

The Democracy Bridge @ Democracy Groups Reception 2006

A list of the ideas people added during the reception that might help build a bridge between people and politics:

- “only people who earn less than the median wage should be allowed to vote.”
- “transfer EU power to the elected MEPs.”
- “humility.”
- “better participation, not just more of it.”
- “e-forums and online voting.”
- “abolish the monarchy. GB is not a democracy while you can be born into being head of state.”
- “Make Votes Count. PR and citizens’ initiatives. Keep voting voluntary.”
- “£10 off your Council tax if you vote in a local election.”
- “politicians: be honest, listen more, give credit. Avoid the Alternative Vote.”
- “newspaper headline lies should be corrected in the same size font as the first misleading reports, not just in tiny font in the corner of the page.”
- “let Select Committees appoint and dismiss Secretaries of State.”
- “focus more on young people – they are not apathetic.”
- “learn to listen and respond to young people.”
- “compulsory voting.” (x2)
- “keep taxation off the electoral roll.”
- “hold ministers to MPs’ account. Hold MPs to the public’s account. Scrap the royal prerogatives.”
- “parties need policies that people want to vote on.”
- “4 day working week – so people can have the time to engage in the important issues.”
- “an elected second chamber.”
- “make the EU Commission responsible to MEPs.”
- “engage more children in politics at schools. Improve and increase the number of citizenship classes.”
- “regulate media ownership and coverage.”
- “make politics more interesting.”
- “hold primaries.”
- “mass referendums.”
- “STV in multi-member constituencies now.”
- “introduce PR.”
- “more power, responsibility and accountability at a local level.”
- “direct election (by AV) of European Commission Presidents.”
- “don’t show PMQs.”
- “get women to rule the country.”
- “no more closed lists for Europe, Scotland, Wales and London.”
- “incentive voting – ie. £10 or a lottery ticket for each voter.”
- “accountability – league tables for MPs www.mptables.com, like in the public sector.”
- “pay politicians more.”
- “online debates with candidates.”
- “citizens’ initiatives and local, national and EU level.”
- “better standard of reporting in the mass media – we can’t care if we don’t understand what it’s all about.”
- “get a hung parliament. Then bring in PR. Then we will have proper representation of the people – instead of representation of the parties.”