

Press Release

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

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Use: Immediate

Stafford Borough Council Accused of Selling Local Residents Short Over Toll Road Plans

Stafford Borough Council's Conservative run cabinet have been accused of selling hundreds of local people short for short-term political gain.

Liberal Democrat Group Leader Councillor Barry Stamp made the comment following the Cabinet decision to make no comment in response to the Department of Transport Consultation on the possible creation of a new toll motorway next to the existing M6.

"I am appalled that the Borough Council's Cabinet has decided to sit on the fence on this issue and use the excuse that they do not have sufficient information to give a proper response. I am convinced that this stance has only been taken because the Conservative members on the Cabinet do not want to be seen opposing the position publicly taken by their Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for the town and the various Conservative Councillors who's wards would be affected if this plan goes ahead. It is obvious from their decision that they are not against the idea of the new motorway and want to support it. If this is not the case why don't they object now and tell the Department of Transport they are not in favour. At a recent meeting with representatives of the Highways Agency, a senior Cabinet member told the meeting this plan was worthy of "serious consideration" which only goes to show how cynical this stance now is. A new motorway around Stafford would ruin the lives of hundreds of local residents and the Council should be giving a lead in this matter." said Councillor Stamp.

"Once this decision has been ratified at next week's Cabinet meeting I will be asking the Council's Planning and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee to investigate why this particular position has been taken. I would also urge everyone who will be affected by this new road to lobby their Borough Councillors now and ask them to put pressure on the Cabinet to reject this proposal," added Cllr Stamp.

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