

Press Release

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

Date : 10th July 2005

Use: Immediate

Council Urged To Spend £10,000 On Children's Safety

Staffordshire County Council are being urged to find £10,000 from their highways maintenance budget to install a small length of footpath to ensure children are not put at risk while walking to school.

Stafford Borough Councillor Barry Stamp said that £10,000 was just a drop in the ocean when compared to the total highways budget and should be made available immediately.

“A few weeks ago I meet with the head teacher at Ranton School and a representative of the County Council's Highway's Department to look at the need for an extra length of footpath outside the school in Stocking Lane Ranton. Stocking Lane is not very wide outside the school so many parents are forced to park their cars in a small lay by a few yards away from the main entrance. The children then have to either walk along a muddy grass verge or along the side of the road to reach the school gate. It is clear that there is a real danger to the children who make this journey and I am really concerned that it is only a matter of time before an accident occurs. Even the representative from the County Council agreed a footpath was needed and he agreed to get a costing for the work, although he did say he doubted the work could be paid for by the Council. He has now told me that the cost of installing the path would be just under £10,000. Given the size of the County Council's budget this sum is just a drop in the ocean and I cannot believe the County Council cannot pay for the work. £10,000 is small price to pay for the safety of a child and I would urge the County Council to pay the bill and get the work carried out as soon as possible,” said Barry Stamp.

Cllr Stamp now intends to write to the Council's Chief Executive asking him to intervene and find the money to get the footpath installed.

Further details from: Councillor Barry Stamp
Telephone: 01785 822723 Mobile 07771 688331