

Drove Road Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

We held our first meeting on Wednesday 11th June 2008. There was a good turnout with 11 people attending.

A special welcome was given to Councillor Linda Wright and Alistair Grant our community support officer, and Dorothy Dobson from TRAG (and a regular road user). We discussed the following.

Drove Road -increase of traffic

The planning application to Castle Morpeth Council to lift restrictions on vehicle movements was agreed to be unacceptable, and residents were encouraged to write in protest. Iain Alder (No 14) passed around a model letter that can be signed and sent. (You could probably get one from him). This must be sent within the next 15 days.

We went on to talk about traffic calming, and Linda told the meeting that she had an appointment with a traffic engineer to visit the road, and to organise the setting up of an effective traffic survey.

We also looked at the prospects of obtaining money from the ward sub committee and/or the UDECIDE fund, for road safety measures on Drove road.

We then turned our attention to the proposals to build on the Waterworks site

Dorothy gave us an update on the latest position, indicating that no planning application has yet been made.

We are asked to respond to the consultation letters that we will receive, when the application is made, within 21 days. TRAG will have model letters that can be used for guidance.

There may also be a demonstration outside the site on the day that the Council Committee makes a site visit. We are all invited to join in. **TRAG** has a website www.trag4u.co.uk Full details on that.

Next Alistair spoke about Neighbourhood Watch and security in general.

We are asked to contact the Police before going away, by ringing 08456043043, and giving details of key holders and others looking after our houses. This will result in a better response if an incident is reported.

He also said that the crime prevention officer can be available at a future meeting, to give advice.

He was supportive of our efforts to deal with the traffic issues and suggested that we make representations to the area Police inspector to increase the Police presence in our locality.

I think that everyone thought that it was a very useful start and we agreed to meet again in early September.

Idwal John Coordinator (No 16 Drove Rd)