as for general convenience food. It should be open regular daytime all hours/weekends (29)
12. Innovative ways of development (of Local employment and business) – similar to Community pods where several businesses get together to share facilities (31)
13. Encourage new business to the industrial estate (32)
14. You could set up a small Business Unit with Small Offices to rent, like Wooler (34)
15. The existing businesses in Acomb are limited. There are better places in the wider area to establish new business locations. Acomb village is not suitable for a business park, - and if people want to work from home, fine! (37)
16. Individual units well used and Acomb can only benefit from more ????? (38)
17. 1 industrial unit could have the potential to be developed as a 'starter' unit for several KIBs (Knowledge Intensive Business) (45)
18. Just more investment in the industrial estate, it always looks a little shabby. Also the bus depot should showcase one of their vintage buses, right at the front, so passing motorists might slow down and take a look! (Even convert into a café, but that's probably just me and a pipe dream). (47)
19. Any business expansion should be in the industrial estate so that the village centre is protected. We need a village hub/coffee shop. (50)
20. I feel that encouragement and support of existing plus small businesses is important over hoe-working. The reason for this is worry over the logistics of Home Business, ie more traffic to ordinary streets and homes, delivery vehicles etc. Even if it is internet based, there will be pickup or deliveries possibly required. Needs careful planning. The Industrial Estate is purpose built, has facility for extra traffic and ready made car parking. (54)
21. Where in the hierarchy might it come? (55)
22. But do we know what demand for small business units is? Is it significant? (67)
23. This is for local businesses to consider, as is any action that affects them. (68)
24. The Industrial Estate could provide more office space for small businesses. However, some protection of the rural nature of Acomb is very important. New buildings should fit into the landscape with more trees and natural screening (75)

## Appendix A.7

### Acomb Neighbourhood Plan – April 2017 Public Consultation

#### Land-Use Related

(Numbers following Comments refer to Questionnaire Number)

#### Heritage, Conservation and Buildings Comments

1. No more Housing Estates. (4)
2. Historic Buildings to preserve – Methodist Chapel School and St John Lee. (7)
3. Maintaining the look and feel of Main Street and retaining remaining Green Spaces within the Conservation Area (given that the development on Garden House Bank has eradicated a significant portion) (10)
4. Protection of all relevant historic buildings anywhere in the village settlement (10)
5. The Pant should be protected (13)
6. As stated in the blue box. Isn't that (new development affecting the character of the Area.....) The Council Planner's job? (15)
7. Keeping the history and the older houses. Could the lead mine workings be preserved such that our children could go and see how people worked. All the older housing and the lead mines should be kept/preserved. (17)
8. Buildings on Main Street should be protected (18)
9. Fallowfield Mine should be protected (Roman/Baryte History) (21)
10. Suitable building materials should be used in buildings, to be in keeping with local stone. (23)
11. Historic Buildings round the Pant should be protected (23)
12. School/Village Hall/Chapel (are most important aspects of design and conservation in Acomb) (26)
13. Conservation in keeping with the village – stone buildings – less brick built modern style (31)
14. Protect Houses round Pant and Main Street, Chapel and St John Lee. (31)
15. Keep them stone (32)
16. Protect the big houses Acomb & others (32)
17. Design – Keeping the Green Spaces, Keeping the trees or replacing fallen and felled trees, high quality appropriate design for buildings in Acomb (34)
18. Protect all the historic buildings, stone houses up main street and around the Pant and Fallowfield. (34)
19. Look at wild life corridors to enhance the Conservation area (34)
20. Promoting and enhancing green spaces owned by the Parish Council (34)
21. Not sure about this objective. Unsure if this would lead to unnecessary premium on new builds. Acomb has character from its variety. There is a wide range of type of property, buildings in almost every decade since the 1940s plus period original property on Main Street. Diversity is sometimes a good thing. (35)
22. Objective 6 - Protect Chapel, School, Bus station. (35)
23. But our recommendations will not be listened to. Again, without influence or control, securing changes which protect the environment and character of where we live is impossible. (37)
24. In keeping with village feel and preserve green spaces (38)
25. I think any new development should be sympathetic to its surroundings, certainly not too modern looking. However, modern technology should absolutely be used; solar; underfloor heating; insulation; recyclable material etc. (47)
26. This is fine but how do we enforce this via the planning system? (50)
27. St John Lee Church should be protected (43)
28. Bat buildings adjacent to Bishops Hill. (50)
29. No buildings need protection, but there are several buildings in a state of dilapidation which are screaming to be renovated. I think its such a shame as it brings down the whole look and feel of the village. (47)

30. Will look into (Design and Conservation) matter and may bring up at next AC Meeting (52)
31. Historic Buildings as above (Comment 30) (52)
32. Keeping the character of the village as it was meant to be and stop trying to turn it into something it is not. Acomb has its history and features of a mining village. If newcomers do not like this, there are plenty of other places to live. We should not allow the "sole" to be ripped out of our village. (54)
33. How to ensure the preservation of older buildings in the context of modern building requirements (55)
34. Main Street should be protected (55)
35. Historical – reflecting rural environment – heritage of village (57)
36. Several buildings in the Parish worthy of protection, BUT homeowners could find this curtails interior and exterior work, possibly making properties more difficult to sell.(57)
37. Building design sympathetic to heritage of rural area. The Queens Public House is a historic building which is increasingly in a bad state of repair. The owners should be encouraged to implement remedial work. (58)
38. The Old Chapel at the bottom of the Main Street should be protected.(59)
39. Too many trees getting felled at Howford Quarry (Broad Leaf Trees) (62)
40. Traditional design with some modern features (65)
41. Design aspects – Building Materials (Stone). Rural style (66)
42. Use of sympathetic materials/attractive and conservative design. (67)
43. Conservation Area offers protection to many, but perhaps St John Lee Church should specifically given protection. (67)
44. What is the point of answering such questions when objections are ignored or over-ruled? (68)
45. All buildings (should be protected) – and not just historic. (68)
46. Conservation of the bat population by reduction in street lighting intensity – particularly important when there is new development (69)
47. The use of building materials should also be sympathetic and in keeping with the traditional buildings in the village. (74)
48. New buildings and extensions within the Conservation Area should be in keeping with the local architecture and design. (75)
49. The Pant needs to be preserved as the village "green". Also the Miners Arms; The Byre (adjacent to the White House)looks increasingly dilapidated and needs renovation (75)
50. All new housing should be in stone or stone appearance. (77)
51. The fountain on the Pant and the old cow byre in Main street opposite the Pant should be protected. (77)
52. Unfortunately, may have already been spoilt by inappropriately designed plastic windows etc in the conservation area which shouldn't have been allowed. Traditional stone built vernacular architecture, where it still exists should be conserved and cherished, along with historic detailing – that still gives the village its essential character (78)

