

## Annual Report May 2020 to April 2021

### Councillor Vanessa Holt

I don't think that anyone can say that this year has been kind to us. We have seen so many changes to our working lives, to our Councillor duties and to our personal lives. I have moved house to protect my family, becoming used to living on my own and working from home.

Attending meetings online, both on Teams and on Zoom, have proved to be both a blessing and a curse. It is so much easier to attend back-to-back meetings and to have documents in front of me without using paper. It has proved difficult for us all to avoid the "You're on mute" comment and dealing with a sometimes unstable internet connection has tested our patience.

Mental health has suffered greatly this year, with a lack of social contact, with at times uncertain information and rules, and the introduction of face masks and testing. I know many people who now feel anxiety as we slowly come out of lockdown. It is my aim to help people with this transition and with any stresses any future waves may bring.

As restrictions ease, I am getting used to changes in circumstance again and hope to take on more responsibilities once things have settled into a new routine, whatever that may be.

For the period May 2020 to April 2021, I continued to serve:

- Telford and Wrekin Council
- Hollinswood and Randlay Parish Council

My Governance remit for Telford and Wrekin Council is:

- Appeals Committee
- Audit Committee
- Boundary Review Committee(Vice-Chair)
- Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee
- Environment Scrutiny Committee
- Full Council
- Licensing Committee(Reserve)
- Scrutiny Assembly

My Outside Bodies remit for Telford and Wrekin Council is:

- The Meeting Point Trust

I donated my 2020 Ward Pride Fund of £2,000 as follows:

- £1,000 to the Telford and Wrekin Council's Laptop School initiative project.
- £500 to the Randlay Colts to help with their circumstance
- £500 to improvements to access points to Homer Lake

During this period, I attended the scheduled meetings as per Hollinswood and Randlay Parish Council and various Telford and Wrekin Council

I have assisted my fellow Ward Councillors in listening to concerns and taking on case work for the ward, many of which are on-going.

As well as being a Paperless Champion, I have also become a Mental Health Champion, having undertaken a qualification, and I intend to take on other Champion positions as

I intend to establish online Ward surgeries and, as a person with a full-time job, an afterhours surgery in person, for those who cannot attend surgeries during the working day.

I hope that this coming year sees us moving further out of lockdown and a continued push to be safe and kind to each other.

With all the best for the year ahead,

Councillor Vanessa Holt

19<sup>th</sup> April 2021