**County Councillor’s Report to Hadnall Parish Council – 14 July 2025**

Since the election I have primarily been involved in councillor induction and training, essential to understanding my role in supporting you. I have also been meeting with individual residents and gradually introducing myself to all six parish councils who are rapidly bringing me up to speed on matters of interest in their areas.

I have been active in challenging certain planning applications within the Tern division that I consider to be inappropriate. I have objected to the 57 house development in Astley Lane that faces severe problems including chronic drainage issues, road access and lack of infrastructure and services. I don’t naturally object to developments if I judge them to be well conceived and supported by the infrastructure and services available, however in this case there was just too much going against the plan as proposed

The other applications I am opposing are the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) sites near Uffington (25/00531/FUL) and Upton Magna (25/01638/FUL). Health and environmental effects of a fire at one of these sites could extend well beyond these locations and I would recommend reading the objections including my own to understand the implications. In essence, in the short history of these facilities, a significant trend in catastrophic fires has emerged. The fires are impossible to extinguish and a devastating fallout cloud of toxic gases and harmful heavy metals can be carried many miles away. Neither site complies with the guidance of the National Fire Chiefs Council with poor site access for the emergency services to quickly attend and stop the fire spreading through the rest of the battery containers. Both sites are immediately adjacent to the A5 (and also the A49 at Uffington), meaning an incident is likely to cause chaos on the A5 and thus severely delay the response from Shropshire Fire and Rescue units. As I say, I would recommend reading the statements on the Shropshire Planning Portal.

Finally I would draw attention to the proposed new partnership between Shropshire Council and the Town and Parish Councils. The PC have been consulted and the survey is now live until the middle of August. The majority leadership of the council are very keen to push this initiative forward so I would urge you all to participate in the survey so we can hopefully establish a mutually beneficial new relationship.

I’m really looking forward to meeting you all in person.

Brendan Mallon

Councillor for Tern