

Press Release

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

Date : 16th April 2006

Use: Immediate

Councillor Warns Ofcom's Decision Will Have Devastating Effect on Road Safety

A Stafford Councillor who has been leading a campaign to improve road safety on the A518 through Haughton and Gnosall has this week described as "sheer madness" the decision by Ofcom to ban the use of speed detection devices used by community speed watch groups.

Stafford Borough Councillor Barry Stamp made the comment following the news that Ofcom had withdrawn its approval of the American made "Bushnell Velocity Speed Detection Devices" which were being used by volunteer speed watch groups throughout the country.

"Over the last two years "Community Speed Watch" volunteers have played a major role, not only in reducing traffic speeds on the A518 through Haughton and Gnosall, but also on roads in many other villages in Staffordshire. During my time as County Councillor for Haughton and Gnosall I was pleased to fund the purchase of the equipment which allowed the scheme to get off the ground. Since that time the excellent work put in by the group of volunteers has certainly seen traffic speeds reduced. However in the last few days it has been announced that Ofcom have withdrawn their approval of the speed detection devices and they can no longer be used. It appears that the problem is not with the devices themselves, but rather with the radio frequency on which they operate. Ofcom, in a typical bureaucratic fashion have said that because the devices operate on a frequency reserved for police use they cannot be operated by members of the public! I can only describe this decision as sheer madness as this now puts every "Community Speed Watch" group in Staffordshire out of business. I have also been told that the cost of buying a replacement "approved" device is in the region of £900, which is over seven times the cost of the ones being scrapped, which just increases the pressure on these groups many of who raised their own set-up funding. I really would urge Ofcom to think again about this decision which will have a devastating effect on road safety," said Cllr Stamp.

Cllr Stamp is now writing to Ofcom urging them to reconsider their decision.

Further details from: Councillor Barry Stamp
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Notes to Editors:

- i) A photo opportunity can be arranged with Barry and a Bushnell Speed Detection Device – Please call Barry to arrange.