

Press Release

**From Councillor Barry Stamp
Leader Liberal Democrat Group
Stafford Borough Council**

Date : 17th April 2004

Use: Immediate

Call To Rethink Travel Token Distribution

Stafford Borough Council has today been called on to rethink the way it distributes travel passes and tokens to the elderly.

Liberal Democrat Leader, Councillor Barry Stamp made the call after visiting Rising Brook Church Centre on Friday where eligible residents living in the Manor and Highfields area of the town were collecting their passes and tokens.

“I was quite surprised at the number of elderly people who had turned up at Rising Brook Church Centre on Friday to collect their tokens and passes despite the atrocious weather. The queue was unbelievable and stretched around the church hall and almost out of the door despite the fact there were five members of the Council staff dealing with the applications. While I was there it was taking about fifteen minutes to reach the front of the queue, which I feel was far too long when one remembers the applicants were all elderly. I was especially concerned for those residents who were having difficulty in walking and were using walking sticks for support. The Borough Council staff on duty were certainly working flat out, but as quickly as they dealt with one applicant and new one joined the back of the queue! Comfort was available in way of tea and coffee which was being provided free of charge by the church which I’m sure was gratefully received by the residents many of whom were soaked from the heavy rain. Surely in this day and age the Borough Council can come up with a better way of distributing these passes and tokens than this. At the very least at this centre the Council could look at providing chairs and a numbered ticket system similar to that used in many Government benefit and tax offices, large supermarkets, and even Stafford’s Argos store,” Said Councillor Stamp.

Further details from: Councillor Barry Stamp
Telephone: 01785 822723 Mobile 07771 688331