



## Studley Liberal Democrats Press Release 14<sup>th</sup> September 2009

### Studley Fire Station listed for closure

Local Councillors in Studley have reacted with alarm to the news that Studley Fire Station has been listed for closure by the County Council. The news, which has been rumoured for some time, has now been confirmed by the Fire and Rescue Service.

After a twelve week consultation process formal proposals are expected to be put before the County Council Cabinet in January 2010. Cllrs Martin Barry and Hazel Wright are arranging a public meeting in Studley with the head of the Fire and Rescue service so that local people can make their views clear.

County Councillor Martin Barry (Lib Dem Studley) said, 'if the closure goes ahead it will be a major blow for both Studley and the surrounding villages. The current fire engine, crewed with local retained firemen, covers not just Studley but villages as far away as Earlswood and Tanworth, and it's difficult to see how the proposed cover from Alcester or elsewhere can be as effective.

The current retained crew have a first class record of being available for call-outs and a local knowledge that outside crews are unlikely to have. What matters to local people is how long it takes the fire engine to arrive when their house is on fire and not how it looks on some County Council plan. Studley fire station has an excellent record in this respect and has the confidence of local people.

We will do everything we can to make sure that Studley and the villages continue to get the first class service they are used to – and it's difficult to see how that can happen without a reprieve for our existing station'.

#### **More information:**

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