

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: that the council places on record its sincere thanks and appreciation to Councillor Sally Kenny, for the dedicated manner in which she has served as Mayor of the London Borough of Merton for the period 2020-2021.

Sally Kenny has served as a councillor for Lower Morden Ward for the past seven years. Previously a Merton school teacher she quickly established herself as a brilliant ward councillor, committed to her ward, who would often pick up casework while walking her dog.

It was no surprise that Sally was such an effective councillor, and most recently she became Chair: CYP Overview & Scrutiny Panel, a position of considerable influence.

Sally became Mayor in the unusual circumstances of Covid-19 in Sept 2020.

She has had a uniquely challenging Mayoral term during the pandemic – but has done a fantastic job of adapting the Mayoral role to support our communities.

Her term has also been a huge challenge – elected in Sept, she has held the shortest Mayoral year in Merton, yet has still gone on to raise tens of thousands for her chosen charities and recognised hundreds of residents for their work during the pandemic.

Her Mayoral charities are Morden Little League and Merton & Morden Guild of Social Service, both charities close to her heart locally.

Her current total amount raised for charity – and it's current, as she still has a few events left to run – is more than £21,000.

She was also among the first to recognise that the Mayor's role needed to move online during the pandemic, and has attended more than 80 community and formal events, many virtually, during her term on behalf of the council.

Sally's charity events have included:

- Sponsored Litter Picks (in three main town centres - Morden, Wimbledon and Mitcham)
- Movember fundraising campaign
- Mayor's sweepstakes
- Online auctions
- A Christmas Song (produced by students from the Cricket Green School)
- A Virtual Balloon Race

Most of all... Sally has championed her Covid-19 Community Awards.

Set up by the Mayor last year, the Covid-19 Community Awards were a fantastic way of using the Mayoral role to recognise and encourage community spirit.

They have also been a huge success.

Designed to recognise those who have supported their neighbours, helped their community or shown a community-minded approach during the pandemic, she received hundreds of nominations from the public.

The award is a formal certificate of recognition from the Council – a little thing that goes a long way in building community spirit, as we've seen.

More than 400 local residents have received community award certificates – many in socially-distanced visits from the Mayor herself when it was allowed.

The initiative was so popular it was later widened to include organisations such as schools, doctors' surgeries and community groups.

In total, more than 600 Covid-19 Award certificates have been awarded by Sally in the short space of her term.

As Mayor, Sally has been ably supported in her work by Deputy Mayor, Councillor John Dehaney and their consorts; as well as her team, Sandra Folkes and attendant Carl Brown.

Sally Kenny has had only 8 months as Mayor but she has achieved more than most Mayors do in 12. We thank her and her team for their service, and for doing their bit to support our community during this difficult period.

Thank you Madam Mayor.

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