

- i. **Wylam Entrance Sign** - the entrance sign at the top of Holeyn Hall Road was removed as a result of a car accident. Looking at the file it would seem plans were in place to relocate it to the Waggonway east of the village to mark the Parish Boundary as there was a suggestion that the County Council may not approve a sign on their land. The sign has been in storage since it was removed and a decision now needs to be made on how to proceed.
- ii. **Traffic in Falcon Terrace** – following a visit to the site NCC has confirmed that it will provide a 'No Through Road' sign on the grass at the junction of Dene Road and Falcon Terrace in an attempt to deter caravans/motor homes from trying to gain access to the campsite.

It had also been suggested that a 'No Access to Caravan Site' sign be provided but NCC has confirmed that it is unable to fund or endorse an unauthorised sign such as this. The Parish Council could however do so at its own cost but the sign would have to be located outside of the adopted highway.

Members views on this suggestion are requested.

- iii. **Invasive Species** – The Council has been advised that the Tyne Rivers Trust is putting in a bid to NWL Branch Out fund for invasive species work over the next three years. This will include balsam, targeting upstream seed sources but also SSSIs just above Hexham. The other key focus will be mapping and removing giant hogweed in the Hexham to Wylam area (and also any that we find upstream not currently known about). Funding permitting the programme will also look at knotweed.

As the closing date for the funding bid was the end of August and partnership working was an important element, Town and Parish Councils in the Tynedale area were approached to see whether they would be interested in being involved. Councils were also asked about the possibility of providing a small amount of match funding e.g. £150 per year for 3 years.

The outcome of the bid is expected in October 2019.

- iv. **Vehicle Activated Speed Signs, Station Road & War Memorial**– Both signs are no longer working. As the sign on Station Road is an 'old style' sign it would need to be replaced with the current specification. Details of two suppliers have been provided by NCC. I have contacted NCC with regard to the War Memorial sign to clarify responsibilities. It may be better to consider this issue in relation to the wider discussion on the LTP priorities.
- v. **Christmas Event at Charlies Corner** – Tom Martin has requested permission from the Council to erect a Christmas tree on Charlies Corner during the last week in November. He is also planning to arrange an event for the last Friday of the School term where the school choir will perform carols and members of the public will also be invited to take part. It is anticipated that this will be on 20th December at 10am but this will be confirmed in due course.
- vi. **Autumn Planting** – Tom Martin has proposed that the new barrel planters should be located on the Fox and Hounds corner where one was recently damaged by a vehicle and also at either side of the entrance to Woodvale Gardens where historically planters were located but were removed some time ago.
- vii. **Litter/dog Bins** – The Council currently has a sum of money in its budget for the purchase of new litter bins i.e. a new large bin in the car park and 2 post mounted bins.

Earlier this year we received a request for a new dog poo bin at the start of the public footpath opposite Acomb Drive and also for a larger bin at Hagg Bank as this regularly overflows.

I have spoken with NCC who has confirmed that the provision of a new dog/litter bin is the Parish Council's responsibility but that it will need to agree the location to ensure that it can be emptied. It also suggested that the new bin in the car park should be a wheelie bin on a stand rather than a fixed bin. This would be a significantly cheaper option with the saving being used to fund the new bin off Holey Hall Drive. Further, it has said that the concrete 'bin' at the entrance to the car park should be removed. Re the larger bin at Hagg Bank this may be difficult given the space available.

I will therefore arrange a meeting with NCC so that new locations can be agreed. Once a date is available I will let Members know in case they would like to attend.

M Hadden has identified that the litter bin at Hedley Road Play Area is not being emptied by NCC and litter has been strewn around the area in the wind. NCC has confirmed that because this is on a Karbon Homes play area and not on the adopted highway it does not empty this bin. If it were to do so there would be a weekly charge of £2.70 i.e. £140 pa. This will need to be investigated further.

- viii. **Flood Resilience** –Following a request from a resident an approach was made to the Environment Agency. We have been contacted by Colin Hall, the EA/NCC Community Engagement Officer for Northumberland who specialises in helping to improve the flood resilience of communities, businesses and schools throughout the area. He has asked whether the Parish Council would like his support to create a Community Flood Plan, Flood Action Group and improve the overall understanding of flood risk and flood safety throughout the community.

He advised that a Community Flood Plan and Flood Action Group helps to build a community's flood resilience, as it allows it to be aware of potential flood hot spot areas, the locations of vulnerable residents, the resources in place, a list and contact details of relevant emergency responders and a list of proactive volunteers that can be utilised to work alongside those emergency responders.

He has offered to attend a future meeting of the Parish Council meeting along with a colleague from the EA Flood & Coastal Risk Management Department to answer any questions or concerns we may have.

- ix. **Northumberland and Newcastle Society** – We have received a subscription renewal in the sum of £25pa. Members are requested to confirm whether the subscription should be renewed.