

County Councillor's Report – December 2011

I can confirm that the negotiations between the County Council and both Acklington and Warkworth Parish councils regarding the transfer of certain local services such as extra grass cutting have been completed satisfactorily and both Parishes have agreed to them.

You may have noticed that some work is taking place in Station Road Warkworth and I have ascertained that this relates to undergrounding overhead cables which is being carried out at the request of the Parish Council by the electricity company free of charge. It occurred to me that we should take this opportunity and have the new lamp posts that would be erected to be in the same heritage style as we have on the Butts, the Stanners and Dial Place as Station Road is in the conservation area of the Village. I discussed this with the County lighting engineers and they agreed to erect heritage style lights provided that I find the funding for the difference in cost from the standard ones and they said I would need to move quickly as the work was already in process. Fortunately I had some money remaining in my members small scheme budget which I was planning to use for lights on Castle Street, so I decided that this was too good an opportunity to waste and decided to go ahead, the majority of the Parish Council recognised the merit of the scheme and have supported it. Final details are to be concluded however I believe the cost involved will be largely covered by my funds with a small contribution by the P.C. of £1000.

I am also pleased to say that I am in the process of securing funds for Acklington Village Hall extension and have made a promise of £10,000 for the project, I know a lot of work is taking place to raise the £35,000 it needs but hopefully the contribution that I am able to make will make a difference.

Other items you may be interested in: The sandwich van on the lay-by on Rotary Way has now gone.

The fences along Rotary Way are to be repaired by the County Council.

The issue of irresponsible dog owners disposing of waste in an inappropriate manner around the Castle Field /Beal Bank area has been reported and dog wardens are aware of it.

I have arranged for new signs near the children's play park on Acklington to be funded by my small schemes allowance.

The roads near Guyzance are still giving cause for concern and I am in contact with senior highways people to try and get the long standing problems resolved. There will be more information later.

There is still time to make your views known to the planning authorities about the proposed extension of Coquet View Caravan Park.

As ever I am available to you on Jeffrey.watson@northumberland.gov.uk and by phone at 07802385367 (please note new phone number, old one will cease on 1st Dec)

May I take this opportunity to wish a very Merry Christmas to all residents of Warkworth, Acklington, Guyzance and surrounding areas.

Jeff Watson