

Holiday Refuse Collection Problems

Following the Christmas holidays, **Barry Stamp** was contacted by a number of local residents complaining that the Borough Council refuse collectors had refused either to empty their wheelie bins or take away bags and boxes left next to the bin. Those residents who had contacted the Council direct were told that, to encourage recycling, the Council has a policy of not collecting extra rubbish, and that this either must be kept and put in the bin the following next week or taken to the Council dump by the householders themselves. **Barry** immediately raised this problem with the Council. He pointed out that because of the holiday period some households did not have their bin emptied for nine days, and that everyone produced more rubbish over Christmas - much of which could not be recycled. He also pointed out that last year the Council made an exception to its policy and collected this extra rubbish. Unfortunately he was also told this was Council policy and nothing could be done!



Barry Stamp inspecting an over-filled bin which because of Council policy will not be emptied

Barry is asking the Environmental Scrutiny Committee to look at the inflexible way this policy is applied. He has also written to Cllr Elaine Kidney, the Council's Deputy Leader for the Environment asking her to reconsider the level of collection service over the Christmas holiday period. He will report back the outcome in a future edition of Focus on Church Eaton Ward.

"I am all in favour of encouraging people to recycle as much of their rubbish as possible, but there has to be some flexibility in the Council's policy. Under the new system of running the Council, the decision not to take this extra rubbish at Christmas was taken by just seven Labour Councillors who make up the Council's Cabinet. I, or indeed the other 52 Councillors have no say in this," said **Barry Stamp**.

COUNCIL BUDGET CUT WILL HIT RURAL AREAS

Over the last few months, the Borough Council's Labour run Cabinet has been struggling to cut next year's Council budget which is over £1.4Million in the red! To save this money they are proposing to cut services and put up charges. These include increasing the cost of burials, cutting the number of times the roads are swept, cutting grants to community groups, charging Villages for the Saturday morning rubbish skips, and reducing the amount of grants paid to Parish Councils. This cut in grant will affect everyone who lives in the rural areas, as the Parishes will either have to reduce their services or raise their Council Tax to compensate. When this proposal was first made, it was suggested that the grants be slashed by half. **Barry Stamp** pointed out just what effect this would have. After much debate, the Cabinet did decide to change its original plan and reduce the grant by only a quarter. **Barry** believed even this was unacceptable and at a recent meeting of the whole Council proposed that a full grant was paid. However when it came to the vote every Labour Councillor present voted for the cut, which then became Council policy!



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

Station Road Flooding

During the recent wet weather, flooding occurred again in Station Road, Haughton near to the railway bridge. It appears a number of drainage problems exist in this area. Firstly the drainage on the old railway line is not working correctly, and secondly a culvert under Station Road was blocked.

Barry Stamp arranged for officers from the County Highways Department to meet on site to discuss what could be done.

It was agreed that the road would be dug up and the culvert repaired. **Barry** is also arranging a similar meeting with the County Council's Countryside Department to see how the drainage of the old railway line can be improved.



Excess water from the old railway line is flooding Station Road, Haughton

**Got a problem? Contact your:-
Stafford Borough and
Staffordshire County Councillor
BARRY STAMP
Tel:- 01785 822723
e-mail:barry@barrystamp.co.uk**

FOCUS HITS 50!

As many readers will have noticed this is the 50th edition of Focus on Church Eaton Ward. Since being elected to the Borough Council 12 years ago **Barry Stamp**, and a growing team of helpers, have delivered Focus to the majority of homes in Haughton and Church Eaton. Last year homes in Bradley were added to this list. On top of the regular Focuses **Barry** has also produced special editions such as the recent one covering the proposed County Boundary View. **Barry** strongly believes that as a Borough and County Councillor he should keep local residents informed of what the Council is doing on their behalf. If you have any suggestion as to how Focus on Church Eaton Ward could be improved, please give **Barry** a ring on 822723.



**Liberal Democrats working for
Church Eaton Ward 24 Hours a Day**

Gnosall Road

Just when is the Church Eaton to Gnosall road going to be repaired? That is a question that people keep asking. **Barry Stamp** has been told a bid will be made for funding so that work can be carried out in the next financial year. However the County Council's budget is limited, so there is no guarantee this bid will be successful. The County Council argues that there are many other roads in an even worse state! **Barry** will be fighting to get the work carried out as soon as possible!

Still No Report on Bradley Traffic

Despite constant reminders, the County Council has still not produced the long awaited traffic management report for Bradley. **Barry Stamp** is arranging to meet the Leader for Development Services in an attempt to find out what is causing the hold-up!

News in brief

- some drainage work near the village gateway in Bradley has been carried out - more needs to be done!
- Parts of Back Lane and Dale Lane in Haughton have finally been resurfaced
- Barry has asked the Council to investigate the bad drainage on the A518 opposite Prince Avenue

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