

# Press Release

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

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**Use: Immediate**

## **Council Blunder Could Make Life Worse For Residents**

Residents of Doxey and Seighford have been warned that a recent decision by Stafford Borough Council's Planning Committee to only grant one year's temporary planning permission for the storage of peat at Seighford Pools does not mean the site will shut down in twelve months time.

Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group on Stafford Borough Council gave the warning after talking to a number of residents all of whom thought the end was in sight for the controversial site.

“Over the past few days I have become more and more worried by the number of people from Seighford and Doxey who have said to me they are looking forward to the Seighford Pools site closing next year. They have drawn this conclusion after being told that the Council's Planning Committee had only granted planning permission to store peat on the site for one more year. However this does not mean the site itself will close, as the extraction of the peat to form the new fishing pools and the construction of the roads on the site is being carried out under a different planning consent. I am really worried that many people are being lulled into a false sense of well being by this latest approval which I believe could make the situation worse. At the moment any peat which is dug from the site is dried before it is taken away but next year it will have to be moved as soon as it is extracted. This will mean that lorries leaving the site will be carrying wet peat through Doxey. I hate to imagine the mess this will cause as they bounce over the traffic calming bumps. I have been told by planning officers at the Borough Council that they estimate there is at least another two years of extraction work left on the site and it was on that basis they recommended temporary storage be granted for that length of time. It is all very well for the planning committee to be patting themselves on the back for reducing this figure, but they certainly have not thought what the long term effects on local residents might be, said Barry Stamp.

“Last year I called on the County Council and the Highways Agency to allow the heavy lorries from the site to use the motorway maintenance area at Doxey as an access to and from the motorway. I do believe this suggestion should be given even more consideration in the light of this latest blunder by the Borough Council. By allowing the lorries to use the M6 at least local residents would be spared from the future

prospect of heavy vehicles dripping muddy water and liquid peat over the road as they travel through Doxey,” added Cllr Stamp.

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