

Newton on the Moor & Swarland Parish Council

Village speed watch

A COMMUNITY speed watch programme is to go ahead in Newton on the Moor and Swarland, subject to police approval.

A previous scheme to introduce laser guns to catch speeders in the villages is likely to hit the buffers, so a new scheme has been introduced in conjunction with Inspector Sue Peart of Northumbria Police.

The scheme involves members of the community recording the number plates of speeding motorists in the village and reporting them to the police.

Owners will then be sent an advisory letter from the police warning them they have been seen speeding.

Insp Peart said: "It's an advisory message for the driver to adhere to the speed limit, speeding is the biggest factor in an accident."

Police will keep a record of letters sent out, if a motorist is caught a second time a police officer will go to their home to discuss the problem, if it happens a third time the vehicle will be targeted.

The scheme will run alongside police posters reminding drivers of the 30mph speed limit in the villages.

Parish councillors unanimously welcomed the scheme.

Trees chopped

INVESTIGATIONS are being carried out after trees near Percy Wood Country Retreat were cut down.

Coun David Rixon told councillors that trees were chopped down because new chalets have been built on site, but there may be issues regarding tree preservation orders.

The parish council heard the chalets

Village namesake in the spotlight

By ROBERT BROOKS

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A FILM-maker from the other side of the world is hoping to bring his community closer together with the Northumbrian village it is named after, by creating a new documentary.

Craig Powell has put the story of Warkworth in New Zealand on film so that people from its namesake - 11,108 miles away as the crow flies - can learn about how one shaped the other.

Located within the district of Rodney, about an hour's drive north of Auckland, on North Island, the settlement was officially founded in 1876 by John Anderson Brown, an emigrant born in Newcastle.

He named it after Warkworth in Northumberland, where his father, William, had been schoolmaster for almost 50 years.

Brown, who had arrived in Tasmania in 1824, travelled to New Zealand in 1839 following the death of his wife, Margaret.

In 1843 he set up a sawmill industry on the site of what would eventually become



Warkworth District Museum, with signs pointing to Warkworths around the world.

Mahurangi River, which supplied Auckland with plentiful timber.

Craig said: "In 1853 the Gov-

ernment offered the land for sale.

John Anderson Brown promptly purchased 153 acres

and an adjoining 81 acres was purchased under his daughter Amelia's name, who had arrived from Tasmania in 1848.

into allotments, naming the streets of Neville, Percy, Bertram and Lilburn after well known Northumbrian families.

"The streets running at right angles to these, he named Alnwick, Morpeth, Hexham and Bambro after villages near to the English village.

"And the street Coquet is named after the river that flows around the original town."

When he died on the 2nd July 1867, Brown was buried on land he'd given to the Anglican Church, and for another half-century, shipping remained Warkworth's only link with the outside world.

Mr Powell's documentary details the town's growth during the 19th century and into the modern era, where it faced new challenges including the great flu epidemic and two world wars.

He added: "It's great to think that people in Warkworth, Northumberland, can now learn about the history of a community their village inspired on the other side of the world."

You can buy the video by download from <http://www.majorlook.co.nz/>