**PERSONAL STATEMENT BY DR KEN POLLOCK**

**10th May 2021**

At the County Council elections last Thursday, I surrendered my seat as the representative of the Tenbury Division on Worcestershire County Council. After 12 years’ service, it seems to me that you and your residents should be given an explanation.

My Conservative Association de-selected me for reasons that are not clear but may be because I have lived in Cheltenham since 2014. We moved here for various reasons. I could not tend the large Great Witley garden after the cancer operation on my left leg. My mother in law lived alone in Bath and needed frequent visits. They were easier and shorter from Cheltenham. Our second daughter worked here.

Circumstances change. My mother in law died in 2019 and our daughter moved to London. We looked over at 6 properties in the Tenbury area, including 4 in Clifton Upon Teme. No purchase resulted.

The Division stretches from Little Witley to Little Hereford and embraces 18 town and parish councils: Tenbury, Rochford, Stoke Bliss, Kyre and Bockleton, Hanley William, Eastham, Knighton, Mamble, Lower Sapey, Stanford with Orleton, The Shelsleys, Pensax, Bayton, Abberley, both Great and Little Witley, Lindridge, Clifton Upon Teme, and Stockton.

Covering such a large area, it seemed impractical to hold surgeries and expect people to travel long distances to meet me. Hence, I have relied on letters and emails, as well as reports to the various councils – some 748 over the twelve years. There are around 400 names on my list of constituents, mostly residents within the division!

I hope no-one felt out of touch, despite my living some way away over recent years.

For the last five and a half years, I have been a Cabinet Member, and that brought extra work – Cabinet meetings, fortnightly meetings with the senior officer team, as well as responsibilities in areas of the Economy and Infrastructure. The list is long: chairing the boards for Open for Business, Worcester Six, Redditch Gateway, Superfast Broadband, on the board of the Malvern Hills Science Park, the Malvern Hills Technology Park and Central Technology Belt, a director of the West Midlands Rail Executive, county representative on the North Cotswold Line Task Force and the A46 task force, sitting on the Joint Advisory Panel for the Malvern Hills AONB, and the revised SWDP, representing the Cabinet on the European Structural Investment Fund committee, the WFDC ReWyre Board, and the Local Transport Board, the Evesham Stakeholders Transport board, the Rural Services Network and the Tenbury Area Partnership.

In addition at various times, I served on the Standards and Ethics Board, and the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education, on the board of the Hereford and Worcestershire Fire and Rescue Authority, as a governor at Tenbury High School, King’s School at St Michaels’ and Great Witley Primary School, leading to chairing the Worcestershire Governors’ Network.

There is no need to feel any concern or sympathy for the extent of this list. I thoroughly enjoyed every minute and the reason for going into detail is just to let you know that your representatives take their positions seriously and devote a lot of time and energy in seeking to do it properly, for the benefit of all residents.

I will now devote my time to other matters and seek similar fulfilment from whatever comes my way.

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