## Appendix A.8

### Acomb Neighbourhood Plan – April 2017 Public Consultation

#### Land-Use Related

(Numbers following Comments refer to Questionnaire Number)

#### Further Comments

1. Keep Acomb as a village, not a free for all. I have lived here for 43 years. I like Acomb as it is.(2)
2. On street Parking is terrible. Homes with multiple cars stopping other people getting near their home (5)
3. A better Kids Play Area within the village The field is no good for smaller children to play, without parents (5)
4. "Congratulations to the hard-working Parish Council and A4A group for the production of this professional, clear, attractive Questionnaire. You do a great job." (7)
5. Cap the village to current capacity as roads and facilities cannot cope, and detract from its character (8)
6. Looks like a good plan with a sensible balance of priorities. (17)
7. Sorry to be negative but we feel whilst its good to have a neighbourhood plan, without any influence or control, the 'future' of the village is out of our hands to a large degree. Surely we should be doing what we can to provide support for our elderly residents, and children improving the facilities we have and try to find people who are prepared to get involved with community activites. (37)
8. Car parking – could some grassed areas on Millersfield and Chapel Close be changed into parking areas. Parking has become a big problem in village or build more garages. (39)
9. Need to recognize that Parish of Acomb covers more than just Acomb Village (43)
10. We must never have another development like Garden House Bank. We need to protect all large open spaces (50)
11. Opportunity Area – Wooded area adjacent to School. Physical agility area for kids (Event)
12. Birkey Heights development – an example of NCC ignoring the people of Acomb. Garden House Bank floods, it's a dangerous road where a child has been hit by a car and NCC disregarded the Conservation Area. As taxpayers we pay for NCC and yet they have treated their residents with contempt and failed us (63)
13. Keep up the good work (67)
14. In particular, keep a wary eye on the activities of greedy developers – the laissez-fair attitude of NCC Planners is deplorable, as exemplified by Garden House Lane development. (67)
15. I'm pleased to be consulted on issues related to the village (69)
16. The boundaries of the businesses located on the old pit areas on the west side of the A6079 currently provide an unattractive and outdated aspect to the village. Local businesses should be encouraged to improve boundaries of their premises by various means, for example by screening, planters and also modern fencing. Improving the roadside areas of the A6079 would help to create the village "feel" as people drive through, slowing traffic further and enhancing the village environment. (75)
17. In addition, currently, more people are parking vehicles on the grassy bank opposite Morrison Terrace. This area needs a redesign able to create parking and a safe area to wait for buses, and a more attractive outlook for residents and visitors to the village. Perhaps this could be added to a project to increase hard-standing for parking on the A6079, for residents. (75)
18. When new housing at Birkey Heights is completed, the village is large enough and no other large development should be allowed (77)

## Appendix B.1

### Acomb Neighbourhood Plan – April 2017 Public Consultation

#### Land-Use Related

(Numbers following Comments refer to Questionnaire Number)

#### Vision Comments

1. Should include “, safe” between “continues to be a thriving” and “and attractive place to live and work” (21)
2. The future should also include new families, young families being attracted to the village to maintain the school community(29)
3. In principle I agree with the vision. However, I think it will be an uphill struggle trying to make significant changes. The views of the residents are in Acomb are not listened to, as shown by the housing development going on! Acomb is little more than a suburb of Hexham and will soon be joined up to it. Making it into a very pretty little village with a thriving community is just wishful thinking, or a pipe dream. (37)
4. Change second use of Acomb to Acomb Parish. Too much focus on the village and not the surrounding area. (43)
5. The attraction of Acomb is its village atmosphere. We need to fight proposals for increasing dormitory housing and protect the village environment. (Event)
6. Hear, Hear (to comment 5) (Event)
7. Developing “community spirit” is a constant challenge perhaps dependent on leadership (55)
8. (Villages evolve – people make villages and not all plans/policies will please or affect everyone) (68)
9. Acomb most certainly is not an attractive place in which to live. The approach to the village incorporating the grassy mound opposite Morrison Terrace is a disgrace – long grass, never cut, daffodils struggling to emerge and in wet conditions mud bordering the road. This approach to the village requires considerable attention. (70)

## Appendix B.2

### Acomb Neighbourhood Plan – April 2017 Public Consultation

#### Land-Use Related - Themed

(Numbers following Comments refer to Questionnaire Number)

#### Appendix B.2a Community Facilities to be protected

##### Village Hall and Pavilion

1. Village Hall should be protected as a building available to all, strengthening the community (4)
2. Village Hall and Pavilion should be protected (5)
3. Village Hall...(9)
4. Village Hall because of its central situation (11)
5. Village Hall ..... (12)
6. Redevelop Village Hall - Need a central meeting place, and for the Annual Village Show (13)
7. Protection should include Village Hall..... All of these serve peoples needs well and keep the village connected. (16)
8. Protected areas should include: Village Hall, ..... modernised Pavilion (17)
9. Village Hall .... should be protected (23)
10. Promote new Community Facilities as the current Pavilion and Village Hall are no longer fit for purpose. In long term will become more dilapidated. (31)
11. Protect Village Hall. Could have environmentally friendly buildings if the Pavilion is replaced – solar energy or green roof etc – ground source heating (like Bardon Mill) (34)
12. Village Hall, Pavilion .... should be protected as theses are central to our community (35)
13. Village Hall .... – although they are very under – used! (37)
14. Village Hall ..... – To keep a good community for all ages. (41)
15. The old pavilion should be demolished and a new COMMUNITY HALL built on the site. The old village hall could then be sold off.(45)
16. Village Hall should be protected (65)
17. (Protect) as outlined above, but Village Hall is especially important – a case for applying for grant towards a major upgrade/replacement (See splendid example set by Bardon Mill) (67)

##### Tennis Courts

18. Protected areas should include..... Tennis Court,.....(17)
19. ....tennis court. Post Office – To keep a good community for all ages. (41)

##### Post Office

20. ...PO..(9)
21. ...Post Office(16)
22. ....Post Office should be protected (23)
23. All stated community facilities should be protected, plus PO and General Shop....(26)
24. Post Office – all want to be looked after. We've fought for them – they need protecting. (32)
25. Protect Village Hall. Could have environmentally friendly buildings if the Pavilion is replaced – solar energy or green roof etc – ground source heating (like Bardon Mill) (34)
26. .... Post Office should be protected as theses are central to our community (35)
27. .... Post Office – To keep a good community for all ages. (41)
28. ....The post office/shop should particularly be protected (51)

##### Pubs

29. ... Pubs...(9)
30. ...Pubs.. All of these serve peoples needs well and keep the village connected. (16)

### **School**

31. ...School.... All of these serve peoples needs well and keep the village connected. (16)
32. ....School.....should be protected (23)

### **Fish and Chip Shop**

33. ...Fish and Chip Shop.. All of these serve peoples needs well and keep the village connected (16).

