

Cllr Anthony Fairclough speech in support of the vote of thanks for Councillor Mary Curtin

Thank you Madam Mayor and welcome also. I wanted to express the thanks from my group to the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Curtin, and her consorts and to Councillor Stanford and the work they have done in their Mayoral year.

I remember from this time last year when appointed, Councillor Curtin spoke about her desire to work to build a Merton family and that really spoke to me as a concept of community as a family, is a really important one and I think it's what we all do as Councillors. We all work hard to build meaningful relationships with different communities so I would like to thank Mary for her support in her very first Inter-faith Iftar held in Merton this time last year, in West Barnes Library, at which you attended and spoke – for which we were very grateful – bringing together different communities for the breaking of fast.

And you also spoke at the second one, held at the Tooting and Mitcham Community Sports Club, a larger event with representatives from the Police, community groups and a number of councillors. So thank you all for attending that.

And lastly I wanted to touch on the fantastic centenary remembrance event that I got to share with you, the events at the Mitcham War Memorial and before that at the Nelson. They were quite touching at a time of conflict in the world. I got to share the journey with you between the two and we didn't quite leave enough time to get from the Nelson to Mitcham. I got to go in the Mayoral car, which was a highlight. I'll only note that it's probably fortunate that the administration's desire to bring in 20mph speed limits hasn't yet been implemented because we did just about make it.

Thank you very much Mary for your work, it's been a great year. Thank you.

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