

Press Release

**From Councillor Barry Stamp
Staffordshire County Councillor
Gnosall Division**

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Use: Immediate

WORK STARTS ON A518 IMPROVEMENTS

News that Staffordshire County Council are at long last about to start work on a study that could lead to improvements on the A518 between Stafford and Newport have been welcomed this week.

Gnosall County Councillor Barry Stamp said he was delighted to be told that meetings are currently being arranged between County Highways Officials and representatives of Haughton, Gnosall, and Forton Parish Councils to discuss what should be done to improve the road.

“Two years ago the County Council agreed that an in-depth study should be made of the A518 between the Shropshire border and Uttoxeter to see what improvements could be made, and then to plan a budget to insure the required work could be carried out. To make the project more manageable it was decided to divide the route into two halves – namely east and west of Stafford – with the east having priority because of its bad accident record. Since that time I have been campaigning to get the project off the ground on the western section. The delay in getting even the basic study on this part of the road underway has been extremely frustrating. However I am extremely pleased to hear that Highways Department have now allocated staff to this part of the project and that the first set of consultation meetings are now being arranged. These will give Parish Councils the opportunity to tell the officers what they would like to see done with the road. Already I know there are calls for improvements to a narrow section in Gnosall, for improved pedestrian facilities at a couple of places, and more traffic calming measures. How good these suggestions are, I believe the Parish Councils are not the only people who should be consulted, and I will be asking the County Council to arrange a couple of public meetings when local residents can have their say. However all too often, local communities are lulled into a false sense of security over projects of this type, only to see them fail when the necessary funding is not made available. With this in mind I will be monitoring the progress of the project closely and will be pressing the Council to make the necessary funds available to carry out the work once it has been agreed,” said Councillor Stamp.

Further details from: Councillor Barry Stamp

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