

## ANNUAL REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS – APRIL 2017

We have had a busy year representing the local communities within our Ward. You may recall that our Wards were joined at the last boundary review and you now have two Ward Members covering the renamed Edgmond & Ercall Magna Ward. Whilst this is a very big geographical area, it has some advantages in that we are able to combine resources and often put forward a stronger case to Telford & Wrekin Council, on your behalf.

Much of our time has been spent consulting regarding Planning Applications and representing the local communities at the various levels of discussion, even attending the Planning Committee Meetings on occasions to challenge officer recommendations or to support applications, especially when appropriate community gain has been included in the proposals. In order to represent your views, we appreciate it when you contact us and let us know your opinions and, more importantly, why you agree or disagree. Local knowledge is very important and together we can ensure that the decision makers base their decisions on facts.

We would like to congratulate Waters Upton on the production of their Neighbourhood Plan, we have now seen it successfully fight off inappropriate development proposals put forward by a developer. The Steering Group of the Edgmond Neighbourhood Plan has now consulted on its initial draft and it is pleasing to know of the extent of the support that the community is offering. We will continue to support the work towards this Plan and now look forward to the next stage which leads onto the Independent Examination and Referendum. Congratulations on the work so far and very best wishes for the coming months. We are aware of the enormous amount of work on such a document and the Parish Council should be congratulated and must take encouragement from the help and support they are receiving from the community. Ercall Magna continues to work towards their Regulation 14 Draft Plan, which has been produced in consultation with the community and businesses and is looking good for a Summer submission.

We would encourage other Parish Councils to consider the production of a Neighbourhood Plan as it will offer much needed guidelines for the future development of the rural villages and will offer what protection the community believes is necessary.

High on our agenda has been the condition of roads, footpaths, drains etc. We need to continue to stress to the Administration at Telford & Wrekin Council the importance of investing in our rural areas. We will continue to fight for a fair deal for the rural areas at every opportunity.

We look forward to representing you next year.

Councillor Stephen Bentley & Councillor Stephen Burrell  
Members for Edgmond & Ercall Magna Ward