

Piers Sangan

Basic/starter questions:

- What is your stance/opinion on climate change and Jersey's role/current commitment to tackling it?

A: Climate change is one of the biggest threats to the world as we know it and the precursor to ecological and biodiversity collapse that would reshape the entire planet. Jersey has been slow to react to date and as an island nation, we are more susceptible to climatic and environmental changes compared to continental landmasses. Although Jersey can make little impact on the global scale, we can bring about changes to improve our island's resilience and adaptability both for the human population and the island's environment.

One question for sitting Deputies and one for all candidates:

- Sitting Deputies: what, in your mind, was your greatest environmental or sustainability-related political achievement in the last four years?
- Sitting Deputies and new candidates: What is your biggest environmental or sustainability-related political goal in the next four years?

A: If elected I would like to achieve several elements for our environment which I have listed in my manifesto. These include bringing forward new land protection for carbon-rich habitats or habitats with high sequestration potential. Ensure a new updated biodiversity strategy is in place and is enacted. Develop funding opportunities for on-island conservation management including a suitable Agri-environment scheme available to the rural sector.

"What credentials and experience do you have to advance Jersey's sustainability initiatives as we tackle the climate and biodiversity crisis?"

A: I have an undergraduate degree in Conservation Biology and an MSc in Island Biodiversity and Conservation. I am a member of the Royal Society of Biology and the Countryside Management Association. I have 16 years' worth of experience working in the ecology and conservation sector 10 of which as a professional ecologist here in Jersey. I also hold several licences for working with some of our islands' protected species. As a professional ecologist, I have been involved with the management of SSIs, Ecology surveys for developments and research, implementation of conservation management plans, and Environmental education on and off the island. Since 2019 I have been a member of the technical advisory committee for Linking Environment and Farming whilst working with some of our island's biggest producers to develop their farm biodiversity and management strategies. I want to use my experience to ensure that Jersey can develop a balanced approach to future environmental work. This needs to focus on integrating the island's environment and ecology into policy and decision making, whilst recognising that some actions to tackle decarbonisation will still have a negative impact on the island's biodiversity.

Themes: Local

- GoJ - The States Assembly have declared a Climate Emergency. In order for GoJ to expect and encourage Islanders and businesses to decarbonise, it must lead by example and do the same.

What areas do you see as the priority areas for decarbonising within your Parish?

A: Both Grouville and St Martin are very rural parishes with a lot of green space and semi-natural habitats. As with the rest of the island, there is a need to reduce the number of personal vehicles on the road at any given time. Improvements to public transport or alternative transport options can help to achieve this. I also feel both the parishes have another role to play for the island as both contain habitats with carbon sequestration potential such as the wetlands within the Grouville coastal plain and the emerging and established woodlands to the north in St Martin. These habitats should be protected and managed to increase the amount of carbon that can be drawn down whilst increasing the ecological value of the habitats.

Energy -

- Jersey is fortunate to have a low-carbon nuclear hydro mix electricity supply. However, the local energy market has not been immune to factors such as global price insecurity, geopolitical impacts, mismatches in supply and demand, the rise of renewables and the implementation of Brexit, with recent substantial increases in the price of all energy types. It seems that the interplay between energy security, sustainability and affordability is more relevant than ever.
- Energy supply and agency over the Island's own production of electricity is a growing issue, which was exacerbated by the fishing disputes in 2021. What is your stance on Jersey's current energy supply, would you change it and if so, how and why?

A: At this time I would not look at changing it substantially the reason for this is as I understand (and am happy to be corrected) that even if Jersey "generated" its own electricity we would not have the space for a battery farm to store the energy. In that situation, we would likely have to sell our generated energy to the French grid and then buy it back as we need it. As such regardless of if it is as we are now or moving to other forms of energy production, it is important that we retain good working relationships with our nearest neighbours. I would like to pick up some of the work that was being championed by the late Grouville constable Dan Murphy, looking at tidal and wave power in preference to wind power.

- Smaller scale renewable generation presents a decentralised solution that is different to the centralised import and distribution model that exists in Jersey. The potential transition from centralised to decentralised systems presents both financial and infrastructural challenges to electricity suppliers. How do you think the relationship between the main grid and distributed generation technologies at the household level needs to be managed? E.g. how would you work with Jersey Electricity to encourage the incentivisation and uptake of renewable microgeneration for Islanders?

