

Warning - The Hidden Cost Of The Reduced Council Tax



While the Conservatives on the Borough Council are busy broadcasting the fact they have reduced this year's Council tax, they are not so keen to tell local residents exactly how this has been achieved. What they don't want people to know is that to reduce the Council Tax they have had to cut services and put up prices. These include:-



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

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

Unfortunately, now the Conservatives have such large majority on the Council 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 and the increases in the car-parking charges his proposal was defeated when all the Conservative Councillors present at the meeting voted to make the changes!

Age Concern Forum

Barry is currently working with Age Concern to establish an Elderly Person Forum in Gnosall. The forum is planned to give 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 currently being planned and publicity will soon be available. Age Concern will be laying on transport and a buffet lunch will be provided! If you would like more information give **Barry** a ring.



**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!



Green Light For A518 Review

At long last the County Council have started work on the review of traffic problems on the A518 through Gnosall. **Barry Stamp** has, in the past few weeks attended a number of meetings with County Highways Department staff, Gnosall and Haughton Parish Councils, and members of the A518 Action Group where the problems of speeding traffic and the narrowness of the road at the Coton end of the village were discussed in detail. Having listened to everyone's concerns and suggestions the County Council are now considering what could be done to improve the situation. They intend to have their first ideas ready by the end of March. **Barry** has then asked them to arrange a public meeting in Gnosall when everyone can have their say.

Next Step For Village Library Plan

Barry Stamp is pleased to report that good progress is being made by the County Council in their efforts to establish a permanent library in Gnosall. Following a meeting held in the village late last year, staff from the Library and Property Services Departments of the County Council looked at four possible sites in the Village. Following a meeting with the County Librarian a few days ago **Barry** has been told that this list has been reduced to just two - a double shop in Wharf Road, and a room at Heron Brook School. The other two sites were rejected because they could not offer a facility that would be solely for library use.



Barry inspecting one of the possible sites for a new permanent library for Gnosall

Once more information and costings have been obtained about both sites another meeting of the Gnosall Library Advisory Group will be held. However **Barry** is interested to hear your views on this issue, He especially wants to know if you think either site is a suitable place for a library, or if not where one could be located. **Please give him a ring on 822723**

Council Install Verge Posts

Barry Stamp has, over the last few months, been working with a number of local residents to get verge marker posts installed outside their homes. These small plastic posts, about 30cm high are designed to stop vehicles running over, and damaging, the grass verges.



Barry has finally got the County Council to install verge marker posts in Gnosall Division

"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**.

**Got a problem? Contact
Cllr BARRY STAMP
"Deerhurst" Newport Road, Haughton. ST18 9JH
Tel:- 01785 822723
e-mail:barry@barrystamp.org**

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