

## Drive to make motorists safer

CAMPAIGNERS in Plaxtol were out in force on Saturday to convince the village's motorists to sign up to a new road safety initiative.

The Plaxtol Safe Lanes Driver Scheme invites those who live or drive regularly in Plaxtol to sign a pledge committing them to safer driving in the village.

The project was devised by the Safe Lanes Working Group, which comprises individuals from various Plaxtol organisations, including the women's institute, the parish council, the footpath group and parents from Plaxtol Primary School.

Elaine Webb, who is a leading member of the group, said: "The pledge is the cornerstone of Plaxtol's community scheme to improve road safety for all road users by asking drivers to slow down and drive more safely."

On Saturday, volunteers canvassed support in The Street, the main road through the village, and were able to get 122 signed pledges in just four hours.

They also put together an exhibit in the Plaxtol Memorial Hall to enable residents to find out how the scheme worked and how it will affect them.

Miss Webb said: "After all our months of hard work it was really exciting to launch the scheme and get everyone involved, and the people of Plaxtol didn't disappoint us."

Each person who signed the pledge received a Safe Lanes Driver window sticker to display in the back of their car.

Miss Webb said she hoped that by displaying the sticker and driving responsibly, motorists will be able to inform and educate the drivers behind them, slowing them down as well.

Signs have also been put up around the village displaying the message "What If...?", and urging drivers to think about the walkers, horse-riders or cyclists they might meet on Plaxtol's country lanes.

The group is determined to continue to raise the profile of road safety around the village.

A leaflet about the pledge is to be sent to every household in the village, and there will be stalls at the Plaxtol Church Fete on June 7 and Plaxtol Primary School's summer fair on June 21.

Report by Harriet Cooper

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