A: I would like to work with JE to see what technologies can be effectively integrated into future modern builds to help with energy generation and reduce the cost of living. I am aware that this will have implications for the business model of the JEC and it is important as a shareholder that the Government of Jersey can work with the current suppliers to develop a suitable system to allow people to explore small scale energy generation on their properties.

- Energy and heating - The transformation of energy systems to low-carbon is fundamental to decarbonisation. Jersey's electricity source is already low-carbon, however a large number of Islanders homes are run/heated using fossil fuels, such as oil or gas. There is a large infrastructural cost associated with switching to electric/low-carbon systems. The CNR has outlined policies to support the installation of residential low-carbon heating systems. However, the proposed subsidies only cover a fraction of the cost of switching. If you secured your seat in the Assembly, what would you do to support the switch to low-carbon heating systems for residents on the Island?

A: Having just changed over from oil to electric myself I am aware of how costly it can be. As old boilers and tanks come to the end of their efficient working lives it is important to put suitable mechanisms in place to help transition across. For homeowners, I do believe funding needs to be made available however this may need to be means-tested so it assists those with the lowest incomes to help the transition. I also recognise that within planning there are means to ensure that new developments or re-developments of a site will not be allowed to install or reinstall fossil fuel heating sources.

Transport –

- The most recently published IPCC report, titled: Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change, highlights the need for governments to look at the provision of low carbon transport in order to reduce carbon emissions and limit warming 1.5°C.
- The Transport Sector is Jersey's largest source of emissions, with road transport accounting for 32% of emissions (2019). Therefore, transport is a priority sector to address in tackling the Climate Emergency and Jersey achieving net zero by 2050. What do you believe are the key areas within the transport sector that need addressing in order to achieve a reduction in emissions and benefit local Islanders?
- If elected, how would you support the development and funding of active travel on the Island?
- What initiatives do you plan on implementing within your parish to support the Sustainable Transport Policy and encourage increased sustainable transport amongst your Parishioners.
- The publication of the Jersey Children and Young People's Survey 2021 highlighted a gender imbalance for cycling amongst young people in Years 8, 10, 12. The report stated that 'dancing was more likely to be undertaken by females, while football, cricket and cycling were more likely to be undertaken by males', with 39% of females cycling in the last month, in contrast to 59% of males.
- What would you do to address the gender gap for active travel and encourage cycling for

all young people on the Island?

A: This was a very interesting result and I think it needs to be explored further. There are several questions that spring to mind. Is it to do with clothing and uniform requirements? Is it an image problem? I think it is vital that children are introduced to activities such as cycling within a safe environment where they can also be taught the skills for road safety. Do we need to look at cycling forming a compulsory element of active education in school?

- Sustainable transport week was a huge success, with schools adopting 'walking buses' from town/an initial meeting point and walking through town to school. This week has proven that if you put the appropriate procedures in place, it can be a success. What are your views on walking routes to school and would you want to develop this within your parish? If so, how would you implement it/what is your priority for developing safer walking routes to schools within your parish?

- As an Island 9x5 miles, it is reasonable to suggest that Jersey could be a hub for innovation and be used as an innovation test bed, such as for electric cars, or e-micro mobility vehicles. What are your views on this and what would you do to develop this opportunity for the Island?

A: As a testbed Jersey has opportunities to facilitate new technologies being tried out. Islands by their very existence are mini laboratories. I am more cautious about looking at the islandwide role of electric travel as our infrastructure is not in place to deal with it at present.

- Carbon Neutral Roadmap - carbon neutrality - what initiatives will you put in place to bolster the green credentials of your parish, or constituency, in order to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030/Net Zero by 2050?

A: Mentioned mostly in the energy question as they overlap. I would like to see the development of a cycle network that will connect the east of the island to town.

- Carbon neutrality / net zero - Most scientists and experts agree that a target of 2050 to achieve 'net zero' carbon emissions is nowhere near ambitious enough and will have catastrophic consequences around the world. In their most recently published report on the Mitigation of Climate Change, the IPCC says that there must be "rapid, deep and immediate" cuts in carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. What will you do to ensure that Jersey takes action to significantly reduce carbon emissions during the next term?