### **St John Lee**

34. St John Lee Church and church hall. Protected and promoted to increase use.(43)

### **Acomb Methodist Church**

35. All stated community facilities should be protected, plus ....Acomb Methodist Church (for Coffee Mornings, social events, children's activities (26)

### **Village shop to reopen**

36. The Village Shop to re-open (5)

### **General - All Community facilities protected**

37. All community facilities are important.(44)
38. All of the above mentioned. They are all valued facilities to the youngest and the oldest Acomb residents (47)
39. All of the above if possible. .... (51)
40. All of the mentioned facilities need to be protected as they offer essential local services and meeting places for local people (54)
41. Protect all of the above (55)
42. All (community facilities) should be protected as so few. Should be maintained (68)
43. All the above (should be protected) (74)
44. All of the above highlighted in blue. They are all integral to life in the village (75)
45. All of the above because they are vital for a flourishing community and an integral part of the character of the village (78)

## Appendix B.2b Green Spaces To Be Protected

### Playing fields and other play areas

1. Millersfield Play Area should be protected for children's play area (5)
2. ....Playing Field and Play Areas should be protected for leisure purposes (9)
3. Protect Play Area on Playing Field (10)
4. Protection should include Playing Field, Play Areas (16)
5. Protected areas should include: .... Playing Field,.....(17)
6. Community facilities to be preserved include .....Millersfield Play Area ,Playing Field behind Millersfield Houses. (18)
7. ..and Playing Field should be protected (22)
8. Play Areas.....Should be protected (23)
9. Play Areas and Local walks should be protected(24)
10. Protect Playing Field ....(27)
11. ....Playing Fields (31)
12. Playing Fields, Tennis Courts, Pavilion should be protected as these are central to our community (35)
13. Village Hall and playground – although they are very under – used! (37)
14. Playing Fields/playground....- To keep a good community for all ages. (41)
15. ....Playing field and play park.(42)
16. Protect Playing Fields x 2..(34)
17. .... playground – although they are very under – used! (37)
18. Playing fields are well used and should be protected for future generations (50)
19. Playing Fields (53)
20. ...and Playing Field are special (54)
21. Protect all facilities listed. Playing field ..... Green oasis! (57)
22. If pavilion not protected, playing fields will go and end up with more “luxury houses” (58)
23. Playing Field .....(67)
24. With the pathway through from the new development the playing field and play area together with a new village hall (with pavilion facilities) on the site of the pavilion could become a real hub for the village (75).
25. Protect Millersfield Play Area.....(76)
26. Special Green spaces –... Acomb Playing Field ...(78)

**Other Green spaces to be protected**

<p>27. <b>Riverside</b> Walk (1)</p> <p>28. Green Spaces – River Walk and the joy of walking through open spaces (4)</p> <p>29. Protected areas should include: ..... Walks to Watersmeet (17)</p> <p>30. Riversmeet...should be protected. (22)</p> <p>31. .... Woodland Walk to Watersmeet should be protected (23)</p> <p>32. River Walk should be protected (25)</p> <p>33. ....Protect Watersmeet (27)</p> <p>34. protect .....Watersmeet. (34)</p> <p>35. ....around Watersmeet up to the industrial estate and between the river and the A69 entrance (34)</p> <p>36. ...Woodland walk to Watersmeet (42).</p> <p>37. Watersmeet .... what an amazing beautiful, everchanging place to have on our doorstep! (38)</p> <p>38. Watersmeet and the riverbank to Warden Rocks is a great asset. Discussion please with Egger. Their fishing rights do not extend to being abusive to walkers. Fishermen need to be briefed about the Rights of Way down to the Meetings and the existence of the ford. (45)</p> <p>39. Watersmeet riverside walks with dog (64)</p> <p>40. Woodland walk and Watersmeet (65)</p> <p>41. ..Watersmeet, Woodland and river Walks. (63)</p> <p>42. Green spaces – definitely <b>Pit Heaps and Woodland Walk</b>. Again having known the area before landscaping, it is now a lovely peaceful walk (7)</p> <p>43. Pit Heaps, Woodland Walk, ..... should be protected for leisure purposes (9)</p> <p>44. and Woodland walk to Watersmeet. Love spending family time in these places (10)</p> <p>45. .... Pit Heaps and Woodland walk for exercise...(11)</p> <p>46. Woodland Walk to Watersmeet should be protected (23)</p> <p>47. (Protect) Pit Heaps and Woodland Walk (26)</p> <p>48. ....Pit Heaps....(34)</p> <p>49. ....woodland walks – what an amazing beautiful, everchanging place to have on our doorstep! (38)</p> <p>50. Woodland Walk....(41)</p> <p>51. Woodland walk to Watersmeet....(42)</p> <p>52. Pit Heaps and woodland walk to Watersmeet and old rail line. Pleasant easy walking in tranquil settings. (44)</p> <p>53. The woodland walk to Watersmeet. I use regularly and is a favorite dog walk.....(47)</p> <p>54. ....Pit Heaps walk to river (53)</p> <p>55. Pit Heaps ..... are special. Good walking area and safe play for children (54)</p> <p>56. Pit Heaps and associated walking routes (57)</p> <p>57. Pit Heaps and Woodland walk to Watersmeet...(66).</p> <p>58. ....and Woodland walk – extend latter to overbridge at The Hermitage (67)</p> <p>59. ....The Pit Heaps and Woodland walk, and Watersmeet. Special Green Spaces are The Pit Heaps and Woodland Walk to Watersmeet: a conservation area, beautiful to walk through (76)</p> <p>60. Special Green spaces – ...Pit Heaps/Walk to Watersmeet.. (78)</p>	
<p>61. <b>Land to south of Playing Field</b> as a Wildlife habitat.....(11)</p> <p>62. ....land to the south (of playing fields).. (34)</p> <p>63. ...and land to South – Green oasis! (57)</p>	<p>64. <b>Gaps</b> should be protected (12)</p> <p>65. ...Gaps... (18)</p>
<p><b>66.</b> Protected areas should include: ..... <b>walks to... St John Lee</b> (17)</p> <p>67. ...Bridle path – St John Lee (41)</p> <p>68. ....All public footpaths/bridleways around Acomb/St John Lee. (42)</p> <p>69. Walk from The Pant and along to St</p>	<p>71. Walks to .... <b>areas alongside Millersfield</b>, where the burn flows along the bridle path. (17)</p>

