

**Speech re Nomination for the New Mayor of Merton – Cllr Janice Howard
By Cllr Oonagh Moulton, Wimbledon Park Ward at Annual Meeting 15.05.19**

Madame Mayor

I am delighted to stand here and support the nomination for our new Mayor, Cllr Janice Howard as a fellow Ward Member of Wimbledon Park. Cllr Edward Gretton along with our former ward councillors - Tariq Ahmad (now Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon) and Linda Taylor join me in congratulating and appreciating her nomination.

And it is indeed pleasing that Cllr Howard follows a good cross-party tradition for our Ward, as she also follows not just myself as a fellow Conservative Mayor in 2010 but also the late Cllr Joyce Payton who was a previous Labour Mayor in 2001. She is popular across the Chamber and in our community and many have expressed their delight to me when her nomination was announced.

Madame Mayor, Cllr Howard has been a very hard working and diligent ward councillor who has provided excellent support and service to our constituents, the local community and to the wider borough.

I would also like to pay tribute to her consort here tonight Cllr Andrew Howard and their children Ben & Bella who have grown up with our boys and I know will be great supporters too.

On a personal note I have worked closely with Cllr Howard for many years and as Cllr Macauley and former Cllr Brierley, also here, can attest from our sessions exercising in the David Lloyd she will bring added vigour and energy to her role as Mayor. Indeed as many here tonight know she also has wonderful organisational skills which combined with her great focus and powers of persuasion will I am sure ensure that everyone here tonight gets involved in her year and events that are already planned!

I am further delighted that one of my former Mayoral chosen charities is to be one of hers too and another great charity, local as well, and I look forward to joining a great fundraising year!

Madame Mayor in short Cllr Howard will be a worthy successor to yourself and we all will I am sure all enjoy a great year ahead!

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