

# MPs in talks on travellers' policy



**PHIL WILSON: "We need a more robust strategy."**

MPs will meet to discuss the issue of how best to deal with growing concerns about the travelling community.

Easington MP John Cummings and Sedgefield MP Phil Wilson will join counterparts from all over Durham at a meeting with Durham County Council later this month to discuss strategies for travellers and encampments.

Mr Wilson featured in the *Mail* last week as he pushed the council to deploy more balanced methods, including authorised stop-over sites, to deal with concerns about travellers gathering in east Durham.

His actions came after up to 30 traveller families set up camp in the centre of Thornley and news that travellers had been at the site on several occasions over the summer.

Mr Wilson will be among delegates at County Hall

by **Tracy Walker**

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meeting on September 21 during a conference for MPs which takes place three times a year.

Mr Wilson said: "I've asked the issue of travellers and encampments to be added to the agenda. We need a more robust strategy."

"We have got to be fair on travellers and local communities. Residents feel they are not being given the same treatment. This isn't good enough."

Other MPs and peers expected to attend include Durham City MP Roberta Blackman-Woods, Helen Goodman, MP for Bishop Auckland, Kevin Jones, who represents North Durham, North West Durham MP Hilary Armstrong and Lord Derek Foster, former MP for Bishop Auckland.

## Helping runners to the line

THIRTEEN miles is a challenge in itself.

But when you're planning to run it after a niggling injury, it's even more of a challenge.

Cue a Hartlepool physiotherapist who is helping to get former Pools player Alan Thompson in tip-top condition for the BUPA Great North Run.

Newcastle United coach Alan, and Hartlepool-born physiotherapist Paul Gough, are working hard together to raise valuable funds for various charities and worthy causes around the North East.

The pair have been brought together through an untimely training injury to Alan's knee just weeks before next Sunday's run.

Alan had a glittering playing career of over 550 games with Newcastle United, Bolton, Aston Villa, Celtic, Leeds and a spell at Hartlepool United, picking up an amazing 12 trophies along the way.

His next challenge is the world's biggest half marathon and he is hoping to raise a sizeable amount of money for the Newcastle United Foundation, a project designed to encourage learning and healthy lifestyles that will make a difference to children in the North East.

He said: "I started training for the Great North Run early this year with a view to raising money for the Newcastle United Foundation, unfortunately two weeks ago I suffered an injury to my right knee".

"I've since found out it is a common running injury, a problem with the band that runs down the outside of my knee which has become inflamed."

Alan called upon the skills of Paul, who now owns a trio of physiotherapy practices called Paul Gough Physio Rooms, with practices in Darlington, Durham and Hartlepool.

He said: "We're offering runners injured ahead of this year's Great North Run the opportunity to receive a free consultation and advice, in return we will simply ask that patients contribute what would have been our treatment fee to the charity for which they are running".

"This time last year we saw a number of patients with injuries such as shin splints, achilles tendonitis, ITB syndrome and ankle sprains, we would be happy to help with all of these and offer blister advice and even tips for recovery following the run."

To sponsor Alan Thomson in the run, access the Newcastle United Foundation through the Newcastle United website at nufc.co.uk.



**KNEESY DOES IT: Paul Gough (left) with former Pools star Alan Thompson**

THE following cases were dealt with at Hartlepool Magistrates' Court on July 13:

**Helen Malone**, 23, of Everett Street, Hartlepool, was fined £75, and ordered to pay £80 costs and a £15 victim surcharge after it was proved in her absence that she failed to place waste for collection in a wheelie bin on December 6, last year.

Malone was also given the same sentence after it was

proved in her absence that she committed the same offence on February 10, this year.

**Linda Thomas**, 60, of Herbert Walk, Hartlepool, was fined £50 and ordered to pay £80 costs and a £15 victim surcharge after she admitted to dropping a cigarette end and leaving it in Queens Parade, Hartlepool, on November 20, last year.

**Gavin Thornton**, 29, of Cornwall Street, Hartlepool, was fined £90 and ordered

to pay £80 costs and a £15 victim surcharge after it was proved in his absence that he dropped a cigarette end and left it in Queens Parade, Hartlepool, on November 14, last year.

**Amanda Witham**, 28, of York Road, Hartlepool, was fined £75 and ordered to pay £80 costs and a £15 victim surcharge after it was proved in her absence that she failed to place waste for collection in a wheelie bin on November 6, last year.

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