

FOCUS on Church Eaton Ward

NEWSLETTER No 66 - March 2013

Still Serving Church Eaton Ward

On 20th February Barry Stamp announced he was leaving the Liberal Democrats to become an Independent Councillor.

"Leaving the Lib Dems was not an easy decision to make but over the past couple of years I became increasingly concerned that both nationally and locally, party politics had become more important than representing the local communities that voted for the Councillor or MP. As an Independent Councillor I can put all my efforts into getting the very best deal I can for the residents of Church Eaton Ward while Councillors tied to political parties try to score points off each other just to forward their parties cause," said Barry.

If you have a problem you think Barry can help with please contact him - his details are below.

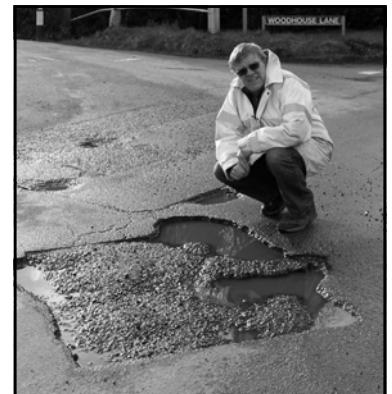


Barry has been working with residents at Whitecross trying to get a blocked roadside drain replaced

Rural Roads a Disgrace

Roads in the Church Eaton, Bradley, and Haughton areas are a disgrace. Potholes are appearing daily, flooding is a constant problem and mud and debris litters the roads. Despite this the County Council who are responsible for highways say they are investing more and more money in maintenance and are doing a great job. However there are still jobs waiting to be done that were reported last summer.

"I believe the County Council's policy of cutting jobs in the Highways Department means they now do not have enough staff to cope with all the problems. It is clear they can't cope and the roads are just getting worse. A major rethink of how road maintenance is delivered must be carried out now," said Barry.



Nearly every road in the area has potholes



Although Barry is not your County Councillor he is in regular contact with the Highways Department trying to get them to carry out repairs. If you know of a road that needs attention please let Barry know.

CONTACT YOUR INDEPENDENT STAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCILLOR



You can log on to Facebook by typing [barrystamp](#) where you will see updates from Barry



You can tweet Barry @[barrystamp](#)



You can e-mail Barry at barry@barrystamp.co.uk



Visit Barry's website at www.barrystamp.co.uk



You can write to Barry at "Deerhurst", Newport Rd Haughton, Stafford. ST18 9JH



Cllr. Barry Stamp
Tel: 01785 822723

Ash Drive - Still Problems

Last year Barry Stamp got Stafford and Rural Homes to repair the access road into Ash Drive. However this repair has started to fail and more pot holes and loose pebbles have appeared. Barry has once again raised this matter with SARH and have asked for work to be carried out as soon as possible.



Church Eaton Conservation Area Review

Barry Stamp is pleased that Church Eaton Parish Council have taken up the challenge of reviewing the village's Conservation Area Document which was originally produced by the Borough Council in 1973.

"Church Eaton is a village with it's own unique character. While I certainly don't believe the Village should be turned into a museum, I do believe any development should not detract from that character. In the past the Borough Council have drawn up Conservation Area documents with little or no input from local residents. This latest move whereby the review is carried out by the Parish Council ensures the views of the local community are at the heart of the new document, which will be used to influence developments in Church Eaton for years to come. I will be doing everything I can to help," said Barry.

Bradley Planning

Barry Stamp is working with Bradley Parish Council and the local community to ensure the Borough Council take action over a number of unauthorised developments on part of the Bradley Garden Centre site. He is already liaising with the Council's Planning Enforcement Team and is pressing the County Council Highways Department to support the Village's calls to stop the large number of heavy vehicles that these sites have generated from decimating the village.



Barry inspecting the unauthorised gateway on the Mitton Road

Councillors Vote To Increase Their Pay

At the last meeting of Stafford Borough Council, Councillors voted to give themselves a pay rise. Barry Stamp voted against the idea, along with three other Councillors. All the Conservatives and all the Labour Councillors voted for the rise.

"At a time when Council staff salaries have not been raised for 3 years, services are being cut, and charges are being raised, it is immoral for Councillors to increase their own pay. Indeed after the meeting one Councillor said I should be ashamed for voting against the rise as he deserved the extra money. Unfortunately you cannot opt out of the increase now it has been passed so I have asked the Council to donate the extra money I get paid directly to a local charity," said Barry

**CAN YOU HELP BARRY BY
DELIVERING A FEW FOCUS
NEWSLETTERS IN YOUR STREET?**

e-mail: barry@barrystamp.co.uk

Council Tax - Are You Being Taken For A Ride?

At the end of February the County Council made a big announcement that they had agreed to make a reduction in Council Tax for the coming year. While everyone welcomes such a move it not quite what it seems. In 2012/13 the Council Tax for a band D property was £1028-81 In 2013/14 it has been reduced to £1,027-25 - a massive reduction of just £1-56 for the year or just 3p a week!

Why then did the Council think it was important to publicise this reduction in the way they did? Perhaps the simple answer is that County Council elections are being held in May!

Barry believes this just shows how the County Council are prepared to take local residents for granted and tell them anything so long as it means they stay in power!

BARRY STAMP YOUR INDEPENDENT STAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCILLOR
Tel: 01785 822723 - Email barry@barrystamp.co.uk