

Appendix B

I would like to thank you all for electing me as Mayor of Merton for the forthcoming year.

It is a great honour and privilege to be representing the London Borough of Merton. I will do my best to Chair your meetings impartially and represent the whole community for the next municipal year, as was done so well by outgoing Mayor, Councillor Mary Curtin.

I moved to the London Borough of Merton in January 1990, having lost both my parents within 12 months, I immediately realised Merton was a great borough to live in, marry and raise a family!

I was first elected a Councillor in 2010 and through many Committees and Boards have recently been part of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

This gave me a real insight into the lives of the people of Merton and the many challenges they face. I have therefore chosen two principal charities to support which both aim to help the people of Merton.

The first of these has in fact been the Mayor's charity before. Councillor Linda Kirby was instrumental in setting up Faith in Action. A multi faith charity looking after the Homeless in Merton. Providing a drop-in centre two days a week, offering meals, showering, laundry, change of clothes, haircuts, food parcels, sleeping bags and help with benefits and job applications. Faith in Action relies on local volunteers who dedicate their time, support and skills to help the most vulnerable people.

The other charity will be Macmillan Cancer Support, who have a local fundraising project for an Ambulatory Oncology Care Unit at St Georges Hospital. St Georges

looks after two thirds of cancer patients from the Borough of Merton. This unit will allow cancer patients suffering from conditions and complaints associated with the disease to be seen by a specialist as day patients, thereby removing the stress of attending A&E and, in many cases, being admitted to hospital for treatment.

I am delighted that representatives from both charities have joined us here tonight and there will be an opportunity to speak to them at the reception after this meeting if you would like to know more.

I have already secured two key dates for your diary – the Mayor's Christmas Dinner on Saturday 30 November at the Wimbledon Club and the Mayors Ball at the All England Club for the 25 April 2020 - I hope that you will all ink these dates in your diary ☺ you will need to book early to avoid disappointment

I hope you will join me for a drink in Merton Junction at the conclusion of the official business. For those who are not familiar with the Civic Centre, there will be ushers giving directions

I will leave it there for now as I will also say a few words later tonight at the reception.

Thank you.