

Press Release

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

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Use: Immediate

New Road Signs on Moorlands Road – A Kick In The Teeth For Gnosall Residents

News that mobile digital traffic signs have been placed on the A53 in the Staffordshire Moorlands following a number of fatal accidents has been described as a kick in the teeth for Gnosall residents by a Councillor campaigning for improved road safety on the A518 through the village.

Stafford Borough Councillor Barry Stamp said that he was appalled that while the County Council were offering Gnosall residents yet another series of meetings to discuss the growing number of fatalities on the A518 between Gnosall and Newport there had been rapid positive action to prevent similar accidents on the A53 near to Leek.

“Over the past few years the A518 between Gnosall and Newport has been the scene of a number of serious and fatal accidents. Two have occurred in the last two months. Following these recent accidents local residents have been calling for some positive action to be taken to improve the situation including reducing the speed limits, re-aligning the road, better road markings and signs and of course more enforcement of current speed limits. However apart from earlier promises of action, all the County Council appear to be offering is yet more meetings to discuss what could be done. It is therefore come as no surprise that, following a public outcry, mobile speed signs are to be installed on the A53 near Leek has been met with disbelief by local residents. While I certainly do not want to underestimate how dangerous the A53 is, or that the lives lost there do not warrant action being taken, I do feel residents of the Gnosall area deserve the same level of help. It is clear that public pressure has helped residents living along the A53 get something done and we must now learn from this. I have already been talking to a number of Gnosall residents about how more pressure can be brought to bear on the County Council and the police and I will be exploring ways in which the residents, the A518 action group, and the Parish Councils could join together to ensure the message is got across that action has to be taken now to improve the A518. I personally would not rule out some form of direct action if that is what it takes to get the County Council to take notice. If mobile traffic signs can be used on the A53 I cannot see why they cannot be used in Gnosall. By their very nature they could be installed tomorrow. I am extremely worried that the longer the County Council and

the police drag their feet over this matter the more chance there is of yet another fatal accident occurring,” said Cllr Stamp.

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