

DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL

media service

From Tony Parker, Exeter 382173, May 01, 2001

ROAD SAFETY SURGERIES LAUNCHED IN EXETER

MONTHLY surgeries to give people in Exeter the opportunity to raise road safety concerns are to be introduced from next week.

The surgeries will be run by Devon County Council's new Road Safety Officer for the city, Georgina English, who is keen to meet residents and hear their concerns at first hand.

The first surgery will be at the Exeter NHS Walk-in Centre in Bedford Street in the morning of **Thursday 10 May**.

Announcing the move, Georgina said: "The idea is for me to be able to meet the people of Exeter and give them an opportunity to talk about their concerns face to face. I want them to know I am here to help and that I will look into every issue raised to make sure any necessary action happens."

The sessions will also be themed to highlight current or forthcoming road safety events. At the first surgery the themes will be cycling in the city, national walk to school week and the St Leonards Speed Pledge Campaign.

Georgina can be contacted through the Road Safety Helpline on 01392 382590 or by e-mail: rshelp@devon.gov.uk

Information on road safety can also be obtained by visiting Devon County Council's Road Safety website at: www.devon.gov.uk/environ/roadsafe

NOTES TO NEWS EDITORS:

On Thursday 10th May the following topics and events will be examined:

- **Walk to School Week 21st - 25th May 2001** a national event organised by the Pedestrian Association and TravelWise and supported locally by Devon County Council's Road Safety Unit. There will be an opportunity to discuss the reasons for taking part in the event including the economic, health, social, educational and environmental benefits, not forgetting the improved safety implications.
- **Cycling:**
 - Advice and literature will be given on the correct fitting of cycle helmets.
 - Information for setting up Cycle Training Courses and guides for parents about children starting to cycle will be available along with Exeter Cycle Guides and Cycle Maps.

- The "Think Cycling" competition organised by Devon County Council's Road Safety Unit and TravelWise worth £50 of vouchers for cycling accessories will be promoted. Entrants are asked to think of a positive caption or message (of up to 6 words) that cyclists could give to other road users, for example 'Give me space', or perhaps a health related message. Each of the five winners will receive £50 worth of vouchers for cycle accessories. The first 500 entrants to the competition will each receive a free T-shirt printed on the back with one of the five winning captions. Every entrant will receive two car windscreen stickers, saying 'Give Cyclists Space'. Closing date 12th May 2001.
- **The St. Leonards Speed Pledge Campaign**, aimed at raising awareness of the need to comply with the 20-mph speed limit in the St. Leonards area, will continue, with the opportunity for those who drive in or through St. Leonards to make a pledge to reduce the speed at which they drive whilst in the area.