<p>John Lee is special – beautiful countryside and we should all be exercising.....(58)</p> <p>70. Bridleway to the Ridings – A real feeling of being in the countryside. Fantastic views. Butterflies (69)</p>	
<p>72. Walk from <b>Acomb to Military Road</b> (8)</p>	<p>73. Protected areas should include: ..... Community facilities to be preserved <b>include bridle path from chipshop to the pant.....</b> (18)</p>
<p>74. ...<b>Pant</b>.... (31)</p> <p>75. The Pant..(34)</p> <p>76. Special Green Spaces – The Pant and footpaths south and west.....(77)</p>	<p>77. Protect 2 <b>Village Commons</b>. No one looking after them. (19)</p> <p>78. Common Land very important. Forest School is booming in the School Common and I'm sure the other common land could be used in a similar way (Event)</p> <p>79. Do not forget the Common Land in Parish. School Common used, but others could be used as Community Resource as well. (Event)</p> <p>80. ...green space round the school site (34)</p> <p>81. The Common Woodland north of Acomb School is special for the benefit of the schoolchildren. Also common land south of School House (58)</p> <p>82. Special Green spaces –...The School Common is an additional area which could be enhanced (75)</p>
<p>83. <b>Historic Fallowfield Mine Site</b> should be protected (21)</p>	<p>84. ....<b>open spaces around Millersfield</b> (31)</p>
<p>85. Special Green spaces –....<b>fields to south of Garden House Farm</b> (78)</p>	<p>86. ....the bridleway and walks.... (34)</p>
<p>87. ....As is the <b>field next to the allotments</b> (though boggy most of the time) (47)</p>	<p>88. .... <b>Fallowfield Walk</b> (35)</p>
<p>89. ...<b>East wood/Codlaw Dene</b>...(66)</p>	<p>90. <b>Old Road</b> (66)</p>
<p>91. ...Special Green spaces –<b>fields to west of A6079</b>...(78)</p>	

**Generally protecting greens spaces and public rights of way around Acomb**

- 92. Protect all Green Spaces listed (10)
- 93. All Local Green Spaces should be protected (15)
- 94. Public Rights of Way are special (15)
- 95. Protection should include ..... Green Spaces. All of these serve people's needs well and keep the village connected. (16)
- 96. All Green Spaces are equally important (16)
- 97. All Green Spaces should be protected for nature (21)
- 98. Need to plan Green Belt around Acomb — (31)
- 99. Special Green Places – Every place. Don't want houses everywhere. We've got enough (32)

- 100. Special Green Spaces (34)
- 101. Special Green Spaces are above (See 135).... (35)
- 102. All footpaths should be protected and improved (50)
- 103. All green spaces are special but we do not have the power to protect them or influence decisions (37)
- 104. All of them! Public pathways give access to the countryside.....(45)
- 105. All footpaths/bridleways for country walks. (51)
- 106. If possible, yes. It is unfortunate that there is no village green as such, such as in Wall or Simonburn,(47)
- 107. Most of Green Spaces in and around Acomb are farmland which is perfect.(52)
- 108. Green Spaces are the lungs of the village (55)
- 109. Footpaths around the village. We have already lost the right to use the driveway of Acomb House which led to the gates of path from "The Lonnen" to Church. This may be private but was in common use for over 60 years (56)
- 110. Green Spaces of Recreation/Sport space...(57)
- 111. Trees around playing fields periphery (66)
- 112. Green buffer zone between Acomb and A69. (63)
- 113. All (green spaces) as long as maintained (68)
- 114. There are many footpaths in and around the village (not just Pit Heaps/Watersmeet) which are important for physical and mental health and socially.(69)
- 115. The green areas on the entrance to the village should be protected. The approach to the river walk is uninspiring (70)
- 116. The green spaces as outlined above (are special) – At present most unattractive. (70)
- 117. All the above (should be protected) (74)
- 118. All Green Spaces are special and need to be protected and improved (75).  
.....all are vital to setting of the village as well as amenity value for leisure/pleasure/well-being. (78)

**Allotments/Orchard  
Suggested Places**

- 119. The Gaps could be allotments (5)
- 120. Allotments at the bottom of Garden House Bank and Howford Lane if this is affordable. (7)
- 121. ....and possibly Village Orchard (south of playing fields) (11)
- 122. Allotments/Orchard on land south of playing field (15)
- 123. Some fruit trees could go in The Gaps. Perhaps a Community Orchard is too formal and aim. (16)
- 124. Allotments/ Orchard possibly on the way to Watersmeet (17)
- 125. Allotments/Orchard nest to School or Park, like Riding Mill (18)
- 126. Allotments/Orchard on Village Commons (19)
- 127. Allotments next to current allotments or School Garden (21)
- 128. Allotments next to school (26)
- 129. If Orchards/Allotments involves the local school, then yes. The area used for woodland work by the school could be used (29)
- 130. Extend current space for allotments with blessing of landowner/ Land agent (31)
- 131. Allotments/Community Orchard at the Gaps or next to school playing field (32)
- 132. Allotments/Community orchard – The Gaps next to the school or next to the old Garden Bank Farm. Is there room for some on the bottom right of the playing field behind the Post Office. (34)
- 133. Allotments Around playing fields as plenty of space (38)
- 134. Allotments did exist in the Gaps(39)
- 135. Take out the last infill buildings – stop the development at Garden House Bank (that would leave lots of space). (48)
- 136. Land at bottom of playing fields behind Redburn Crescent (50)
- 137. Orchards/Allotments behind Millersfield where they used to be. (56)

138. ....Community Orchard below Millersfield on slope opposite Old Chapel – include perennial wild flowers with grass being cut at end of summer only – useful for fruit and beautiful - beneficial for bees and butterflies (58)
139. Keep Allotments on Garden House Bank (63)
140. Expand allotments at foot of Garden House Lane (67)
141. Allotments and Orchard could be sited there also (school common).  
Alternatively, or in addition, the Gaps field could create a site for village allotments with a small orchard in the centre. (75)

