

The politics of walking about

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As the New York Times notes in a newsletter this morning:

A small cafe-bar in western France recently had a surprising visitor: the president of the Republic. Emmanuel Macron has taken to [dropping in on random bars](#), without press or an entourage, to schmooze with patrons and hear their day-to-day concerns.

“He did not come to scratch!” a bar owner said, alluding to betting games he offers on scratch cards. “He came to chat.”

This is how to do politics.

And economics.

And any form of policy-making.

Talk to real people.

The likes of Labour's so-called guru, Morgan McSweeney, do not know the answers to very much at all, which is why Labour will not do well today. Just talk to real people where they are - and not in focus groups - and they will tell you what they think.

For once, Macron has got something right. Perhaps he has realised he needs to break out of his bubble.