

Press Release

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

Date : 9th July 2006

Use: Immediate

Council's Kerbside Recycling Collections Unfriendly and Off-Putting

Stafford Borough Council's kerbside recycling collection service has been described as "unfriendly and off-putting" by a leading Councillor.

Church Eaton Ward Councillor Barry Stamp said he was disappointed in the way the recycling scheme treated local residents as naughty children rather than encouraging them to recycle more and more items.

"Over the past few years I have heard various stories of Stafford residents having their recycling rejected by the Council because it did not comply with what can only be described as "petty rules". As someone whose home was not included in the recycling scheme it was difficult to know if these stories were true or just an urban myth. However earlier this year this situation changed as the Council expanded their scheme to include my home. Since that time I have regularly recycled bottles, plastic, tins, and paper without any problem. Unfortunately this week things changed and I joined the ranks of those other residents whose recycling was rejected. All I was left with was a curt note, which told me nothing except that some items were not in a plastic bag and that others were not of the required type. However what did confuse me was that my recycling box did not contain anything different from the previous ones which had been collected without comment, nor had the items been packed in a different way! Leaving recycling at the roadside in this manner is not the way to encourage anyone to recycle. I raised the matter with the Council's Recycling Officer and have suggested that there is a desperate need to review working practices. At the very least I believe the items should be collected and a proper note left to explain what was wrong and what should be done in future. If the Council stands any chance of reaching its target of zero waste to landfill by 2020 they have to rethink the way they treat local residents when it comes to recycling," said Barry Stamp.

"Since having the contents of my recycling box rejected I have heard of a number of other households that also received the same treatment this week. In an attempt to get a clear picture of how local residents are being treated I would be grateful to hear from anyone who has had problems with the Council's recycling service," added Cllr Stamp.

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Notes to Editors:

- i) A photograph with Barry and his rejected recycling can be arranged..