

# Press Release

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

**Date: 30<sup>th</sup> January 2005**

**Use: Immediate**

## **Tory Candidate Challenged Over Bethany Facts**

Stafford's would be Liberal Democrat MP has today thrown down the challenge to his Conservative opposite number and asked him to come clean over his criticism of the town's hostel for the homeless.

Barry Stamp said that he was worried that the recent comments made by David Chambers were based on hear say and not on hard facts.

"Over the last few days David has publicly stated that the Bethany Project has very few residents from Stafford or Staffordshire and that resident's are using Victoria Park for drug taking. While these comments are certainly head-line grabbing I would ask him to support these claims with hard facts. As a local Councillor I am aware that Victoria Park has been used for all sorts of anti-social behaviour, including drug taking and drinking, but I'm not aware of anything that links a particular group of people exclusively to these activities. Indeed I am also aware that drug taking equipment and needles have been found abandoned in other parts of the Borough, but surely Mr Chambers is not going to suggest that in someway these are linked to the residents of the Bethany Project. To compound the problem he also stated that "most of the residents do not come from Stafford or even Staffordshire" but does not offer any firm or accurate figures on which to base this claim. I for one would be extremely interested to know exactly where he gets this information as it certainly does not appear to match that given by the Bethany Project itself," said Barry Stamp.

"I believe it is important that Stafford does have a hostel for the homeless. Whether that is provided by the Bethany Project or another organisation is immaterial, but what is important is that one is not closed down before another is opened. Making comments that cannot be supported with the facts does not help the situation," added Barry Stamp.

Further details from Barry Stamp  
Tel 01785 822723 Mobile 07771688331