#### **General Agreement to further Allotments**

142. Land for Allotments/Community Orchard if there is a demand for it. (4)
143. Allotments/Community Orchard somewhere easily accessible to elderly residents (10)
144. Allotments/Orchard – Yes but not sure where (13)
145. Community Orchard is good (28)
146. Allotments Where ever there is opportunities – but again I think this is unlikely because of 1. lack of influence 2. pressure from developers 3. Council decisions (37)
147. Allotments would need to be accessible for all. From previous experience, if persons have to travel too far between home and allotments, interest soon fades. (44)
148. Allotments/Community Orchard – Your building on it now. Could have been allotments (52)
149. Allotments/Orchards are aspirational but only small tracts of land seem to be available/suitable (57)
150. There are allotments in Acomb. Whose land can ANP allocate? (68)
151. Yes to Allotments and Orchard if there are enough people interested in taking them on. (69)
152. No ideas re allotments/orchard (70)
153. Have just relocated to the area. Any plans (allotments) should be discussed with local people (74)
154. Allotments – yes, depending on site (77)
155. Allotments/Orchard – In principle yes, but unsure where. (78)

#### **Are they required?/NO to allotments**

156. Allotments can become an eyesore (28)
157. Without a survey, do we know how many people want an allotment? (65)

## Appendix B.3

### Acomb Neighbourhood Plan – April 2017 Public Consultation

#### Land-Use Related-Themed

(Numbers following Comments refer to Questionnaire Number)

#### Flooding Comments

##### Flood Alleviation

1. Ensure Policies for future development are complied with (potential Flooding) (10)
2. To encourage the planting of trees throughout the parish to take up some of the increasing rainfall in the catchment areas of the Red and Birkey Burns (11)
3. Can anything be done higher up Blakett's Burn to hold the water back? (17)
4. Proactively work with landowners to bring them round to taking up natural flood management schemes. (31)
5. Grants for Landowners to plant trees on the Fell. (33)
6. Support the use of natural flood management and link in with wildlife corridors and promoting wildlife and the environment (34)
7. Work with Action4Acomb to secure funding for flood defence works. (50)
8. The Environment Agency mentioned about providing a "resevoir" further up the village to facilitate excess water and hopefully reduce the flood risk to Morrison Terrace, by providing somewhere else for the the excess water to go – what happened to this as no further mention of it? (54)
9. Use of "soft" retention systems on some of the steeper field slopes would help (67)
10. Bullet Point 2 with regard to flood management schemes probably needs more emphasis as this aspect of the flood prevention work has not progressed. Suggest rewording slightly so that it reads: "Prioritise working with landowners in and around the parish to reduce flooding and vigorously pursue natural flood management schemes, working closely with the local landowners, NCC and the Environment Agency".(75)

##### Acknowledgment of Flooding risk with future new developments

11. Stop building on land subject to flooding. (31)
12. "I am worried by the development on Garden House Bank – that the removal of natural drainage – trees, hedges and soil to be replaced with hard materials – will cause flooding even with the tank" (34)
13. Do not allow developments on areas which flood eg Garden House Bank (63)
14. Do not feed drainage from new developments into a drainage system which is unable to cope at times of heavy rainfall eg Birkey Burn and Redburn ((63)
15. SuDS: has this been considered for Garden House Lane development? (67)

##### Support of Parish Council

16. Parish Council to actively support community projects (flood management) to sustain and maintain what is already in place.(31)

##### Increased flooding with changes to climate

17. Drainage of fields bordering the A69 to be checked as excessive water is flooding larger areas year on year. One may say that this is as a result of a higher water table following a period of heavier than usual rainfall in the Tyne Valleys and hence the river is higher but the conditions have derailed over previous years without the said fields flooding to the extent of recently (44)

##### Other

18. No suggestions at the minute(52)

## Appendix B.4

### Acomb Neighbourhood Plan – April 2017 Public Consultation

#### Land-Use Related - Themed

(Numbers following Comments refer to Questionnaire Number)

#### Traffic, Walking and Cycling Comments

1. Yes – but put the second sentence first. (69)

#### Too much traffic/speed

2. Too many cars up and down the village (32)
3. A great deal undertaken to date – A6079 – 20s plenty (31)

#### Too much emphasis on speed reduction

4. It's stupid to only emphasise negative input of traffic. The village is becoming anti-car and the approaches have been ruined by an overabundance of signs and potentially dangerous speed bumps, which cause pollution too (15)
5. Although the speed reduction is good, the signage of this shouldn't increase. The entrance and exits to the village have been "re-signed" to extreme and has taken away the "countryside-feel" to the village (29)

#### No room for cars to park

6. In the last 20 years, the number of cars parked on the main street has grown to unacceptable proportions. A large car park and restricted parking on Main Street would be a start..... (37).
7. MAIN STREET PARKING: A DISASTER FOR BUS & PRIVATE DRIVERS . NEED TO SORT. (52)

#### Suggested road changes

8. It would be good to have cycle paths aren't on the road eg down from the chippy and along the main road (17)
9. The main road past the new development needs to be widened and resurfaced – also possible a one way system put in place. (20)
10. We need a roundabout at the A6079 junction with Morrison Terrace, to slow traffic, improve access to Industrial Estate and prepare village for One way System (Orchard Bank one way) (21)
11. There are a lot of parked cars on Main Street. Are there any possibilities for providing (convenient for residents) parking off-street? (25)
12. Pavement and recovered (for cycling) Garden House Drive. (27)
13. Agree with safer path to School. Could it be widened? (Other) Footpaths are fine (58)

#### Bridleways/Paths

14. What does a better route between Acomb and Hexham mean? (16)
15. Some of this has already happened. There is a pathway group – need to have systematic review of paths/bridleways meeting with Tim Fish, NCC and Parish Council – .....(31)
16. Old paths have been lost or taken by homeowners.(32)
17. All the above plus extend paths so that BWs etc meet up and provide loops. Allow multi use of paths which are suitable Plan paths which help people, cyclists and riders avoid roads (especially busy ones) (34)
18. Work with Sandhoe, Wall and Warden to provide links and paths which allow greater routes to villages alongside Acomb (34)
19. New paths and bridleways wherever opportunity arises – and if you can influence the local authorities (37)
20. Better paths and bridleways would make area better accessible for walking and running.(38)

