How to upgrade democracy with the Internet

Based on this TED presentation by Pia Mancini
http://www.ted.com/talks/pia_mancini_how_to_upgrade_democracy_for_the_internet_era?utm_source=newsletter_daily&utm_campaign=daily&utm_medium=email&utm_content=image__2014-10-08
There is a transcript here
http://www.ted.com/talks/pia_mancini_how_to_upgrade_democracy_for_the_internet_era/transcript?language=en

"We are 21st-century citizens, doing our very, very best to interact with 19th century-designed institutions that are based on an information technology of the 15th century."
"…..where the few make daily decisions in the name of the many. "
"…., the costs of participating in this system are incredibly high. You either have to have a fair bit of money and influence, or you have to devote your entire life to politics."
"….the language of the system - it's incredibly cryptic. It's done for lawyers, by lawyers" Do we recognise this in the UK?

"……it's really not surprising that this kind of system is only able to produce two kinds of results: silence or noise…… silence, in terms of citizens not engaging…..noise: Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico Italy, France, Spain, the United States, they're all democracies…... still feel the need to take to the streets in order to be heard" So is perceived voter apathy a consequence of an outdated system

"My generation has been incredibly good at using new networks and technologies to organize protests, protests that were able to successfully impose agendas, roll back extremely pernicious legislation, and even overthrow authoritarian governments…. must admit that we haven't been good at using those same networks and technologies to successfully articulate an alternative." Recognise this?

"DemocracyOS is an … web application that is designed to become a bridge between citizens and their elected representatives ……so every new project that gets introduced in Congress gets immediately translated and explained in plain language on this platform. ……we believe that democracy is not just a matter of stacking up preferences, one on top of each other, but that our healthy and robust public debate should be…one of its fundamental values. So DemocracyOS is about persuading and being persuaded. It's about reaching a consensus as much as finding a proper way of channeling our disagreement. . And finally, you can vote how you would like your elected representative to vote. And if you do not feel comfortable voting on a certain issue, you can always delegate your vote to someone else, allowing for a dynamic and emerging social leadership." Sound good?

"it ….. became very evident that technology was not going to do the trick. What we needed to do to was to find actors that were able to grab this distributed knowledge in society and use it to make better and more fair decisions. So we reached out to traditional political parties and we offered them DemocracyOS. We failed big time ……. Because the challenges that we face, they're not technological, they're cultural. Political parties were never willing to change the way they make their decisions." Would this be true in the UK?

So it suddenly became a bit obvious that if we wanted to move forward with this idea,
we needed to do it ourselves. And so we took quite a leap of faith, and in August last year, we founded our own political party, El Partido de la Red, or the Net Party, in the city of Buenos Aires. (As a 2 month old party they got 1.2% of the National vote). Might this be a better alternative for Russell Brand?

Congress, as an institution, is launching for the first time in Argentina's history, a DemocracyOS to discuss, with the citizens, three pieces of legislation: two on urban transportation and one on the use of public space. Of course, our elected representatives are not saying, "Yes, we're going to vote according to what citizens decide," but they're willing to try. They're willing to open up a new space for citizen engagement and hopefully they'll be willing to listen as well. Our political system can be transformed, and not by subverting it, by destroying it, but by rewiring it with the tools that the Internet affords us now. But a real challenge is to find, to design to create, to empower those connectors that are able to innovate, to transform noise and silence into signal and finally bring our democracies. Any ideas?