

Agenda Item 26/94

Mel Fordington
County Councillor for Hallow Division

I am pleased to represent the following parishes in Hallow Division: Hallow, Holt, Grimley, Lower Broadheath, Astley and Dunley, Broadwas, Cotheridge, Knightwick, Martley, Shrawley, Wichenford, Kenswick and Doddenham.

I would like to begin by informing you of the current Worcestershire County Council Cabinet members and their positions.

Worcestershire County Council Cabinet Members
Leader, with responsibility for Local Government Reorganisation, Transformation and Government Lobbying: Councillor Matt Jenkins

Deputy Leader, with responsibility for Finance, Corporate Services and Business:
Councillor Adam Kent

Adult Social Care: Councillor Mel Allcott

Children and Families: Councillor Natalie McVey

Environment and Communities: Councillor Josh Robinson

Education, SEND and Skills: Councillor Dan Boatright-Greene

Health and Wellbeing: Councillor Alan Bailes

Highways and Transport: Councillor Tom Wells

In addition to my role as County Councillor, I serve as Vice-Chair of the Planning and Regulatory Committee. I also sit on the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel, the Standards and Ethics Committee, and full Council. These roles are, of course, subject to change.

My Priorities for 2026

My main target this year is the improvement of our pathways and footways. I have already asked each parish council to submit a report to me detailing any footways that require improvement. This should include a description of the location and, where possible, photographs so that these can be submitted to Highways for action.

Tanya Crake will be working with me, and we will continue our regular monthly meetings. If any parish wishes to arrange a site visit to inspect roads, gullies, flooding areas, or any other matter, please let me know and this can be arranged.

Broadband Improvements

Improvements to internet connectivity are continuing across our villages. This work is in progress in Lower Broadheath, Hallow and Holt and will be progressing through our remaining villages. Please keep a lookout for updates.

Road Safety

We will continue to support speed enforcement on our roads. Last year we installed VAS cameras in Holt, Shrawley, Broadwas / Cotheridge, Wichenford / Kenswick, and speed safety roundels in Hallow and Astley and Dunley.

Supporting Local Facilities

I will continue to use my divisional funds solely within Hallow Division.

This year I have donated £1,000 to The Bell in Lower Broadheath to improve their playground, £500 to Chantry School to improve their social breakout areas, and £600 to Grimley Parish Council for speed safety roundels.

Last year I donated £1,000 to the Red Lion at Holt Heath to create their playground, which is now active and well used by many families. I also provided £500 to Grimley Primary School towards playground improvements.

Education and Business Support

With my background in education, I will continue to support our local schools and act as an ambassador for apprenticeship programs. Our young people are the future, and I will continue to take part in events and encourage employers to become partners in Worcestershire's education provision. Last year I introduced two companies to engage with education bodies and will continue this work.

As your County Councillor, I will continue to support local businesses, as they are the heart of our economy. Please feel free to get in touch if you have any matters you would like me to assist with.

I look forward to working with you all over the coming year to improve our roads, footways, playgrounds, schools and community facilities.