

Press Release

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

Date: 18th February 2007

Use: Immediate

Over 400 Sign Road Safety Petition

Over 400 people have signed a petition call for a reduction in the speed limit on the A518 between Haughton and Newport.

Barry Stamp, Stafford Borough Councillor for Church Eaton Ward organised the petition calling for the speed limit on the busy road to be reduced to 50mph following a worrying increase in accidents on the road.

“Over the last few years the number of accidents which have occurred on the A518 between Haughton and Newport have steadily risen. While the majority have resulted in minor injuries the road has also claimed a number of fatalities. For sometime local residents have been worried that traffic is travelling far too quickly along the road and that a lower speed limit should be introduced. However the County Council have always ignored this problem, preferring instead to install a few extra warning signs. I am extremely pleased that over 400 people have signed my petition calling on the Council to take immediate steps to reduce the speed limit on the road and to install speed cameras to ensure it is enforced. Hopefully they will not ignore this clear message that residents want more positive action to be taken done before another life is lost. It is clear the County Council have been dragging its feet over making significant improvements to the safety on this road for sometime and those people who have signed this petition have shown they want something done and will not be “fobbed off” with a handful of extra signs. Road safety experts recognise excess speed as being a major cause of accidents. Reducing the speed on the A518 from 60mph to 50mph will not stop every accident but I do believe it will have a major effect on overall safety,” said Cllr Stamp.

Cllr Stamp will now be sending the petition to Cllr John Wakefield – the County Council Cabinet Member responsible for highway matters – asking him to give serious consideration to the signatories request.

Further details from:

Cllr Barry Stamp

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Notes to editors:

i) The wording on the petition was:-

“I call upon Staffordshire County Council and Staffordshire Police to reduce the speed limit on the A518 between Haughton and the Shropshire border at Newport, outside of the current 30mph and 40mph zones, to 50mph. I also call upon both bodies to install permanent fixed speed cameras and ensure that more mobile speed cameras are used to enforce this new limit.”

ii) 410 people signed the petition

iii) A photograph can be arranged with Cllr Stamp and the completed petition forms either on the A518 or outside the County Building in Stafford.