

# Press Release

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

**Date : 8th January 2006**

**Use: Immediate**

## **Urgent Changes Needed To Planning Rules To Save Prominent Village Building**

A senior Stafford Councillor has this week called for urgent changes to be made to the planning laws to prevent developers demolishing useable buildings without the need to get planning permission from the local Council.

Barry Stamp, Stafford Borough Councillor for Church Eaton Ward, made the call after discovering the developers of the old Haughton Farm site in the middle of the Village intend to demolish the old farm house which is a prominent feature of the Village centre.

“A few months ago Stafford Borough Council gave outline permission for a development of up to eleven new houses on the old Haughton Farm site which is located right in the centre of Haughton Village. In seeking this outline planning permission the site owner clearly showed the old farm house was to remain and be modernised. While a number of objections were raised to this application many local people actually told me they welcomed the fact the old house was staying as it formed a prominent feature at the heart of the Village. This plan has now been completely reversed as the new site owners have said they intend to demolish the old house. As soon as I heard of this move I contacted the Council Planning Department only to be told the developers did not need any formal permission to remove the building. I am appalled that this is the case, as the demolition of this old and prominent house will certainly change the look of the Village centre. To make matters worse the building is obviously useable, as up until a few months ago it was used as a family home. I feel extremely sorry that current planning laws now mean that local residents will have no say in what will be a major change in the Village. Over the past few days I have been contacted by a number of local residents asking who they could send their objection to, but the first most people will know of this change of plan is when the house is demolished. While I realise it is probable too late to save Haughton Farm House what at really is needed is a change in the planning rules to ensure other local communities are not left in the same position in the future. ” said Cllr Stamp.

“Many local residents feel they have been cheated into believing this house was going to stay as part of this new development and would have submitted more force objections

to the outline scheme had they known the original house was going to be removed,” added Barry Stamp.

Further details from: Councillor Barry Stamp  
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Notes to editors:

- i) A photograph can be arranged with Cllr Barry Stamp outside Haughton Farm – please contact him to make arrangements.
- ii) Haughton Farm is situated in the main A518 Newport Road in the very centre of Haughton. The old farm house is next to the Village Shops, and is opposite the War Memorial and Village Hall.
- iii) A photograph of Haughton Farm house, which shows its close proximity to the shops at Haughton is available on [www.barrystamp.org.uk](http://www.barrystamp.org.uk)