

### Warning - Local Resident's Set To Pay For Council Budget Gap!



The outlook is bleak for local residents as Stafford Borough Council attempt to plug a massive £1.4million hole in next years budget. At the moment the Conservative run Council are planning both to reduce some services and charge more for others. They plan to:-



Barry Stamp checking on the planned 114% increase in parking charges

- scrap concessionary travel tokens and railcards for pensioners living in Stafford and Stone town areas.
- cut the amount grants to community groups by £34,000
- cut the money spent on street cleaning and public toilets by £100,000
- increase car parking charges in some cases by 114%
- increase the cost of cremations and burials in some cases by over 25%

Unfortunately now the Conservatives have such large majority on the Borough Council it seems nothing can be done. When **Barry Stamp** suggested that the Council's Executive look again at the planned reduction in concessionary travel for the elderly his proposal was defeated when all the Conservative Councillors present at the meeting voted to make the cuts!

### Arriva to Axe Sunday 481 Service

**Barry Stamp** has recently been told that Arriva are planning to axe their Sunday 481 bus service which runs along the A518 between Stafford and Telford. Losing this service will mean that no buses will serve this area on a Sunday. Arriva say they have had to scrap this service as they do not have enough drivers. Barry believes that this is not good enough. As the 481 is one of Arriva premier services he cannot understand why they are so quick to drop this service. He has already raised the matter with the County Council and as asked them to look at providing an alternative service. **Barry** would like to hear your views please give him a call on 822723. The service is planned to end in January.



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

Please cut here

### Can we help?

Is there a local issue or problem you would like us to take up on your behalf?



Don't forget to put your name and address on the other side

Please Write Your Comments Here!

Please return this form to:- Stone Liberal Democrats, FREEPOST MID26357, STONE, ST15 8BR (no stamp required)

## Health Facts

Did you know it took the Government five years before it began to consider the serious underfunding of the National Health Service, a delay resulting in unnecessary suffering for many patients through cancelled operations and long waits for appointments and treatment. Just look at the facts:-



- X** There are approximately half the number of hospital beds as there were 20 years ago.
- X** The number of cancelled operations for non clinical reasons has risen by 22% since 1997.
- X** Spending on agency nurses has almost tripled since Labour came to power, at a cost of over half a billion pounds last year.
- X** Doctor vacancies have gone up in every part of the country since last year.

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

## Age Concern Forum

**Barry Stamp** is currently working with Age Concern to establish an Elderly Person Forum in Gnosall. The forum is planned to give local residents the opportunity not only to meet together to discuss items of common concern but get advice and answers from representatives of local organisations and service providers. Similar forums are already running in other areas of the Country, but the one planned for Gnosall will be the first in Staffordshire. The first get together is planned for early January and publicity will soon be available. Age Concern will be laying on transport and a buffet lunch will be provide! If you would like more information give **Barry** a ring.



**Got a problem? Contact your Stafford Borough and Staffordshire County Councillor**  
**BARRY STAMP**  
 "Deerhurst" Newport Road, Haughton. ST18 9JH  
 Tel:- 01785 822723  
 e-mail:barry@barrystamp.co.uk

## Council Install Verge Posts

After a long delay the County Council have finally installed some verge marker posts at Whitecross.

These small plastic posts, about 30cm high are designed to stop vehicles running over, and damaging, the grass verges.



**Barry has finally got verge marker posts installed at Whitecross**

"Many people put large painted stones on the grass verges outside their home to prevent damage, but these are in fact illegal and could result in either a car being damaged or a motorist being hurt. Of course if this happens the householder could face prosecution! I urge anyone who is having problems with vehicles damaging the verges outside their home to remove these stones and then to contact me and I will ask the Council to install some verge posts instead," said **Barry Stamp**.

## Malthouse Lane Traffic

**Barry Stamp** is supporting Church Eaton Parish Council's attempt to solve the problem of high speed traffic along Malthouse Lane. He has asked the County Council to carry out a traffic census along the road, which will show the both the volume and speed of vehicles. This information will then be used to look at ways of improving the situation.

-Please cut here -

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- I will display a poster at election time**

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