

Cllr Edith Macauley speech in support of the nomination of Cllr Janice Howard for Mayor of Merton

Thank you Madam Mayor. Firstly I would like to welcome the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Merton, Clare Whelan, who is also here and she is the Chair of the LMA, the Mayor's Association. Welcome Claire.

I too support the nomination of Councillor Janice Howard. She first, as the Leader said, joined the Council for the Wimbledon Park ward in 2010 and she has lived in the Borough since 1990. She has performed many duties in the Council – Vice Chair of the General Purposes Committee; Shadow Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing; Shadow spokesperson for culture and leisure; a member of Film Merton Advisory Board and also the Compact Board. An active member of David Lloyd and she enjoys various activities such as Zumba, Pilates and aqua classes.

I am delighted to say that Merton has always raised the profile of the Mayor and it is great that the Labour group have unanimously offered the Mayor's role to a stunning and dedicated lady who has excellent skills with people and I am sure that this will go down very well with our community in Merton.

I would also like to mention that at the executive meeting yesterday of the LMA forum, we were notified that for the first time in 50 years Westminster Council has given the Lord Mayor of Westminster role to a female Labour councillor. This also shows that there is a feel good factor in local government politics and despite our political differences we are supporting each other to raise the profile and also giving full support to local charities in the borough. I have no doubt whatsoever that Janice will be an excellent Mayor and she will continue to work closely with the community in Merton as she has always done in the past.

Finally, the Lord Mayor of Westminster, Chair of the LMA, Clare Whelan, and the executive members of the LMA will be welcoming Janice and have concert at Westminster City Hall on 1st June for the 32 London Boroughs on the protocol to follow during the mayoral year. I wish her every success for the year and welcome her to the Chamber. Thank you.

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