

It has been a difficult time for many people and I would like to place on record my personal thanks to the people of Edgmond Parish who have gone that extra step to help friends and neighbours throughout the Parish. Your community support programme was well organised and thankfully received by many.

We hope, now, that we will be working towards a return to normal, although it must be accepted that this could well be a new normal, as we will all learn to live lives differently. This not only relates to post covid, but also taking into consideration the current climate change agenda and the financial impact many in the community will endure due to energy price increases.

I must congratulate your Chairman and members of the Parish Council for their passion and commitment to the aims and objectives of this important topic.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognise the stakeholders in your community and to applaud their efforts in making Edgmond special – which was, of course recognised by the Award you received from the High Sheriff (congratulations, by the way). The numerous establishments and the many groups and organisations that all work together to benefit the area and the residents is outstanding and it is the way in which these groups come together with a common theme to support the community that makes Edgmond unique and people are proud to live, work and visit.

I, as one of your Ward Members, have been asked to help individuals with localised concerns and I have had the pleasure of working with Protect Heritage Edgmond and the local community when it comes to planning and development, although my colleague Steve Burrell has been more involved in the actual working groups.

I have had the pleasure of attending meetings with Harper Adams University and appreciate the way in which the establishments supports young people not only from Shropshire and England but also from other countries. We are fortunate to have such an outstanding University in our area and I would like to thank the Vice Chancellor and all the staff for their ongoing support for our Parish and for the Borough. Many of the young people have also made a significant contribution to the area and this, too, is appreciated.

As a Member of Telford & Wrekin Council and representing the Edgmond & Ercall Magna Ward, both Steve and I remain frustrated as we have to continually fight to have our voices heard. As a rural area, we believe that we do not get a fair share of resources (when compared to the urban area), but

rest assured, we continue to represent all residents and businesses whenever the opportunity arises.

You may already be aware, the Boundary Commission has recommended that this Ward returns to being two separate Wards from next May and therefore there will be two Ward Members, one of which will represent Edgmond whilst the other will represent Ercall Magna. If you have not yet had your say, you have until 9th May to make any representations.

May I take this opportunity to thank you, and your Parish Councillors in particular, for the help and support you have offered me over a number of years and particularly in the last two years when times have been more difficult for people and meetings have not been possible. The use of zoom has been successful to a point, but some issues need a site visit and face to face discussions.

Having mentioned the Boundary Commission recommendation to return to two one member Wards, having had the privilege to have been returned at the past two elections, I wish to confirm my appreciation and commit my continued support both to the community and to the Parish Council.

Councillor Stephen Bentley

Edgmond & Ercall Magna Ward

11th April 2022