

Press Release

**From Barry Stamp
Liberal Democrat Prospective Parliamentary Candidate
Stafford Constituency**

Date: 6th February 2005

Use: Immediate

Would Be MP Calls For Changes To Speed Camera Cash

Stafford's would be Liberal Democrat MP has today urged both Stafford Borough Council and Staffordshire County Council to disclose their plans for providing alternative accommodation for the town's homeless should the Bethany Project be forced to close its doors.

Barry Stamp said he was extremely concerned that the unrelenting pressure over the last few months could result in the Bethany Project closing its doors without a suitable alternative being in place.

"Over the last few months pressure from various quarters has been growing to ensure the Bethany Project's hostel for the homeless in Newport Road is closed down. However in all the debates there has never been any mention of a replacement facility. It is clear from talking to various organisations Stafford does have a genuine homeless problem and it is unthinkable a town of this size could exist without some form of hostel accommodation. Whether this is run by the Bethany Project under a new management regime or by a different organisation is immaterial - what is important is that something is provided. I am sure no one really imagines that Stafford's homeless problem will just disappear if there is no hostel in the town. All that will happen is the homeless will be forced to sleep rough on the streets, which will do nothing to reduce the levels of drug taking and town centre crime. I think the residents of Stafford deserve to know what both the Borough and County Councils are planning to ensure this problem does not arise," said Barry Stamp.

Further details from Barry Stamp
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Notes to Editors:

As part of his ongoing campaign to ensure a well run hostel is provided in Stafford Barry Stamp wrote to both the town's MP David Kidney and David Chambers – the

Conservative Prospective Parliamentary Candidate – in an attempt to get them to work with the Bethany Project to ensure changes were made to the current hostel so that it meet the needs of the town. However despite a positive response from David Kidney, David Chambers refused the invitation.