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MP backing bypass fight by villagers

"LET'S be done with it" was the rallying cry for Caldecott residents taking battle stations to eliminate their "dirty and dangerous" main road.

The villagers are determined to clean up and slow down their main thoroughfare which they claim is destroying their rural way of life, and are pushing hard for a bypass.

They are currently carrying out a traffic count, with the full backing of district and county councillors plus local MP Alan Duncan, and Euro MP Sue Waddington.

Mr Duncan attended the official launch party for CRAG — Caldecott Residents Action Group — held on Saturday and said "Caldecott has a particularly good and uncontroversial case."

And he added: "We must help preserve a rural way of life. This action group has my full support and I shall absolutely be going full tilt to assist wherever I can."

During the launch, which was attended by a virtual 100 per cent turnout from the village, CRAG chairman Ian Forrest said: "The thought of our children's children living with this busy,

narrow, dirty and dangerous road through our village is simply not acceptable....Let's be done with it!"

Campaign T-shirts, organised by CRAG member Mervyn Hodgkin, were a sell-out, with the last two bought by Mr Duncan and Rutland District Councillor Peter Golden.

A CRAG spokesman said after the meeting: "The response was fantastic. We are more than pleased and would like to express our sincere thanks to everybody for their support."

Rutland District Council planning committee members noted a report on Monday of the Caldecott bypass campaign. Council officers said a mobile speed recorder will be put to work in the village after the latest traffic count has been completed.

The possibility of a bypass for Caldecott will then be assessed as part of the structure plan review.

● Plans for the Oakham Langham bypass have slipped back a further year due to tightening resources.

A letter on the subject from the Leicestershire County Council's planning and transportation department was shown at a meeting



CRAG chairman Ian Forrest and Rutland MP Alan Duncan lead the campaigners to bypass Caldecott.

Photo: C7172/5.

of the Rutland District Council's planning committee on Monday.

Members heard that "lack of funding for advanced design and the limited resources for road building in general has meant that the Oakham Langham bypass has had to slip back to the year 2000/2001."

Its priority in relation to other schemes in the county remains unchanged.

Council co-ordinator Eddie Martin said at the meeting: "It is known that Oakham has been waiting for a bypass for 58 years and people could argue that we can wait for a bit longer. But this is ridiculous and we should continue to push for it."