

# Press Release

**From Councillor Barry Stamp  
Liberal Democrat Prospective Parliamentary Candidate  
Stafford Constituency**

**Date: 19<sup>th</sup> July 2004**

**Use: Immediate**

## **Barry Stamp Opens New Stafford Office for TaxAssist Direct**

Stafford Liberal Democrat's Prospective Parliamentary Candidate Barry Stamp was guest of honour at Friday's opening of the new Marston Road office for TaxAssist Direct.

The event, which was attended by clients and associates of the accountancy practice marks the next stage in the rapidly growing business which is run by Rupert Carthy.

Speaking at the event Barry said that as a Stafford businessman himself he knew only too well the pressures both central and local government were placing on small businesses. He reflected on the struggle many firms were having to pay high business rates while at the same time having to face higher charges and cuts in local services.

"I am particularly concerned that this year the Borough Council has increased car-parking charges in Stafford by in some cases 140%, and that a shortfall of over £1Million in next years budget could see them rise again. I am constantly being told by businesses in the Town that they are being squeezed from all sides and that sooner or later something will have to give. As a business community it is important we stick together and bring pressure to bear on both the Council and Central Government alike. Small businesses are the life blood of Stafford and it is important they are given the support to they need to grow and prosper." said Barry Stamp.

Further details from Barry Stamp

Tel 01785 822723 Mobile 07771688331

Or

Rupert Carthy at Tax Assist Direct – 01785 248939

Note to editors:- A photograph is attached showing Barry Stamp and the staff at TaxAssist Direct at the opening of the new office in Marston Road Stafford.

The pictures shows Barry Stamp with Rupert Carthy (2nd left) - the proprietor of Stafford's Tax Assist Direct. Also pictured are (l - r) Tax Assist Direct staff Maureen Smith and David Atkins, along with Sally Carthy (far right).