21. Shared cycle and footpath along Pit Heaps. This would connect onto the existing bridleway towards Wall village (54)
22. Ensure there is a pedestrian/cycling route created/maintained through new "Birkey Heights" development. Improve link from Garden House Drive to "Old Road" – widen path/develop alternative route. (62)
23. Back roads have been totally neglected. These should be the "safe" roads for cycling and walking but are becoming hazardous. Examples: Road from foot of Garden House Bank to junction near St John Lee and both roads off the junction; The old road to Hexham (parallel to A69). Pleased that the awful pot-holed road at the top of the village has finally been resurfaced, but we need to do much more to encourage healthy lifestyles. (69)
24. Wholeheartedly agree with identifying routes for upgrade. It's important to identify routes regularly used by villagers, especially schoolchildren and older people accessing village facilities and bus services (75)

#### **Miscellaneous**

25. Lobby our local MP to encourage Parliament to stop NCC completely ignoring peoples wishes and bulldozing democracy for the sake of political advantage (26)

## Appendix B.5

### Acomb Neighbourhood Plan – April 2017 Public Consultation

#### Land-Use Related - Themed

(Numbers following Comments refer to Questionnaire Number)

#### Housing Comments

##### Type of properties perceived that Acomb needs

###### Bungalows

1. Affordable 2 bed bungalows for retired people downsizing, or people wishing to move to accommodation with improved mobility facilities (9)
2. Bungalows and easily maintained properties may be attractive to people of retirement age. (10)
3. Rented 2 bedroom bungalows should be available (12)
4. Private smaller bungalows to release larger properties for families (13)
5. Bungalows.....(26)
6. ....2 bed bungalows. (41)
7. Preferred 2 bedroom bungalows for aged persons in village. All aged bungalows are one bedroom (52)
8. If provided, one bedroom bungalows could help solve problem for single persons (52).
9. ....Maybe some 1 bedroom bungalows could have extra bedroom built on or update bungalows OAP (52).
10. Sheltered Housing and/or bungalows for elderly or infirm. (75)

###### 2-bed houses

11. Two bed rental properties needed (21)
12. ....two bedroomed houses.....(26)

###### Affordable/Social Housing

13. We need Social Housing.....(7)
14. Affordable 2 bed bungalows.....(9)
15. ..../affordable homes (26)
16. Affordable (under £200K).....(35)
17. Affordable housing (38)
18. Affordable .....(41)
19. Low cost (46)
20. More affordable housing perhaps. Our younger residents will never afford to buy their own homes in their village otherwise.....(47)
21. Smaller affordable houses (50)
22. Small cottage style stone built 'affordable' houses in keeping with existing houses in the village. (51)
23. Affordable/Social Housing wherever possible. (55)
24. Affordable (62)
25. Affordable Housing. (65)
26. Co-operative? Social Housing (66)
27. Affordable (ie cheaper, as developers don't seem to understand what "affordable " means. Scale does not require to be too large. (67)
28. More council houses are required. ....(72)
29. ....plus affordable housing for local people (76)

###### YES to Infill

30. Infill not new housing developments like recently on roadside below Queens Head (1)
31. Infill between houses etc (19)
32. Only build in-fill (21)

**No to Infill**

- 33. No more infill (that's the wrong way) (48)

**NO to large estates**

- 34. Small groups of houses rather than more estates. I feel that the GHB development is going to cause major problems.....(4)
- 35. No more large estates of large houses (41).
- 36. What is classed as Small Scale Housing? Is Birkey Heights in that category and will it be the last new development, or are other 3,4,5 bed developments being planned? (58)

**NO to executive style housing**

- 37. ....and have enough Executive Housing, although Bishops Hill was very sympathetically designed (7)
- 38. Enough of "Executive-type" houses. Only reasonable priced property for locals.(56)
- 39. not more 4/5 "Luxury Housing" alla Birkey Heights (59)

**Housing for younger population**

- 40. Housing for 1<sup>st</sup> time buyers – especially part purchase with a Housing Association (17)
- 41. First time buyers and shared ownership should be encouraged so young people stay in the area. (23)
- 42. Type of Housing that young families can afford. The community is increasingly ageing and new families and young families need encouraging to live here(29)
- 43. Affordable (under £200K) 3 bed accommodation for newly weds and young families (35)
- 44. Cottages .....downsize into to release larger houses for families with children. (49)
- 45. ....As flats for single/couples rent or buy. 1 bedroom suitable for couples if to buy must be reasonably priced. (52)
- 46. Homes for first time buyers and no more large expensive executive-type housing in the village. This would encourage younger, local people to stay within the community and continue to be part of it. (54)
- 47. 1-2 bedroom homes for First Time Buyers.....(59)
- 48. Housing for young families (70)
- 49. Enough private houses in the village to give the younger people a chance to get a house. (72)
- 50. Housing for local people (young people) (73)

**Housing for older population**

- 51. Local housing for Older people who want to stay in the village (17)
- 52. More housing for the elderly. (22)
- 53. Cottages suitable for elderly couples to downsize into to release larger houses for families with children. (49)
- 54. ....Also more housing for the elderly – all to keep Acomb a village. (59)

### **NO to housing**

- 55. No more housing in the village (2)
- 56. Spoiled field where flats were built – children used to play there. (18)
- 57. Acomb needs no more houses (30)
- 58. No new housing – not identified in Housing Needs Assessment (31)

### **YES to housing**

- 59. A range of Housing (27)
- 60. 1&2 bedroom flats rent or buy could do for single persons/couples. Do with a couple around the village. (52)
- 61. More homes to rent (53)
- 62. New Housing at Birkey Heights is 5/4/3 room houses which should be OK (64)
- 63. A good balance of housing with sufficient for local people.....(73)
- 64. We need a balanced approach to housing. Good quality houses .....(76)

### **In keeping with village**

- 65. Stone built (1)
- 66. Only housing that is in keeping with the village(32)
- 67. Housing in keeping with the traditional stone feel of the village (34)
- 68. Avoid the type of “suburban” design used on garden House Drive. Preserve trees/hedges (66)

### **Changing the village ‘feel’ and detrimental to infrastructure**

- 69. The ‘village feel’ is already lost. Any further development will impact on congestion and infrastructure (37)

### **Extra amenities if more houses**

- 70. ....Also if future housing developments go ahead, then Acomb must keep up with amenities/facilities to match this. Pubs we’re fine with but a larger shop/tea room/café? (47)
- 71. Need to ensure sewerage, drainage and other services are able to cope. We are still faced with the annual drain stench as soon as the caravan site gets into its season (69)
- 72. There needs to be more shops. Local people, of course, would have to support village shops in order for them to survive. (73)
- 73. Any increase hopefully would encourage use of existing facilities and may attract a new shop – or two! (73)

