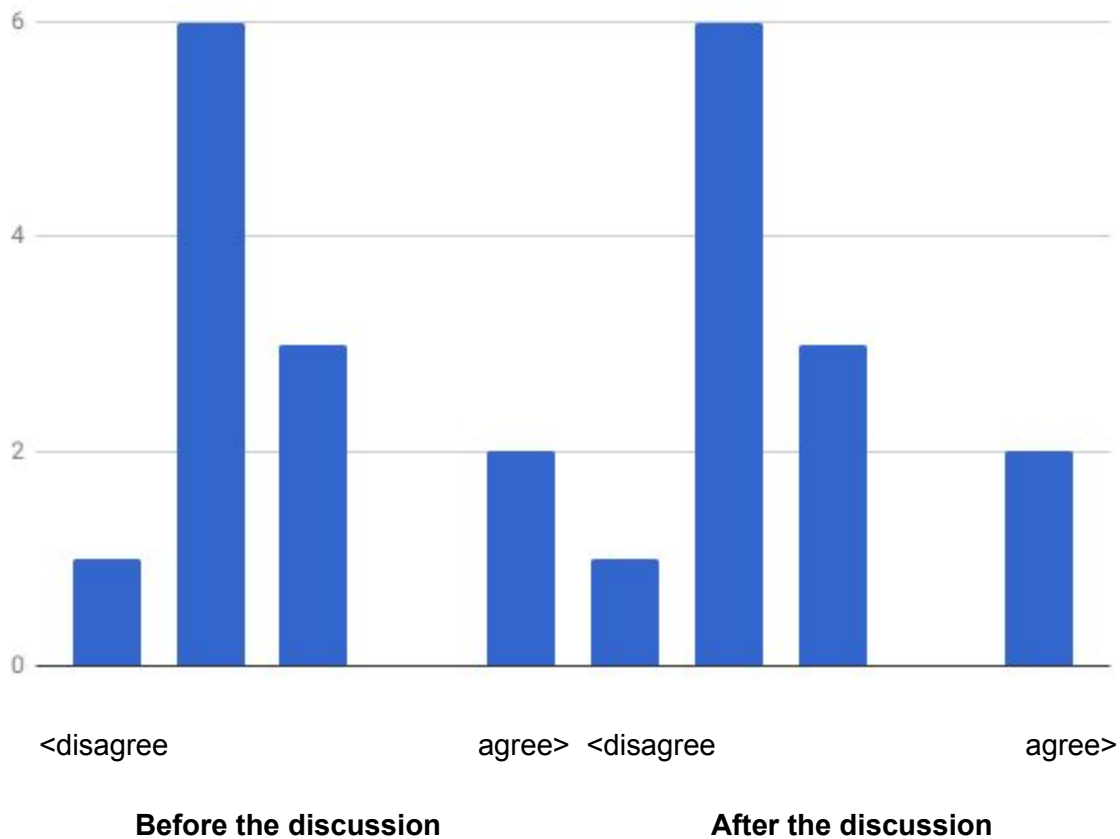


Political Thinking

Meeting No 10 19th June 2017

Topic. " The UK political institutions Parliament and the Monarchy do not provide adequate safeguards for democracy especially in a hung Parliament. "

Participants' opinions Before discussion **41%** agreement,
After discussion **41%** agreement



Before the discussion opinion was broadly in somewhat in disagreement with the topic.
As a result of a vigorous animated and free-ranging discussion discussion opinions were unchanged..

Discussion

The discussion was wide ranging with a broad spread of opinion expressed.

Principal points made during the debate

By those tending to **agree** that “ The UK political institutions Parliament and the Monarchy do not provide adequate safeguards for democracy especially in a hung Parliament. ”

- The House of Lords is diminished as an institution and its effectiveness as a safeguard for democracy is reduced by the system of political appointees.
- The Monarchy is no more than a mouthpiece for Government eg the Queen's Speech.
- The Monarchy is totally irrelevant, it represents decadent privilege, its processes are arcane, we have no need of it.
- Quote “Democracy does not work but it is the least bad option available.” (or words to similar effect.)
- The Monarchy and Parliament should be serious instruments of governance, not a branch of show-business.
- Parliament should be relocated to a purpose-built building with modern communications, adequate office space, modern voting systems, back-up for MP's etc,

By those tending to **disagree** that “ The UK political institutions Parliament and the Monarchy do not provide adequate safeguards for democracy especially in a hung Parliament. ”

- The House of Lords would be a more effective institution were its membership less political; the problem is corrupt self serving politicians, not the institutions they fail to serve.
- The Monarchy is a source of stability and continuity that underpins our democracy.
- The Monarchy is a source of support, wisdom and experience to the Government of the day.
- The Monarchy and Parliament are a very important tourist attraction; visitors from all over the world spend come to London to see them.
- The electoral system (First past the post) is fundamentally undemocratic; it is a proper democratic electoral system such as STV (Single Transferable Vote) that would be the effective safeguard of democracy, not the political institutions.

Suggestions for improvement of these institutions included

- The House of Lords should be a Committee of Experts representing all sectors of society; professions, trades, commerce, industry, trade unions, youth, pensioners
- The Monarchy should exercise its powers, for example to appoint members of the House of Lords, free from political influence from the government of the day.

