

### Bleak Outlook for Newport Road Congestion

Traffic congestion on the Newport Road is increasing. The new traffic lights on the junction of Sundown Drive and Newport Road have made it easier for residents leaving Western Downs to join the main road, but in the rush hour it is then a slow crawl into town.

Recently Staffordshire County Council and the Borough Council have commissioned a report on future traffic management in and around the town centre. No-one has yet seen the findings, however it is rumoured to contain some worrying facts.

A number of large developments are planned for the Newport Road near the Station and these will only put more traffic onto the road. It is important that the Council make sure the developers of these sites plan and pay for any road improvements that are needed. If they don't, ordinary ratepayers will be left with huge bills or gridlocked roads.

It is thought the report also discusses the need for a new road between the Wolverhampton Road and Newport Road along the line of the existing Brunswick Terrace, as well as a new link from Castlefields through to Foregate.



The final version of the report will be published early in the new year when interested parties can give their views. This will be your opportunity to get your voice heard. In the meantime, if you have any thoughts on this issue give **Barry Stamp a ring on 822723**



Liberal Democrat Team Leader Barry Stamp monitoring traffic congestion on the Newport Road close to its junction with Sundown Drive

### Barry Stamp

and the members of Your Local Liberal Democrats  
wish all the residents of Western Downs and Castlefields



a Happy Christmas  
and a  
Prosperous New Year



**Problem? Grumbles? Idea? Information?  
Give BARRY STAMP a ring on 822723**

**Got a problem?  
Contact your  
Local Liberal Democrat Team Leader  
BARRY STAMP  
Tel:- 01785 822723  
E-mail:- barry@price-connell.com**

**Nice Work If You Can Get It!**

Members of the Staffordshire Police Authority have recently voted themselves a massive 300% pay rise. The nine members of the Authority are nominated by the County Council and local Magistrates, or are invited to join by the members already there!

In the past each member was paid £17 per hour for, on average, a couple of hours work each week. However they recently decided this was not enough. The Labour Chairman of the Authority now gets paid £21,000 per year, while other members get anything between £7,000 and £11,000 each.

The money they pay themselves comes from our Council taxes and it has already been said that these will have to go up next year to pay for these rises! Nice work if you can get it!

**No News on M6 Road Widening Scheme**

The plan to widen the M6 motorway has still not gone away. However it is felt that, once the new Birmingham Northern Relief Road is open, there will be increased pressure on the Government to improve the M6 around Stafford!

Liberal Democrats have long fought against the scheme, believing that the wider road will just add to noise and pollution, especially for residents in the Western Downs and Hyde Lea areas. Please let us know what you think. We will of course keep you informed of any developments.



**Liberal Democrat Team Leader Barry Stamp opposes the widening of the M6 around Stafford**

**Christmas Recycling**



**The Council's inflexible recycling policy means that overfilled wheely bins like this one do not get emptied**

Local residents have complained about the Borough Council recycling scheme.

Many find the recycling boxes too small. The elderly find them heavy to move when full. Even more have complained due to the fact their wheely bin was not emptied because the lid was not closed. While everyone supports the idea of recycling, the Council's policy appears to be totally inflexible.

At Christmas, households get more rubbish than normal. At a recent meeting, the Council decided to make a special exception for Christmas and take side refuse for one week only. Most Labour Councillors voted against the plan!

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