

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

For several years, the issue of most concern in the village has been road safety. As we are all aware, the majority of the villagers live to the North West of the A690, whereas the main facilities are to the South East – village hall, church, golf club, castle, coffee shop. Crossing the road can be hazardous - and despite the reduction in the speed limit from 40 to 30 MPH, some traffic still uses speeds which are a problem for anyone crossing. Durham Constabulary has limited resources to make a concerted regular enforcement effort here, although they do post traffic officers at Brancepeth from time to time. A recent initiative is to offer Community Speed-watch facilities to local people to make their own checks. Funding has been made available by Durham Constabulary to train several local people and to provide the speed survey equipment, high visibility jackets, reporting stationary etc.

Our understanding is that Brancepeth is one of the first villages to be offered this opportunity – no doubt due to the problem having been raised so often. The commitment from us would be to agree to have six to 8 people who would be prepared to undertake the training then set up and operate Neighbourhood Community Speed Watch events a couple of times a month.

For more information, please contact Peter Aitken on 0191 3789908.