

## **Speech by Cllr Stephen Alambritis welcoming Mayor Cllr Sally Kenny as the First Citizen of the London Borough of Merton at the Annual Council Meeting on Wednesday 16 September 2020**

Cllr Sally Kenny was first elected in Lower Morden in 2014

Until very recently, in fact until today, Sally was the very efficient Chair of the Children & Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

And she was also a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission since

Sally was also a Member of the Appeals Committee

These are roles Sally will be relinquishing as we welcome her to be our First Citizen and Mayor for the municipal year 2020/2021

In times gone by Sally was a member of the Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel between 2014-19

And she was also a Member of the Appeals Committee 2016-18.

Sally has also has been a substitute member of Standards and General Purposes Committee and of the South West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

All those positions get put to one side as Sally prepares to represent this great South London borough of ours

But who really is Sally Kenny I hear you all asking

Well I for one know she is a high flyer

Born in Huntingdon to a father who was big in the Military Police within the RAF.....there you get the high factor!

Now we all go to a school where at least one rich and famous person also went

For myself I only went to the same school as someone who played Bond, James Bond, yes Pierce Brosnan...why should I hanker for his looks and wealth?

Sally was in the same position. She went to Primrose Primary School. Who else went there...well Ed Milliband of course but I do not know if Sally envies Ed for anything...I do not know...she might just tell us one day..

Sally was of course a teacher of some 15 years standing including stints as the deputy head at Cranmer at a time of the middle school system

But there was nothing middling about Sally. She collected degrees as one would Panninni cards...oh don't tell me none of you have heard of them?

And so after teaching Sally went on to work for Roehampton University and was a key person in the initial teacher training course at that time

A little secret here and why we are going to be well looked after by Sally who loves Merton to bits

All her brightest and smartest aspiring trainee teachers were sent to Merton Schools by Sally...She would have it no other way and the pupils were made an offer they could not refuse

Not just a teacher and then a trainer of teachers but also has such a passion for schools that saw Sally on governor boards at Gorringe, Raynes Park High, Aragon and Cranmer. I am sure I have missed one out

As Mayor, Sally will teach us a thing or two about being for the community and in the community because that is what she does day in day out in Lower Morden

Her time spent walking Archie the dog is also time spent learning the names of all other dogs and their walkers and that way she has got to know most of her ward residents

The boroughs other residents in other wards will I am sure get to know her as a superb, caring Mayor

It is very hard work being the Mayor or so I am told by Carl

And so it is good that Sally is known for not being afraid of hard work

Sally works every year with the council and residents in leading the great Lower Morden bulb plant off in King Georges Playing Field...this has now been going for 6 years...Sally never lets go of a good idea

Colleagues we will be in for a treat with Mayor Kenny and I know she will be well assisted by her Deputy Cllr John Dehaney

They will be a tireless duo for residents during these difficult times and I know they will both rise to the challenges posed