

Press Release

**From Councillor Barry Stamp
Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group
Stafford Borough Council**

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Use: Immediate

Council Out Of Touch With Eagle Inn Comments

Comments by Stafford Borough Council's Cabinet Member for Housing regarding the former Eagle Inn have been described as showing that the Council are out of touch with reality or are just prepared to twist the facts to support their plan to demolish the building.

Cllr Barry Stamp, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group on the Council, said he was appalled at the comments which suggested a considerable amount of public money would be needed to restore the building and that the features which merited its listed status had already been destroyed.

"Over the last few months I have become more and more concerned that the Council had decided that the Grade II listed Eagle Inn in Newport Road should be demolished for no other reason than it was cluttering up what was otherwise a useful building site. Today's news that English Heritage are strongly objecting to the proposal will be welcomed by many Staffordians who want to see the building retained. However what is worrying is that the comments made by the Borough Council show that either they are completely out of touch with the facts or they are embarking on a campaign of misinformation no doubt in the hope of swinging public opinion to support their case. Firstly to suggest that it will cost £600,000 of public money to restore the building is wrong, as unless a secret deal has been done to transfer the Eagle to the Council, it is the owner's responsibility to carry out any repairs to ensure its listed status is not compromised. Secondly the Council's Cabinet Member for Housing again stated that the reason for listing the building in the first place was its interior, which has now been completely destroyed, and not the exterior of the building which he described as not particularly attractive. Once again this is not the case. The Eagle Inn was amongst the first batch of buildings in Stafford to be listed, when listing was introduced in January 1951 and it is clear that it was indeed the exterior of the building that was its merit. The official listing documents make no mention of any internal features! For these reasons I do believe it is time the Council applied pressure to the current owners to repair the building and look again at the design of the new hostel to ensure the Eagle Inn is incorporated sympathetically into the new scheme," said Cllr Stamp.

Further details from: Councillor Barry Stamp
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Notes to Editors:

- i) A copy of the listing details for the Eagle Inn can be found on Barry Stamps website:- http://www.barrystamp.co.uk/eagle_listing.html
- ii) Barry Stamp is one of a handful of Stafford Borough Councillors who were born and bred in Stafford.
- iii) For many years Barry Stamp was Secretary of the now defunct Stafford Heritage Society.
- iv) A photograph with Barry and the Department of the Environment (now the Department for Culture, Media and Sport) listing document can be arranged outside the Eagle Inn.