

Green Hustings, David Benn

Jersey Liberal Conservative.

I am entering the elections for several reasons, the most important of which is the environment. I am also concerned about the current Government's quest to spend vast sums on projects that I am sure could be tackled for less, thus not burdening our young with enormous loan repayments.

I have been a farmer in Jersey following College of Horticulture training. Therefore, I have a science-based knowledge of soil and plants, as well as management skills. During my farming career I was always trying to reduce fertiliser and chemical inputs to the minimum without harming yields. I also used Organic fertilisers (produced by Humber) and found that despite their higher costs they performed better than the standard inorganic fertiliser.

I gave up farming in 2000 to live in France where I had a building business and specialised in eco techniques for building and insulation, while coordinating building projects.

I have taken a keen interest in the environment for years, spurred by reading *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson in the early seventies. However, it has become clear that as society as a whole few people have actually grasped the idea that matters have gone beyond urgent. I listen to the young people that I talk to, and they are indeed switched on to the problems. To the point that many are very concerned about the future, we all should be. I offer my skills, understanding and communication skills to get everybody on board during the next four years. I believe that we must take all embracing action to stem the decline in our environment and engage will **all sections of society**.

Jersey has taken a good initiative with the Carbon Neutral Road Map. I believe that with the right approach we can be more adventurous.

To decarbonise our parishes we have to take many steps; use public transport where possible. Cycle, go electric if we can in our cars/ bikes. Share journeys. Use local shops to which we can walk. We need to improve the bus service too and include an East to West service. Encourage business to go green where possible and install solar panels on large buildings.

Encourage eco building techniques, greater use of eco insulation and install solar panels. I am in favour of small wind powered generators for some domestic use/ charging. Encourage the use of alternative methods of heating to replace oil/ gas systems.

Plant trees where it is possible. Particularly on hedges, thus allowing land to be used for more vegetable production. I would like to see more people growing their own vegetables and also the parishes/ landowners making land available for vegetable production. Encourage the return to specialised vegetable units selling either at the gate, or through local shops.

I would like to see Jersey use wind and solar power to generate our own electricity. We should not only rely on nuclear or oil for the long term.

I would like to see the creation of a Marine Conservation Park and greater protection for our shoreline and waters to 20 metres.