



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO

West Northumberland Community Buildings Consortium's Inaugural meeting – Wednesday 14th May 2008 – 7 p.m.

Following a meeting of the existing Tynedale Village Hall Consortium at Newton in September 2007, a small working group of volunteers (with the help of Community Action Northumberland) met to investigate the establishment of a new consortium for village halls and other community buildings.

The results of a questionnaire led the steering group to decide there is sufficient interest to press ahead and has organised its inaugural meeting for **Wednesday May 14th in Humshaugh Village Hall at 7.00 pm.** (A map is attached.)

Why is a new organisation needed?

The existing Consortium cannot continue with its current structure when Tynedale Council is replaced in the transition to the new unitary authority.

There are advantages in setting up an organisation that will be independent of the local authority and also in extending membership to other community buildings (village halls, scout huts, WI buildings and other similar establishments). It is to emphasise the eligibility of membership to all community buildings that the working group has used the term 'Community Buildings Consortium' in preference to 'Village Halls Consortium'.

The principal aims of the new Consortium would be to assist members by banding together for such things as:

- Joint purchasing/cost-saving ventures (achieving financial savings, e.g. on insurance)
- Joint training activities and support
- Lobbying funding authorities for support.

In view of the impending re-organisation of local government, it is proposed that the new body would be called the **West Northumberland Community Buildings Consortium.**

Any members of community buildings in the West area are encouraged and welcomed to attend. An agenda for this meeting and minutes of the last meeting of the Tynedale Village Hall Consortium are attached. **If you would like to view the draft constitution, it can be found on the CAN Website www.ca-north.org.uk**

Guest speaker – Simon Bland, will inform the meeting of potential savings on buildings insurance and other cost-saving measures for the benefit of management committees. The well-established North Northumberland Village Halls Consortium has already had great success in assisting its member halls in reducing their insurance costs.

Anyone who would like further information or who would like to talk about the group is welcome to contact Louise Currie on (01670) 500816 or 517178. Or e-mail: louisecurrie@ca-north.org.uk