

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

I support the States Assembly decision in 2019 to declare a climate emergency and am encouraged by work that has followed it. However, I recognise that the real challenges start now, in delivering the ambitious targets the Assembly has set. Unless we take some bold action we will not achieve the 2030 target. Despite the many challenges now facing us, locally and globally, the next States Assembly must hold firm on the commitments already made on the environment, and work hard to ensure they remain a priority – and that they are realistic and deliverable.

Looking after our environment, on an island and global scale, is not a nice to have that should fall away at the first challenges or pressures, financial or otherwise. Sadly, we have already seen some try to make that happen. And future generations would never – and rightly so – forgive us for renegeing on the promises we have made. The next government will also need to push forward even further with this agenda, making best use of new and emerging technologies, adjusting to new challenges and making sensible decisions with sustainability in mind.

I believe that in order to achieve meaningful change when it comes to the environment a mixture of carrot and stick will be required. It will not be enough to rely on the environmental consciences of Islanders alone.

Looking after our environment is common sense, how we do that needs to make sense too and our solutions need to work for all Islanders. I am encouraged by the commitment in Jersey's roadmap to a 'just transition'.

What is your biggest environmental or sustainability- related political goal in the next four years?

Jersey has a known nitrate problem and PFAS (manufactured chemicals which can be linked to some health conditions) have been found in ground water across the Island, including in a small number of places at levels above the safe limits. Yet we have thousands of properties – a large proportion of them in the district of St Mary, St Ouen and St Peter – still relying on boreholes for their drinking water. While some owners are keen to continue with their private supplies, many are not – especially those whose water quality is so poor they are forced to use alternatives. In order to protect public health and future-proof safe, sustainable supplies and enable Jersey Water to properly plan for the future we should commit to connect as many homes as possible to the mains network, working with Jersey Water to develop a funding mechanism which will support such a roll-out. This will not happen overnight, but we need a plan of how and when. Extension of the mains drains network can often be done at the same time, and should be factored into such a strategy. Consideration should be given to how owners can be supported to pay to connect to the network when services are brought to their area.

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

In order to make progress in this important area we will have to inspire changes not just in thinking but habits and ways of working which have been established over many, many decades. The only way to do this will be to engage with Islanders at all levels of our community, to listen, communicate and find creative ways to impart information and inspire change. As a journalist for more than 13 years I have extensive experience which will help with this process. Journalists are also taught to see

issues through the eyes of their 'core readers' and to ask and answer the questions which will be important to that group on their behalf. This will be a key part of the process as the next States Assembly works through the many decisions, especially financial, needed to enact the programme of work required to achieve the environmental targets which have been set. We have to make sure that Islanders of all ages, backgrounds and incomes are treated as our 'core readers' throughout this process.

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?

I would like to see all of the Island's parishes supported by central government to first assess their personal carbon footprints. Once they then have a base to work from they can then look at ways to decarbonise and come up with long-term, targeted plans. It should be remembered that most parishes run on very tight budgets and will not have the scope to spend vast amounts of money on such projects without ramping up rates – or without outside support. We could use a similar approach with small businesses, supporting them (perhaps with a Jersey- specific carbon footprint calculator to begin with) to embark on their own transition – a process many say they are daunted by.

Energy –

What is your stance on Jersey's current energy supply, would you change it and if so, how and why?

Although not immune to the global energy challenges, Jersey remains in a fortunate position with a stable supply and price increases which have been at a much lower level than elsewhere. JE is confident that our future supplies remain secure and we have options available to us should they be required. However, we should not rest on our laurels and the government should support and encourage JE and others to continue to look at ways to diversify electricity supply on its behalf, including wind and solar technology. We need to explore the perceived barriers to microgeneration before we consider incentives to encourage uptake. When it comes to moving the large numbers of Islanders still reliant on fossil fuels over to a different source we need to use a mixture of carrot and stick to incentivise switching, while developing a mechanism to protect those on low incomes who could be adversely impacted. I also have concerns about access to supplies of the equipment necessary for switching over, particularly as globally demand increases at a faster rate than initially anticipated in large part due to the war in Ukraine. We do not want to end up in a situation like with electric cars where demand is outstripping supply and we cannot meet the targets we have set or are missing opportunities to switch.

Transport

What initiatives do you plan on implementing within your parish to support the Sustainable Transport Policy and encourage increased sustainable transport amongst your Parishioners.

As a mum with two young boys I have seen first hand the powerful part our schools can play in inspiring our children to use sustainable transport methods, particularly cycling and walking. In turn their enthusiasm can inspire whole families and the wider community too. Les Landes School's new cycling crocodile is one excellent example. During lockdown parents had more time to cycle with their children to and from school, rather than rush to do the school run before driving into the office and so on. We need to find ways to allow that kind of behaviour to flourish in 'normal' times. In the

parishes in my district, St Mary, St Ouen and St Peter, I would like to see the development of safe links or the promotion of existing ones for pedestrians and cyclists through our parishes to join existing and emerging infrastructure, reducing the need to travel on main roads to key locations and promoting sustainable transport methods. New developments across the Island should be required to take such an approach into account, providing paths and links from main roads through to green lanes and other safe routes. Some residents I have spoken to also have concerns that the bus service to the west of the Island is not good enough.

Moves to reduce parking requirements in new developments using an environmental argument concern me from a family perspective. We are not yet at that stage in our infrastructure or way of thinking. I do not want to see families, particularly those living in flats, denied access to opportunities (such as being able to drive to football matches on a Sunday, or the beach with a boot full of toys and picnics) because of such a policy. Any decisions made like this have to be considered from the perspective of families and Islanders at all income levels. There continues to be a risk that environmental policy deepens the already prominent divides in our society and this must not happen.

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?

We must make it financially appealing and more convenient to use the bus. I remain concerned about the current lack of availability of electric vehicles in Jersey, but acknowledge this is a global issue right now and is not just limited to the Island. We should recognise, however, that it is going to impact on the targets we have set.

What are your views on walking routes to school and would you do 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 above, I would like parishes to work to identify safe walking and cycling routes, across private land if necessary, to take cyclists and pedestrians away from main roads and make best use of Jersey's green lanes as a route to school. I'd like all our parishes to aspire to have routes identified where children can travel to key areas using safe pathways. It would be great to see Bikeability courses run for younger age groups and families.

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?

I believe all those who are elected are individuals in a much bigger machine and collaborative working with colleagues and the wider community is the only way to truly make progress on complex subjects such as the challenges facing our environment. If elected I will work with others from across the political spectrum, regardless of their political views, to enact positive change. We have to make sure that policies we do put in place are realistic and proportionate for Jersey and that they treat all Islanders as fairly as possible – this will require close scrutiny at each and every stage of the process, both within government and from the opposition benches. We need to engage Islanders to deliver – this will require politicians capable of connecting with Islanders, listening and then acting on the evidence collected.