

GREEN HUSTINGS

Submission by David Warr

1. Opinion on climate change, Jersey role

We know that something is happening, sea levels are rising and weather events becoming more extreme. The evidence points towards the atmosphere warming up as a result of green-house gas CO2 which is an output of our industrialised world.

The GoJ has announced a climate emergency but it's not that clear to me what their strategy is.

2. Biggest environmental / sustainability goal

As over 90% of our freight comes in on diesel powered boats I think we should be looking at technologies to change this such as hybrid diesel / hydrogen fuel systems. Clearly a move away from the petrol engine is also a high priority.

3. Decarbonising within my Parish – St. Helier

We should be centralising the collection of recycled materials. Every parish has its own collecting team, this has to be simplified if only to bring down the number of vehicles on the road.

Greening of St. Helier

Switch commercial vehicles to hydrogen that is manufactured here in Jersey

Integrated cycle lanes

4. Changing energy supply

Electricity is the primary source of energy at the moment however there is a major opportunity to use hydrogen in a closed loop system through the use of photovoltaic generated electricity.

This has the potential to be a niche industry for Jersey and Jersey could also be a test bed for innovation in this area.

Tidal energy is still untapped but needs a significant amount of investment and research to become a viable option.

5. Main grid and distributed options

As stated there are serious infrastructure implications here, however I believe in much the same way that the telecoms infrastructure was changed from copper to fibre so to will our energy network need a similar revolution if we are to maximise the opportunities. The Island is small enough to do this at a sensible level of investment.

6. Supporting the switch to low carbon heating system for residents.

There are 2 issues here, one is the cost of proper insulation and the second is updating the infrastructure. I think it needs to be a strategic aim of the next Govt. to invest in a wholesale transformational system. As with the 'phone system changeover this should be free to all Islanders otherwise there will be a danger that we end up with a fragmented solution which increases costs dramatically and would be wholly inefficient.

7. Transport –

We need an Island wide integrated strategy. Having recently visited Copenhagen and seen an integrated system in action we should be looking at their solutions and make them appropriate for the scale of the Island. Taking extreme measures such as banning the car will not achieve the necessary buy-in.

8. Sustainable transport policy in my Parish

In my manifesto I talk about one St. Helier. It's vital that we consider the health and wellbeing of the whole community. Safe cycle and pedestrian ways are important but also we should consider access by stairs to encourage those who are able to get more and better exercise. This brings a wellbeing aspect into the policy that is vital for an aging population that puts increasing demands on the health service.

9. Addressing the gender gap.

I think we need to ask the female population this question.

10. School walking routes

I would like to think this was resolved by a "one" St. Helier approach

11. Hub for innovation opportunities

Absolutely, but this needs to be part of our education strategy. The economic council's "new perspective" report has some good ideas on this subject matter.

12. Bolstering green credentials

Once again I return to the "one" St. Helier approach. For instance at the moment public green spaces in St. Helier are managed by many different agencies. The States, the Parish, St. Helier Parks and Gardens and private contractors. There is no single coherent vision when it comes to the "greening" of St. Helier. This would be a big win in my view. Although things are now moving in this areas South Hill / Mount Bingham is a classic example how things can go wrong when no single department is in control.

13. Reducing carbon emission rapidly.

Significant investment in infrastructure

14. Biodiversity / Greening St. Helier

Seen comments above around having a single agency approach.

15. Protecting and Enhancing bio-diversity

This has to fall under the remit of education. Changing the culture from one of seeing a flower pot and vandalising it to respecting and understanding its purpose. It's also a multi-generational approach which incorporates life long learning.

16. Mandatory disclosures

I need to understand the implications of this. If it has the potential to add value and be a point of leverage for business then probably yes. However I sense that if this is going to put business in a better light this will be done anyway.

17. Blue Marine –

Sorry not up to speed on this issue and I don't know why the Govt. rejected this.

18. Regenerative agriculture

This has to be the future of agriculture and surely is an opportunity to add value to produce as it can be upsold as premium product.

19. Local food security –

This is a very complex issue as we import a lot of EU subsidised produce, in fact the world spends at least £1 billion dollars a day subsidising producers. We need to wean people off cheap food. There is a basic cost of production however here on Jersey with high housing costs this is a hard sell. The local dairy industry has managed to hold the line however it has shrunk dramatically over the years and we now pay around 100% more for milk produced locally than they do in the UK. This will be all about changing hearts and minds in clever incremental ways.

20. Appropriate funding

This has to be a combination of Government and private sector investment. There's a danger that the Government is expected to pay for everything and do everything when really it is there to create the right environment / infrastructure to enable entrepreneurial activity.

We need to identify what that infrastructure might look like. Is it one of simply providing space? Is it around restructuring our education system to ensure that local people get opportunities in the future economy? Simply put there has to be a vision created of what the world could look like in 20/30 years time and what is therefore needed to ensure that Jersey is well placed to prosper.

21. Change / things done differently

We need an agreed vision, we need to establish where that north star is and aim for it. That message has to be put out to the people of Jersey and as we progress we need to regularly update and listen to our community. The problem in the past has been that a few thought they had all the answers. As the team of people who have developed betterway2022 and our various "listening" events have demonstrated this is an iterative process, everyone needs to be involved