

**Speech as Mayor**  
**Councillor Sally Kenny**  
**55<sup>th</sup> Mayor, London Borough of Merton**

Thank you to my fellow Councillors for electing me to the position of the Mayor of the London Borough of Merton. This is a great honour and privilege. I plan to fulfil this position with decorum, passion and commitment. I hope that I am a credit to you and the residents of Merton. You all deserve the very best and I shall try, during this difficult time, to do my very best.

Merton has been my home for most of my life. Both my children attended Merton schools throughout their education, during the three tier system.

I know Merton really well. I enjoy living, working and socialising within Merton. My teaching career, which I loved, was in Merton Schools.

I have given much thought and deliberation to choosing my charities. There are so many very worthy causes that this was

certainly a thought provoking and difficult task. Walking my daughter's mini schnauzer, Archie I saw the variety of activities which take place in our amazing parks. I was especially delighted to see, in my local park, King Georges Playing field, the thrive of activity on Saturday mornings, when hundreds of young children and their families congregated to enjoy themselves and were involved in football. Boys and girls from 6 to 14 years were socializing, becoming fit and enjoying themselves. It was a wonderful sight to behold. For this reason I knew that Morden Little League was to be one of my charities.

My second charity become more prominent in my mind when I heard carers saying how grateful they were to have a few hours of respite from their role. I have great sympathy for carers who do the most amazing work to support their loved ones and often feel they do not get enough support and have very little time to themselves. This was particularly reinforced when a close friend, whose husband has dementia, found groups were not prepared to take him for a second time. He was too difficult. I know that FISH does excellent work in this area but they were the Mayor's charity 2 years ago and also 3 years prior to this. My friend was

expecting her husband returned to her with the comment sorry we just can't take him again. She was delighted to hear that they were happy to take him again and provide her with 3 hours a week of personal time. This clinched my decision. Merton and Morden Guild is my second charity.

I look forward to you all supporting the different approach to fund raising. I would love if you will join me in such activities as Zoom Bingo, Zoom Horse racing and a virtual balloon race. Other virtual and socially distanced events are planned.

A huge thank you to you all in anticipation of your ongoing support.

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