

## REPORT TO ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS, EDGMOND & ERCALL MAGNA WARD – APRIL 2019

To all residents, councillors, friends and colleagues

As I come to the end of my four year term of office as one of your elected Members on the Borough of Telford & Wrekin, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and words of acknowledgement during this time, as on many occasions it has been your support which has provided me with enthusiasm to continue to do the best for the People of the Edgmond & Ercall Magna Ward.

My colleague, Stephen Burrell, and I both live and work in the Ward, which is the largest geographically in the Borough and whilst this provides us with an affinity and understanding of your needs and aspirations, it also means that we are aware of the challenges we collectively face, as residents in the rural area of Telford & Wrekin.

Our work, on your behalf, over the years has been quite diverse and we have collectively witnessed how the restricted distribution of borough funding has impacted on all the Parishes and residents in the Edgmond & Ercall Magna Ward.

We have, however, had the good fortune to have had excellent links and support from all the Parish Councils and Clerks, who have all provided not only information and intelligence on local issues, but also provided support and guidance. We have tried, by sharing the large area, to attend most Parish Council meetings and their support for partnership schemes, such as the recent need to find funding to re-introduce the Arriva 519 Saturday service, has been very much appreciated by many, as well as by us.

The support for other schemes, such as traffic calming, safer routes to schools, rural crime prevention initiatives etc. has enabled a number of successful projects to come to fruition and by working together we are tackling poor road conditions, inappropriate developments, lack of road signs and many other issues which you have raised with us.

I wish to take this opportunity to publicly thank them all for their dedication and willingness to support the people in their Parishes and for continually giving their time voluntarily on your behalf. This, in turn, has enabled us to achieve much more.

Ladies, gentlemen, colleagues and friends, it has been a pleasure, honour and a privilege to represent you and I wish you all the very best for yourselves and your families for the future, and I sincerely hope, whatever the outcome of the election may be, that successful candidates not only build on what I consider to be unique partnerships, but to continue to protect, wherever possible, our truly beautiful rich and rural heritage and the individual community identities clearly evident across the Ward.

Stephen Bentley