

Angry villagers say,

'Stop this reservoir'

A FULL-SCALE campaign starts in Alvingham today. Large printed posters are on display in the village, a petition is being circulated and the parish council have called a special public meeting for tonight (Friday).

Villagers who have been aroused to anger over much-publicised plans to build a reservoir nearby are making a no-nonsense bid to hammer their views home in time for a public inquiry to be held in early December.

Motorists passing through Alvingham and residents alike will see the same message — "Water Board Go Away."

And the Secretary of State for the Department of the

Environment will be receiving a petition telling him that a reservoir will cause congestion on the roads, will attract unwanted day-trippers, spoil the character of the village, ruin the views of some householders and cause an infestation of flies and gnats.

Some farmers have a more serious complaint. Their land will be swallowed by the proposed reservoir. Their cause is being championed by the National Farmers' Union and by local secretary Mr Jeremy Barkworth in particular.

STRIKING POSTERS

It is Mr Barkworth who has arranged for the printing of striking yellow posters putting across bluntly the villagers' message. "We are working very closely with the parish council," he told the "Standard" on Tuesday.

"They are holding a public meeting on Friday to let the villagers know what is happening and I think they expect to get a large number of people there. If there is a chance of a comparatively large development being built within half a mile of the village then it's only right that everyone should know what is going on."

Mr T. A. Sandys, clerk of the parish council, said the aim of the meeting was to give information and also to get the views of as many villagers as possible.

Mr A. E. Graves, an Alvingham farmer, has with the help of others been organising the petition to the Department of the Environment. "I think about 95 per cent of the people in the village will have signed it when we are finished," he said. "I very much doubt if there will be more than 10 refusals.

Also at the public inquiry,

on 12 December, will be Louth Rural Council and Lindsey County Council, who are to ask the Water Board to prove the need for a reservoir.

A spokesman for the North-East Lincolnshire Water Board said this week that final preparation was being made by the Board for the public inquiry. "Our views and reasons remain the same," he added.

At present the Water Board take two-thirds of the total flow of Louth Canal but from the Great Eau they are taking only 18 per cent.

The Water Board say that 82 per cent of good quality water which is badly needed is going to waste. The only way to use it is to store it in an additional reservoir of a size comparable with Covenham. If the Alvingham plan goes ahead it will cost £1½ million and take two-and-a-half years to build.