

The nomination of Cllr Marsie Skeete

For Mayor of Merton 2017-2018

By Cllr Stephen Alambritis

Who is the Leader of the Council

At the London Borough of Merton

On Wednesday 17 May 2017 in the Council Chamber

Madam Mayor,

We are blessed to have the headquarters of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development in this borough

That organisation is all about excellence in the work place

They are about good relations between employers and employees

And they are about that dreaded form...the job description

That got me thinking about the kind of job description needed for

Our Mayor

Our Mayor of Merton

Our First Citizen of this borough

Well, we always need those essential skills in a Mayor

Of warmth

Of compassion

Of kindness and of generosity

Of a love of people and of children

Then there are those desired skills

Of Punctuality (I know Carl is listening)

Of brevity

Of Patience

Then there are the required qualifications

Someone who has placed themselves before the people of the borough

Someone who has been elected to serve the people of this borough

Someone who is a sitting councillor

I was also thinking about

Reporting relationships

And if that was about the Mayor

Reporting to me

But no I hear you say

And yes I know my place

Our Mayor reports to Carl!

And so the councillor I am about to nominate for the position of Mayor of Merton for the municipal year 2017/18

The councillor who fits our job description for Mayor

Who has the qualifications and the skills to be our First Citizen of our Borough

That councillor, that person is Cllr Marsie Skeete

Madam Mayor

Cllr Skeete was elected to Merton Council in 2014 and has served Longthornton Ward since then

She has also has served on many **important committees**

Committees that reflect her passion for people

Cllr Marsie Skeete is a member of the following committees:

Activities in Learning Disability Day Centres

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Joint Consultative Committee with Ethnic Minority Organisations

Licensing Committee (we will come back to this and especially to the subject of Rum later)

Preventing Loneliness and Social Isolation in Merton

That last committee is in keeping with Marsie's full time occupation

Marsie works in the Prison Service working with prisoners and helping them to get out

When they have served their time!!!

To get back into the world of work when they are released

Madam Mayor

I know Marsie will talk about her choice of Deputy Mayor and without naming names I am delighted with her choice

I also know Marsie will name her chosen Charities and there again I will leave her to name them

Those are her choices but I now want talk about Marsies choice in Rum

Marsie is from the wonderful country that is called Guyana and they do love their Rum there

Her Favourite rum is from the Demerara Rivers Finest Sugar Canes the true gold that is El Dorado Rum

In Marsie we indeed have true gold

Madam Mayor

On the subject of Rum it is appropriate that we are overlooked in this chamber by Lord Horatio Nelson

When this gallant fighter died in battle there was a need to bring the body back to these shores

Madam Mayor

As far as I understand it Nelson's body was immersed in a cask of Guyanan Rum possibly from the Demerara River and quite probably El Dorado Rum

The ship the body was brought back in, so they say, was HMS Pickle

There you have it Madam Mayor a bit of history from me

And importantly for this occasion, we have not got ourselves into a pickle over this nomination

It has been very straightforward among my colleagues in particular

I asked some of them them for the first word that comes to their mind when Marsie is mentioned

The following sprung to mind

Tall

Glamorous

Passionate

Vivacious

Strong

Knows what she wants (watch out Carl!)

Madam Mayor

Tonight we look forward to our next municipal year and I know that Cllr Marsie Skeete will spring some wonderful and surprising events on us in the forthcoming year and I for one cannot wait!

So, Madam Mayor

It gives me great pleasure to nominate and I urge this council to then elect Cllr Marsie Skeete as Mayor of the London Borough of Merton for the Municipal year 2017-2018