### **Where future new housing development**

- 74. I’m not sure where but perhaps at the village hall site if this was to be incorporated into the pavilion. (10)
- 75. Housing Location – The Green? (24)
- 76. Housing locations – Infill areas and industrial areas, opposite the industrial estate, at the bottom of Fallowfield Road. (34)
- 77. Potential locations for housing – Garden House bank, Field off A6079, possible fields near to school/Bishops Hill so long as sensible planning and flood consideration is undertaken(35)
- 78. If the Gaps not used for Allotments, could it be used for housing (39)
- 79. Close to the village centre (49)
- 80. Fields on left and right leaving village going up Fallowfield Road might be Ok if more housing needed, which I am not sure is needed (64)
- 81. .... The small fields above the School which are no good for agriculture (65)
- 82. Land to north of Millerfield (67)
- 83. If the Village Hall was rebuilt on the site of the pavilion, then the village hall plot would be a good position, adjacent to the bus stop and near the Main street. (75)

**Not sure where future new housing development would be**

- 84. Don't know where else you could build without spoiling green and creating more traffic, spoiling village and community (18)
- 85. Don't make boundaries \* found land for Bishops Hill. Lots of Green Land dotted around where could build odd 2 bedroom bungalows around village on bus route..... (52)
- 86. No more locations. (56)
- 87. I suspect all the identified potential building land within the Acomb area has been built on, and unless Govt. policy allows development of Green Belt, there will only be very limited future development, ie, infill. (45)

**Application of Housing Policies**

- 88. Each proposal should be considered on its own merits. Nearby residents objections, or otherwise, should carry most weight. (68)
- 89. The Garden House Bank development makes a mockery of these policies (78)

## Appendix B.6

### Acomb Neighbourhood Plan – April 2017 Public Consultation

#### Land-Use Related - Themed

(Numbers following Comments refer to Questionnaire Number)

#### Local Employment and Business Comments

##### Positive to existing businesses and/or development of new

1. Local businesses on the Industrial Estate are useful and good. (7)
2. Fully support working with local businesses and creation of small (business) units (10)
3. Small business units would be good (17)
4. Encourage people to work from home (19)
5. Apply for Enterprise Zone Status (Rules will be more relaxed after Brexit)(21)
6. Improve access to Industrial Estate to attract more business (21)
7. Innovative ways of development (of Local employment and business) – similar to Community pods where several businesses get together to share facilities (31)
8. Encourage new business to the industrial estate (32)
9. You could set up a small Business Unit with Small Offices to rent, like Wooler (34)
10. Individual units well used and Acomb can only benefit from more ????? (38)
11. 1 industrial unit could have the potential to be developed as a 'starter' unit for several KIBs (Knowledge Intensive Business) (45)

##### Village shop reopen

12. The village shop should re-open (5)
13. A village shop would be beneficial. The Post Office has a very small selection of certain items but an independent store/ Co-op style shop would benefit the area. This would help Mums of young children and the elderly as well as for general convenience food. It should be open regular daytime all hours/weekends (29)

##### Protection of environment

14. Remove eyesore at Howarth Quarry that has not complied with existing planning restrictions and causes noise pollution and light pollution (in winter) (8)
15. Business Units should be confined to the existing industrial estate (15)
16. The existing businesses in Acomb are limited. There are better places in the wider area to establish new business locations. Acomb village is not suitable for a business park, - and if people want to work from home, fine! (37)
17. Just more investment in the industrial estate, it always looks a little shabby. Also the bus depot should showcase one of their vintage buses, right at the front, so passing motorists might slow down and take a look! (Even convert into a café, but that's probably just me and a pipe dream). (47)
18. Any business expansion should be in the industrial estate so that the village centre is protected. We need a village hub/coffee shop. (50)
19. I feel that encouragement and support of existing plus small businesses is important over hoe-working. The reason for this is worry over the logistics of Home Business, ie more traffic to ordinary streets and homes, delivery vehicles etc. Even if it is internet based, there will be pickup or deliveries possibly required. Needs careful planning. The Industrial Estate is purpose built, has facility for extra traffic and ready made car parking. (54)
20. The Industrial Estate could provide more office space for small businesses. However, some protection of the rural nature of Acomb is very important. New buildings should fit into the landscape with more trees and natural screening (75)

##### Uncertainty

21. Where in the hierarchy might it come? (55)
22. But do we know what demand for small business units is? Is it significant? (67)
23. This is for local businesses to consider, as is any action that affects them. (68)

**Internet speed**

24. Decent internet speeds for those living in farming communities or isolated housing, as well as in the village. (17)

## Appendix B.7

### Acomb Neighbourhood Plan – April 2017 Public Consultation

#### Land-Use Related - Themed

(Numbers following Comments refer to Questionnaire Number)

#### Heritage, Conservation and Buildings Comments

##### Preservation

1. Historic Buildings to preserve – Methodist Chapel School and St John Lee. (7)
2. Maintaining the look and feel of Main Street and retaining remaining Green Spaces within the Conservation Area (given that the development on Garden House Bank has eradicated a significant portion) (10)
3. Protection of all relevant historic buildings anywhere in the village settlement (10)
4. The Pant should be protected (13)
5. Keeping the history and the older houses. Could the lead mine workings be preserved such that our children could go and see how people worked. All the older housing and the lead mines should be kept/preserved. (17)
6. Buildings on Main Street should be protected (18)
7. Fallowfield Mine should be protected (Roman/Baryte History) (21)
8. Historic Buildings round the Pant should be protected (23)
9. School/Village Hall/Chapel (are most important aspects of design and conservation in Acomb) (26)
10. Protect Houses round Pant and Main Street, Chapel and St John Lee. (31)
11. Protect the big houses Acomb & others (32)
12. Protect all the historic buildings, stone houses up main street and around the Pant and Fallowfield. (34)
13. Objective 6 - Protect Chapel, School, Bus station. (35)
14. St John Lee Church should be protected (43)
15. Bat buildings adjacent to Bishops Hill. (50)
16. Historic Buildings as above (Comment 30) (52)
17. Main Street should be protected (55)
18. Historical – reflecting rural environment – heritage of village (57)
19. Several buildings in the Parish worthy of protection....(57)
20. Building design sympathetic to heritage of rural area.....(58)
21. The Old Chapel at the bottom of the Main Street should be protected.(59)
22. ....but perhaps St John Lee Church should specifically given protection. (67)
23. Conservation Area offers protection to many.....(67)
24. All buildings (should be protected) – and not just historic. (68)
25. The Pant needs to be preserved as the village “green”. Also the Miners Arms; The Byre (adjacent to the White House)looks increasingly dilapidated and needs renovation (75)
26. The fountain on the Pant and the old cow byre in Main street opposite the Pant should be protected. (77)
27. ....Traditional stone built vernacular architecture, where it still exists should be conserved and cherished, along with historic detailing – that still gives the village its essential character (78)

