

**Speech re vote of thanks to retiring Representative Deputy Lieutenant
for L B Merton – Clare Whelan OBE**

Madame Mayor

Thank you for allowing me to add to the thanks from across this virtual Chamber to Clare Whelan who is now retiring having served our Borough with distinction as the Representative Deputy Lieutenant for Merton.

Madame Mayor, Merton and its Mayor, councillors, officers and constituents have appreciated her diligence and it has been an honour for us all to work with someone as dedicated to public service as Clare.

As the former Leader of the Opposition I saw first-hand her commitment and support to our Mayoralty and her unwavering support for our Borough at its important commemorative events. She has also been a champion of our uniformed forces and cadet forces and I recall her support of our first Merton Fire Cadets and their first parade which I was privileged to attend with her.

I have also enjoyed working beside her on the London Mayors Association and although she has also retired from there as Chairman I feel sure that she will continue to support events once we are able to hold them again.

Madame Mayor I know that across the Chamber we would like to thank Clare for her dedicated service and Clare we wish you well in all your future adventures.

This page is intentionally left blank