

## **Chair's Annual Report**

It has been another productive year for the Parish Council, and I am pleased to report on the progress made across a number of important areas affecting our community.

We began the year with the recently adopted Acklington Neighbourhood Plan, which has already demonstrated its value in shaping local planning decisions. Within the Guyzance Conservation Area, a previously refused application was upheld by the Planning Inspectorate, and a further planning application was refused. In both cases, the Neighbourhood Plan was a material consideration. The latter application is currently under appeal, and we await the outcome.

While Northumberland County Council's Local Plan remains up to date, the County Council has commenced work on a new Local Plan in response to recent changes in national planning policy. The potential implications for existing neighbourhood plans are not yet clear; however, given the recent adoption of our Plan, it is hoped that its status will remain secure.

In May, the Parish Council was honoured to receive a memorial monument to RAF Acklington (formerly Southfields), gifted by the Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust. The monument was installed outside HMP Northumberland and dedicated in a well-attended and moving ceremony.

During the year, the Council has progressed a number of projects addressing long-standing local concerns. With the support of County Councillor Davidson, proposals have been developed to address excessive speeding at the eastern end of the village through the installation of speed cushions. A formal consultation by Northumberland County Council is awaited.

Measures to address dog waste have also been advanced, with additional bins due to be installed around the village to improve cleanliness and encourage responsible behaviour.

A further initiative is the provision of a new bus stop outside Coal Houses Farm, aimed at supporting sustainable travel for both residents and visitors. This project has been approved and is awaiting implementation.

Our flagship footpaths project continues to be led by Councillor Malone, and the Council extends its thanks to him, along with the volunteers whose efforts have contributed significantly to enhancing local access and amenity. Also, to Councillor Mezza who assists with footpaths and takes responsibility for safety and maintenance of the play area.

I would like to thank fellow councillors and all those in the community who have contributed their time and effort over the past year. I would also like to extend thanks to County Councillor Pauline Davidson for her continued support to the Parish Council.

In addition, I would like to thank our new Clerk, Bonnie Watson, for her efficiency and support, especially in establishing the new parish council website and undertaking a review of Council policies.

These combined efforts are essential to the continued effectiveness of the Council and the wellbeing of the parish.

I look forward to building on this progress in the coming year and continuing to work on behalf of the parish.

**Sharin Ingleby**

Chair, Acklington Parish Council  
May 2026