A: A horrible reality is that globally and locally we have left taking any action to the last minute and undertaking "rapid, deep and immediate" cuts will have a negative impact on the quality of life of a lot of islanders as well as costing the island a lot of money. This is work that should have been started 30 years ago to transition away from high carbon emissions. Not everyone can move to electric vehicles and pay for changing house insulation or heating sources. For some industries, there are no equivalent vehicles to the ones they use at present. The technology is coming but it is still a way off and as an island, we are restricted by the availability of global products. One element I

would like to look at is ensuring the bio-fuels must be sold at the same or cheaper price than regular fuels. Although bio-fuels are not the final solution it would make a big impact if a lot of the island vehicle fleet (particularly diesel) were running on an alternative.

Biodiversity – increased biodiversity / greening of St Helier –

- Increased biodiversity and greenery can provide many physical and mental health benefits to users of an area, as well as the draw down of carbon. What role would you play in implementing the greening of St Helier/your parish?

A: Greening should first and foremost never be a greenwashing exercise. Any action taken needs to be relevant and effective. I am very keen to work to develop the Bridging Island plans NE3 policy to look at establishing an island appropriate net biodiversity gain for developments ready for the next island plan in 2025. I would also like to see the requirement for green infrastructure with any Government development and infrastructure projects.

- What measures will you put in place during the next term to ensure that environmental biodiversity will be protected and enhanced?

A: I will be looking to support and help secure investment for habitat and species wilding projects on the island. Funding for these projects could be drawn from offset and bio-diversity net gain schemes from the development sector. I would like to see a specific light pollution strategy created on the island to reduce the amount of light spill that is negatively affecting our biodiversity and our own health. I also want to ensure that the island develops a suitable and well-funded agri-environment scheme as laid out in the Economic framework for the Rural Environment 2022. This can help a sector that influences over 50% of the island's terrestrial landscape to deliver effective environmental and ecological benefits to our island.

- Do you think that we need more habitat protection, in order to conserve wildlife? If so, what type of land areas should be protected and what would you do as a potential Deputy to implement this?

A: Yes and No, Jersey has a history of protecting landscapes but with no management of funding available. As such these habitats degrade, and we do not have the natural ecosystem services available on the island to manage the habitats naturally such as large herbivores, natural architects and predators. We have not had these features for 4000 years or more on the island and as such everything on our island has been anthropogenically influenced and adapted to that environment. I strongly support a review of the protected areas available to see which ones have been effective since they were created. We also need to look at consolidating the areas that are protected and if the protection is sufficient. For example, all SSSIs in the UK have a minimum buffer zone around them where development is prohibited. But in Jersey for our equivalent SSIs, there are no buffer zones and it is possible to develop up to the boundaries of the sites.

I do want to explore and bring forward proposals to map, protect and restore carbon-rich habitats and support their integration through the planning system. I would also like to see protection for open habitats as we have a number of open habitat specialist species which have thrived on Jersey due to its historic open and poorly wooded landscape that are now at threat from tree planting

initiatives. Land protection needs to consider the objectives of that protection including what species will be impacted both positively and negatively.

- The Taskforce for Nature-Related Financial Disclosure, endorsed by the UN, provides a framework for risk management and disclosure for organisations to report and act on nature-related risks. Once this is officially published in September 2023, would you support the adoption of mandatory introductions of nature based financial disclosures for organisations based in Jersey, particularly within the Finance Sector?

A: Please watch the filmed green hustings for my answer to this question.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mTsgLfgJsTE&t=8488s>

- Blue Marine Foundation briefing - 'How to Make Jersey a Marine Sustainability Leader in Europe'. The proposed protected marine area was rejected by the current States Assembly despite its sequestration and biodiversity potential. To those sitting representatives, how did you vote on the recent Marine Spatial Plan proposition, and why did you vote as such, and for those new candidates how would you have voted and why?

A: I would have voted against it as the proposition was brought forward in the wrong place and would have provided little to no conservation benefit. I fully support the creation of evidence-based MPA's which are supported by an eco-system-based approach to fisheries management. We have a fantastic team of marine scientists both in the volunteer sector and in the Government's Marine resource department collecting the appropriate information needed to designate suitable MPA's and it would be my intention to work with them so we can develop appropriate marine protection which will positively impact biodiversity and support local marine industries.

