

# Environmental Issues in Chatton

*1 June 2014*

Over the last few weeks Chatton Parish Councillors have been in contact with Northumberland County Council (NCC) and others regarding a range of environmental issues and problems raised by residents and councillors, culminating in a local meeting and a walk around the village with Terry Garnick (neighbourhood environment action team manager for north Northumberland) last month. By the time of the publication of this Chatton News, we expect that many of the issues raised will have been dealt with, or action planned or started. The top priorities are grass cutting of the village green (including better strimming around the War Memorial and building a neat border with the green with reflective marker bollards to be placed at the far perimeter to discourage short cuts by buses). The grass cutting is undertaken fortnightly, and we are considering buying extra cuts at a discounted rate. NCC are also very much aware of our concerns about the grass cutting of the Churchyard, and have undertaken to catch up and improve this important 4 weekly service. Another important and very longstanding issue is the running water from two sources adjacent to the Percy Arms. We are pleased to say that NCC have agreed to undertake a thorough investigation of this starting in the summer (it will involve a traffic management order) to try and finally find a solution. Amongst many other issues discussed were road signage (much of this work has been completed or is in hand), potholes (some already repaired), spraying of the borders/paths and slurry seal on paths, white centre lines on the eastern approach road to the village, sweeping, strimming and repair of paths. A priority is the north side path from the Percy Arms up to the eastern end of the village. In future, NCC will publicise forward dates for roadsweeping of verges (residents should move their cars if possible) in Chatton News and on the new Tillside PC Website.

Residents can and should continue to report any problems such as street lighting faults, potholes, and paths etc. using the push button facility on the Tillside or NCC Website, or by writing/phoning direct to NCC. But you can also raise issues with the Parish Council. Tillside Parish Council have started to build much stronger links with NCC so that these type of issues can be communicated and dealt with more effectively in future.

Other issues that Northumberland County Council do not have immediate responsibility for, but which have been raised by councillors or residents include the bus shelter, traffic speeding, restoration work (e.g. fountains), a play area, and the state of the Mill Hill site. There will be an updates in the next Chatton News.

**Richard Tebay**