##### In keeping with Acomb village

28. No more Housing Estates. (4)
29. Suitable building materials should be used in buildings, to be in keeping with local stone. (23)
30. Conservation in keeping with the village – stone buildings – less brick built modern style (31)
31. Keep them stone (32)
32. ....high quality appropriate design for buildings in Acomb (34)
33. In keeping with village feel and preserve green spaces (38)
34. I think any new development should be sympathetic to its surroundings, certainly not too modern looking..... (47)

35. No buildings need protection, but there are several buildings in a state of dilapidation which are screaming to be renovated. I think its such a shame as it brings down the whole look and feel of the village. (47)
36. Keeping the character of the village as it was meant to be and stop trying to turn it into something it is not. Acomb has its history and features of a mining village. If newcomers do not like this, there are plenty of other places to live. We should not allow the "sole" to be ripped out of our village. (54)
37. Design aspects – Building Materials (Stone). Rural style (66)
38. Use of sympathetic materials/attractive and conservative design. (67)
39. The use of building materials should also be sympathetic and in keeping with the traditional buildings in the village. (74)
40. New buildings and extensions within the Conservation Area should be in keeping with the local architecture and design. (75)
41. All new housing should be in stone or stone appearance. (77)

#### **How we monitor and enforce conservation**

42. As stated in the blue box. Isn't that (new development affecting the character of the Area.....) The Council Planner's job? (15)
43. But our recommendations will not be listened to. Again, without influence or control, securing changes which protect the environment and character of where we live is impossible. (37)
44. This is fine but how do we enforce this via the planning system? (50)
45. How to ensure the preservation of older buildings in the context of modern building requirements (55)
46. What is the point of answering such questions when objections are ignored or over-ruled? (68)
47. Unfortunately, may have already been spoilt by inappropriately designed plastic windows etc in the conservation area which shouldn't have been allowed..... (78)

#### **Preserving green spaces and wild life**

48. Design – Keeping the Green Spaces, Keeping the trees or replacing fallen and felled trees .....(34)
49. Look at wild life corridors to enhance the Conservation area (34)
50. Promoting and enhancing green spaces owned by the Parish Council (34)
51. Too many trees getting felled at Howford Quarry (Broad Leaf Trees) (62)
52. Conservation of the bat population by reduction in street lighting intensity – particularly important when there is new development (69)

#### **Modern twist to conservation**

53. ....However, modern technology should absolutely be used; solar; underfloor heating; insulation; recyclable material etc (47).
54. Traditional design with some modern features (65)

#### **Uncertainty**

55. Not sure about this objective. Unsure if this would lead to unnecessary premium on new builds. Acomb has character from its variety. There is a wide range of type of property, buildings in almost every decade since the 1940s plus period original property on Main Street. Diversity is sometimes a good thing. (35)
56. Will look into (Design and Conservation) matter and may bring up at next AC Meeting (52)
57. ....BUT homeowners could find this curtails interior and exterior work, possibly making properties more difficult to sell.(57)

#### **State of repairs**

58. ....The Queens Public House is a historic building which is increasingly in a bad state of repair. The owners should be encouraged to implement remedial work. (58)

## Appendix B.8

### Acomb Neighbourhood Plan – April 2017 Public Consultation

#### Land-Use Related - Themed

(Numbers following Comments refer to Questionnaire Number)

#### Further Comments

##### Preserve the village

1. Keep Acomb as a village, not a free for all. I have lived here for 43 years. I like Acomb as it is.(2)

##### Parking/number of cars

2. On street Parking is terrible. Homes with multiple cars stopping other people getting near their home (5)
3. Cap the village to current capacity as roads and facilities cannot cope, and detract from its character (8)
4. Car parking – could some grassed areas on Millersfield and Chapel Close be changed into parking areas. Parking has become a big problem in village or build more garages. (39)
5. In addition, currently, more people are parking vehicles on the grassy bank opposite Morrison Terrace. This area needs a redesign able to create parking and a safe area to wait for buses, and a more attractive outlook for residents and visitors to the village. Perhaps this could be added to a project to increase hard-standing for parking on the A6079, for residents. (75)

##### Suitable play facilities

6. A better Kids Play Area within the village The field is no good for smaller children to play, without parents (5)
7. Opportunity Area – Wooded area adjacent to School. Physical agility area for kids (Event)

##### NO more developments such as Birkey Heights

8. We must never have another development like Garden House Bank. We need to protect all large open spaces (50)
9. When new housing at Birkey Heights is completed, the village is large enough and no other large development should be allowed (77)

##### NO say in current/future housing developments

10. Sorry to be negative but we feel whilst its good to have a neighbourhood plan, without any influence or control, the 'future' of the village is out of our hands to a large degree. Surely we should be doing what we can to provide support for our elderly residents, and children improving the facilities we have and try to find people who are prepared to get involved with community activities. (37)
11. Birkey Heights development – an example of NCC ignoring the people of Acomb. Garden House Bank floods, it's a dangerous road where a child has been hit by a car and NCC disregarded the Conservation Area. As taxpayers we pay for NCC and yet they have treated their residents with contempt and failed us (63)
12. In particular, keep a wary eye on the activities of greedy developers – the laissez-fair attitude of NCC Planners is deplorable, as exemplified by Garden House Lane development. (67)

##### NP applies to Acomb Parish

13. Need to recognize that Parish of Acomb covers more than just Acomb Village (43)

### **Enhancing village environment**

14. The boundaries of the businesses located on the old pit areas on the west side of the A6079 currently provide an unattractive and outdated aspect to the village. Local businesses should be encouraged to improve boundaries of their premises by various means, for example by screening, planters and also modern fencing. Improving the roadside areas of the A6079 would help to create the village "feel" as people drive through, slowing traffic further and enhancing the village environment. (75)

### **Commendations**

15. "Congratulations to the hard-working Parish Council and A4A group for the production of this professional, clear, attractive Questionnaire. You do a great job." (7)
16. Looks like a good plan with a sensible balance of priorities. (17)
17. Keep up the good work (67)
18. I'm pleased to be consulted on issues related to the village (69)