Agriculture

- Agriculture is a core part of Jersey's heritage, economy and some Islanders' livelihoods. What are your thoughts on pushing the need for sustainable farming practices, particularly policies of regenerative agriculture?

A: Agriculture is the largest influence on our terrestrial landscape and has the potential to provide the largest positive impact across the island. However, that potential is only present whilst the farms are viable as a commercial business. It is important to work with the sector to promote good practice farming and invest in the sector through agri-environment schemes to help develop environmental and ecological benefits across the island landscape.

- Local food security – The UN has warned of a global food crisis that could last for years, following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Additionally, India's recent ban on exporting wheat puts further pressure on the global food market. We are an Island with a fragile system at the mercy of weather and infrastructure to deliver goods and services to the Island.

- What are your views on the Island's level of food security, and would you change anything? If so, what would you want to change and how?

- How do you plan on supporting and developing the agricultural industry within your parish?

A: The agriculture sector in my view is one of the best yet most underused assets we have for helping to protect the rural landscape of Jersey. It is important to remember that island agriculture has shaped our island for thousands of years and as such the biodiversity we have today has evolved and adapted alongside these practices. Profitable and viable agricultural industries are vital to helping support conservation work within the island. It is the Government's role to explore opportunities to invest in this business to gain wider benefits for the island whilst supporting the business to remain viable. Actions can include helping to reduce entry barriers into the sector, investing in the modernisation of existing farming units and developing suitable and well-funded agri-environment schemes.

- Financing our future – in trying to reach net zero by 2050, one must question where the responsibility lies to fund this large task, and what level of financial support will be given to tackling the Climate Emergency? The Carbon Neutral Roadmap (CNR) sets out an initial set of costed policies to work towards reaching net-zero by 2050. The Assembly has declared a Climate Emergency, however, it is currently not allocating appropriate funds internally within GoJ to deliver on this. What would you do to ensure that the CNR receives appropriate funding to reach net zero by 2050?

A: I believe it is vital that Jersey develops an offset scheme on the island as soon as possible. This has the potential to bring much-needed funds into our island's environment sector which has been consistently subject to budget cuts. I believe it is inappropriate for any offset scheme to be sending money to off-island projects whilst our environmental sector is struggling to find the funds to manage the habitats and species we have on the island.

Circular economy

- What are your views on the circular economy and its applicability to Jersey?
- What initiatives would you put in place to encourage the adoption/transition to a circular economy for the Island?
- Waste is an ever growing issue within a high consuming society. What are your views on parish recycling and what would you do to develop recycling rates within your parish?

International

- The Paris Agreement / COP26 - COP26 was the first time Jersey delegates participated with the conference. Agreements were made. How do you plan to build relations with global delegates and to further play your part in meeting agreed targets? / how would you plan on Jersey expanding its impact and representation at the next COP?
- An outcome of COP26 was a global pledge to end and reverse deforestation by 2030. What role

would you play in helping Jersey contribute to this pledge, despite the limited support for this pledge within the CNR?

- Finance - the UK has ambitions to become the “first ever net-zero-aligned financial centre” - it’s clear there is a real space for us at the table given Jersey’s expertise and progress in this sector already - how do you plan to support Jersey's finance industry in collaboration with the UK to provide a solution in their decarbonisation journey?
- Our impact globally and responsibility on the world - scope 3 – The Carbon Neutral Roadmap policy OE1 Promoting low-carbon lifestyles, the Government of Jersey will: Develop and deliver an education and engagement programme to help Islanders to reduce their off-Island (scope 3) emissions. As a Parish, what policies or strategies would you hope to implement in order to reduce your scope 3 emissions?
- Offsetting - Jersey should be investing in offsets as soon as possible to minimise initial cost and encourage early growth and establishment of (rain)forests. If the policies outlined within the CNR are successful in reducing Jersey’s carbon emissions, costs associated with carbon offsets should only reduce over time. It is worrying that GoJ have not made an official policy on carbon offsets within the CNR. Some worry that the decision to review and produce a carbon offset framework in 2025, along with the decision on becoming carbon neutral to be taken by 2028 is too late. What is your opinion on this, and what would you do to support GoJ, or your parish, in producing a carbon offsetting policy?

For wanting change/things done differently for environmental commitments:

- You will make many commitments as a politician, but how will you actually ensure these are achieved? If you have been a deputy before, what will you do differently this term to improve achievements?