

Horrific accident leads to formation of new road safety action group

Heartfelt appeal for safer streets

by Alan Jervis

MORE than 1,000 people in Nantwich have signed a petition urging swift action to make the town's streets safer.

The petition has been organised by the newly formed Hospital Street Association and comes in the wake of an horrific accident when two pensioners, Dereck and Evelyn Jones, died when a lorry mounted the pavement.

Members of the association toured the area collecting signatures for the petition which they hope will trigger a complete new look at the escalating traffic problems, not just in Hospital Street but the whole of Nantwich.

In a review, the association points out that traffic approaches Nantwich from eight directions - from Chester and North Wales, Crewe, Middlewich, Congleton, Potteries, Stone, Audlem, Whitchurch and Wrexham using the A530, A534, A500, A51, and A529 roads.

And the association claims that, with improved signage on the outskirts of town, a great deal of the traffic, which has no need to come into the town, could be diverted.

To illustrate their point they have drawn up a list of proposed new signs and locations which would divert heavy goods vehicles in particular away from Nantwich.

The association is also pressing for extensions of existing speed limits, lowering of limits in some areas, and weight restrictions.

Spokeswoman for the group, Hilary SERIF said: 'Our association is concerned about the unacceptable road safety, environmental and living con-



TOO BUSY: Hilary Serif with son Raif, and Dr Rick Appleton point out the obvious dangers in Hospital Street and inset, Roger Dutton and other Hospital Street Association campaigners hand over their 1,000 signature petition to Andrew Ross of Cheshire Highways. 23KJ5453/23KJ6083

ditions caused by the traffic in Hospital Street and adjacent streets.

'But we accept that this problem cannot be addressed in isolation and must be considered as part of the wider picture.

'That is why we have produced a traffic review and organised the petition.

'The petition and our submission have been presented to the highway authority and we have asked to be

kept in touch with any developments and changes they propose.'

Association chairman, architect Anthony Blacklay stressed: 'It is not just because of the accident that we have initiated these moves.

'I have lived in the street for most of my life since 1949 and I have seen for myself how traffic conditions have worsened over the years.

'They have now reached the point where they are diabolical, and action

needs to be taken.'

Andrew Ross, district highways engineer told the *Chronicle*: 'An initial report will go to the joint highways committee in July and then there will be a thorough examination of all the points made by the association before we report back to the committee later in the year.

'The association has obviously put in a great deal of hard work and we will work with them wherever possible.'