

Villagers step up fight against speeding cars

PLAXTOL villagers are stepping up their campaign against speeding drivers.

Individuals from various organisations, including the parish council, Women's Institute, and parents from Plaxtol Primary School, formed the Safe Lanes Working Group in May.

It was in a bid to solve the problem of drivers speeding through the village and so far reaction has been positive.

The group, which also includes parish council chairman Gary Starling, have been putting up signs at various "black spots" around the village asking drivers to think about what speed they are doing.

Elaine Webb, who is one of the key campaigners, said: "The campaign has been pretty well received so far.

"We have had quite a bit of positive feedback and people have asked for a few more signs because they keep finding new places to put them around the village.

"This is a scheme of education. We are asking for feedback to see if there has been a difference in speeding since we started the measures and if not then we will look at it."

The group has received funding from Kent County Council member Valerie Dagger, who donated some of her member's grant to the scheme.

They were also given some money by Tonbridge and Mailing Borough Council.

"We have got some funding left but we want to decide what to do with it next," said Miss Webb.

"We said we would run it for a year and it started last May so we will probably look to finish in May."

More than 300 residents have signed up, promising to drive slowly through the village.

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

A similar successful scheme at Mayfield was the inspiration for Plaxtol's concerned villagers.

A meeting during September will give all members a chance to put forward ideas for the group's next step.

Report by James Daly

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