

Press Release

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

Date : 6th February 2005

Use: Immediate

Elderly Left In The Dark Over Light Change

Elderly residents of a Council run warden linked housing scheme have been left in the dark since the only street light outside their homes was upgraded by County Council contractors.

The residents living in the fifteen bungalows and flats in Royds Close, Haughton have only one street light to light the footpath and road outside their homes. Some years ago the light was upgraded following a campaign from Stafford Borough Councillor Barry Stamp, which meant that it gave enough light to light the whole road. However last Thursday, contractors working for Staffordshire County Council replaced the lantern with a smaller unit which resulted in half the houses being left in the dark.

“Over the years the residents of Royds Close have relied on this one streetlight to light the whole of the housing complex. It gave enough light so everyone could see to reach their front doors safely and ensured there were few dark corners where people might hide. The residents were pleased as this certainly gave them a sense of security and well-being. However this light has now been replaced with a much smaller unit. This has plunged certain areas of the complex into darkness which does mean some of the elderly residents are now having difficulty reaching their homes safely. I have reported the problem to the County Council’s Highways Department asking that something is done immediately. I realise new regulations are in force to ensure light pollution is kept to a minimum, but the situation in Royds Close is now quite dangerous. Either the County Council are going to have to provide a taller pole so the light spreads further or they will have to install another light at the other end of the road. I have asked the County Council to explain why this lamp was singled out for replacement and why no one was told the work was going to happen. I am extremely concerned that unless more light is provided an elderly resident could trip in the dark and seriously injure themselves,” said Councillor Stamp.

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Notes To Editors:- A photograph can be arranged with Barry Stamp and the light in Royds Close

