

Press Release

**From Councillor Barry Stamp
Stafford Borough Councillor
Church Eaton Ward**

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Use: Immediate

IT Centre Closure Could Prove Beneficial To Gnosall Village Library Plan

News that Stafford College is to close its IT Centre at St Lawrence's School Gnosall in the next few weeks should be seen as an opportunity by Staffordshire County Council to improve the library it plans to open in the same building.

Barry Stamp, Stafford Borough Councillor for Church Eaton Ward, who has been leading the campaign to get a library opening in Gnosall, said this opportunity was too good to miss and the County Council had to act now if it was to secure the additional space for its proposed new library.

“While I am sorry that Stafford College have decided to close its IT facility in St Lawrence's School this now opens up a golden opportunity to get an even better library in the Village. Over the past three years I, along with a group of Villagers, have been campaigning hard to get the County Council to invest in a library in Gnosall. Only two weeks ago they finally announced they were going ahead with a scheme to convert an unused classroom in the school into this much needed public facility. The IT room currently used by Stafford College is right next door and could easily be combined into the County Council's plan if additional funding was forthcoming. The added space would certainly improve the new facility and I am sure would allow an even better service to be provided. This could perhaps include even more open access computers which would go some way to making up for the loss of those provided by Stafford College. This is a golden opportunity which must not be missed. I have already written to the County Council urging them to expand their proposals into this additional space and will be lobbying the Cabinet Member responsible for Library Services on this issue. Gnosall is a large Village which really needs a permanent library which reflects its population size. I do hope they will take up the challenge and which could provide an even better library than the one currently proposed,” said Cllr Stamp.

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