

## Council acts after lorry careers down hill

# Brake alarms bid to stop runaways

A COUNCIL has fitted a warning device to all its bin lorries after one of them rolled down a hill, smashing walls and injuring a passer-by.

Gedling Borough acted after the truck caused mayhem in Greenwood Crescent, Carlton.

The vehicle — carrying 12 tonnes of rubbish — narrowly missed a 64-year-old man. He suffered hand and face injuries from flying debris.

A mechanical fault was ruled out and the council has now spent fitting its ten bin lorries with devices which beep if doors are opened without the brake being fully engaged.

Peter Murdock, director of community services, said: "It is a brilliant device and so simple. I can't understand how the hell we hadn't heard of it before.

"It's very cheap and cost effective. As an additional safety measure it's a bargain in terms of preventing the potential damage that a runaway wagon can cause to property and residents."

The devices are made by Pownall Security Systems, of Blidworth, and are also available for private vehicles.

By IAN DRURY

Notts Police and the council are continuing investigations into the accident on March 29.

The lorry was parked at the top of the road while the driver helped to collect bins.

But the three-man crew watched horrified as it careered down the hill, hitting walls and trees, before rolling on to its side.

Fire crews and council staff spent hours clearing up oil, rubble and rubbish from the road.

The 64-year-old pedestrian needed surgery at Nottingham City Hospital on his hand.

The driver returned to work but has been suspended from driving until the investigation is over.

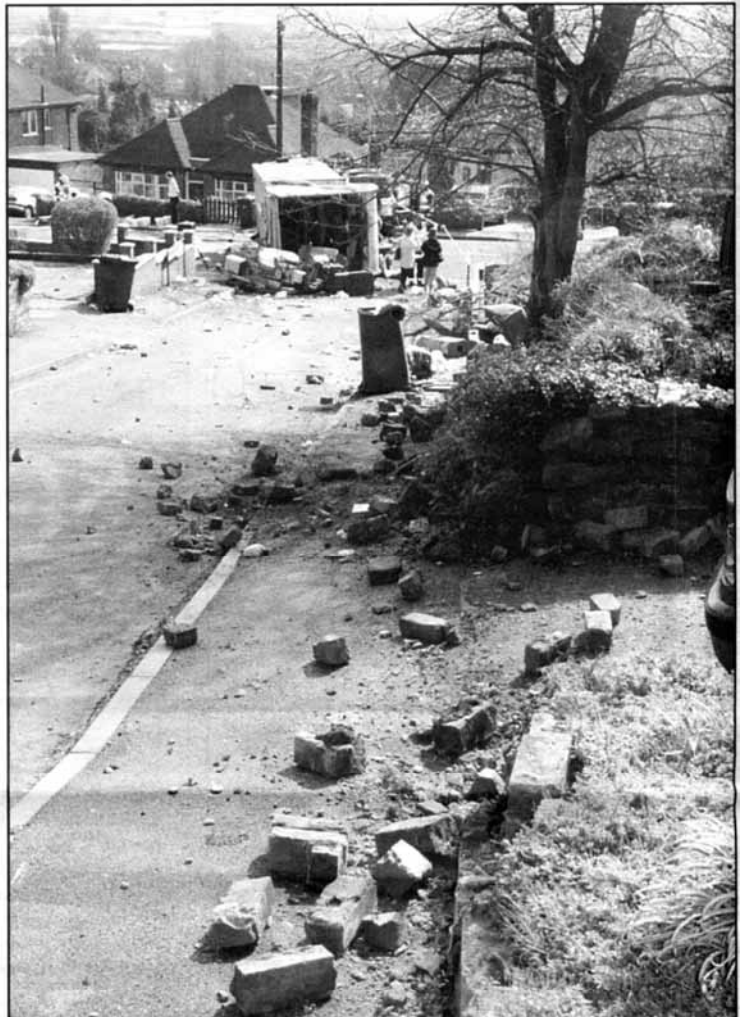
The council had an accident-free record since wheelie-bin collections were introduced in the 1980s.

Colin Pownall, managing director of Pownall Security Systems, said the device was developed five years ago.

Sainsbury's and Argos have fitted it to their lorries.

But the borough council is the first local authority to buy the devices, said Mr Pownall.

He added: "They greatly improve operational safety which is a huge benefit for pedestrians and road users."



TRAIL OF DESTRUCTION: The lorry lies on its side after careering downhill

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