

Notes on a DEMOC Zoom meeting

12th May 2021

DEMOC Team : Chairman Gerald Meredith – Smith

Andy Bagnall , Snabukeera , Ian Parker, Joanne Mulligan , Ranil Perera , Stella Snabisheera , Geoff James

Chairman's opening remarks: Restated benefits of an elected Mayor.

E.G. : Independent voice, leader of Croydon council, strong representation and accountable for all residents concerns. Improved financial control, inviting debate and encouraging scrutiny.

Ideal candidate would be a naturally strong leader from the centre ground.

Over 50% positive in referendum on 7th October 2021 with straight Yes/ No vote. No minimum turnout required.

Vote on Mayoral candidates at same time as Local elections in May 2022 with alternative preference vote, (as per Mayor of London). Four year tenure.

Current Labour leadership trying to stop campaign but with 20k signatures cannot be denied.

Ranil Perera – Mayor would be leader of the cabinet. Greater visibility than current system .

Geoff James – Current RA's concerned that existing Planning Development has broken down .Malevolent attitude at Planning Committee level. Need to listen to Residents justified concerns. Need more democracy.

Joanne Milligan (Labour) –Involved for 18 months. Labour in South of borough have wanted change for some time. Current cabal making decisions and abusing power.

Chris Philp (Conservative) – Zoomed from Athens airport. Excellent to get 20k signatures. Frustration at Council who will not listen and have proved to be financially incompetent. Presentations ignored. Currently only 4 /5 seats in Central Croydon controlling council makeup.

New Mayor would be paid circa £50k – at no additional cost to rate payers when elected next year.

Questions.

Anyone can nominate. Should be of high experience of executive leadership. Some powers will be direct, others are via Council as per current situation. There are 4 other Mayors in London boroughs.

DEMOC requirements – Need financial support of circa £10k for Autumn Campaign leaflets prior to Referendum. Need volunteers to deliver 150 k leaflets in May - September especially in Central Croydon. Teams will be set up but individuals are also welcome.

RA's are encouraged to use Web Sites and Social Media especially Facebook, Next Door etc.

Volunteer details at DEMOC.org.uk