

Merton Citizens

A Guide on how you can get involved

Thank you for joining us at the Merton Citizens Delegates' Assembly at the end of February. It was exciting to hear the powerful stories of issues shared and seeing people's voices heard as each institution cast their votes.

The next step is to take action and get the candidates for council to commit to the issues that matter most to the community. We will do that by holding a **large in-person Accountability Assembly at the end of April** where we present the issues to the candidates and ask them to respond to our citizen demands.

If you are feeling excited to continue on the work to improve our borough through community action, please **get in touch with the local organiser, Vitória:** vitoria.russo-gaino@citizensuk.org. She will send you all the information about the next priorities for Merton Citizens (decided by you during the Assembly!) and how you can take part.

You can also check out the next opportunities and events below:

Living Wage

Living Wage has been wanted on as the new priority for Merton Citizens to work on. Getting the council to become an accredited Living Wage employer would have a tremendous effect on the borough, as the council is one of the largest employers in the area and has a lot of influence over other employers.

Living Wage is about ensuring workers are paid what they deserve, and are treated with the dignity that is entitled to everyone. For more information, get in touch with Vitória: vitoria.russo-gaino@citizensuk.org.

The next meeting for the Living Wage team is happening over zoom on the 21st of March, 6.30pm. Please get in touch with Vitória to get an invite.

Mental Health

A campaign that started with a group of students from Wimbledon College has grown to encompass the whole of South London. And although this team has got many wins over the past years, there is still work to be done.

The mental health team has been supporting the wider South London Listens work by encouraging and supporting local institutions to become Be Well Hubs, a space where people get to come together, discuss and take action around mental health. For more information on Be Well Hubs and mental health champion training, get in touch with Vitória: vitoria.russo-gaino@citizensuk.org.

The next meeting for the mental health team is happening over zoom on the 22nd of March, 6pm. Please get in touch with Vitória to get an invite.

Housing

During the Delegates' Assembly, you have chosen to prioritise improving and enforcing health and safety standards for housing. Ahead of the pre-election Assembly, the housing team will get together to strengthen the ask and ensure it is realistic and winnable.

For more information on the next meeting dates and how you can get involved, get in touch with Vitória: vitoria.russo-gaino@citizensuk.org.

The next meeting for the Housing team is happening over zoom on the evening of the 10th of March. Please get in touch with Vitória to get an invite.

Welcome

The Welcome team has carried out an extensive listening campaign to engage with different groups that support refugees and migrants in our borough and understand the issues affecting this community. Following this, we would now like to ask the council to become a Borough of Sanctuary and work with us to define what that should look like based on our listening.

If you would like to get involved with the Welcome team, get in touch with Tom: tomunderwood@hotmail.com.

The next meeting for the Welcome team is happening over zoom on the 5th of April, 7.30pm. Please get in touch with Vitória to get an invite.