

Press Release

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

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Use: Immediate

Conservative Candidate Challenged on Housing Demolition Plan

A leading Stafford Liberal Democrat has today challenged the Conservative's Prospective Parliamentary Candidate to say where he stands on the plans to demolish 29 houses in South Walls.

Cllr Barry Stamp Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group on Stafford Borough Council, and his Party's Prospective Parliamentary Candidate said the people of Stafford deserved to know whether David Chambers supported the move to demolish the houses so the land could be sold for development.

"Over the last few weeks I have been fighting, along with Cllrs Chris Baron and David Seary, the plan to demolish the houses in South Walls. At the recent Housing Scrutiny Committee it was made clear that the real reason for demolishing these homes was so the Conservative run Council could sell the land for development. This was followed a few days ago by a statement from David Chambers, the Conservative candidate in Stafford objecting to the proposal that Councils should be given powers to take possession of vacant properties and use them to provide homes for people in desperate need. However this appears to be completely opposite to what his colleagues on the Borough Council think. They are quite prepared to throw families out of their homes so they can knock them down! If Mr Chambers really does believe that Council's should not be given the powers to take possession of empty homes surely he cannot condone them taking possession of homes that are occupied, especially to knock them down to sell the land! I really do think Mr Chambers should tell local residents where he stands on this issue. I would ask him to join with me in condemning the Conservative run Borough Council in taking this action," said Cllr Stamp.

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