

John Baker - Green Hustings – Potential Questions - Jersey Zoo, Monday 30th May, 5:30-9pm

Key themes to consider:

- Transport
- Energy
- Heating cooking cooling
- Carbon neutrality / net zero
- Biodiversity / Local wildlife
- Agriculture
- Marine environment
- Offsetting / carbon sequestration
- Finance - circular economy
- Island Plan development – environmental and sustainability impacts
- Waste management
- International responsibility - Paris / COP26
- Scope emissions - scope 3 - education and awareness

Basic/starter questions:

- *What is your stance/opinion on climate change and Jersey's role/current commitment to tackling it?*
- **I am an Extinction Rebellion supporter - in fact I am an admin on the local page have been for a couple of years – whilst some of their actions are controversial their stance against the fossil fuel industry is correct we are slowly killing the planet – (the UK) Government must stop supporting the fossil fuel industry – just for starters. We must all do our bit to combat climate change I stopped using my car 2 years ago and walk, cycle and use the bus service.**

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?*
- **I have a plan to make St Helier a Garden City and to make the town a healthier and Greener place to live. It is a huge project here are a few bullet points:**

- What is a Garden City?
- Strong vision, leadership and community engagement
- Land value capture for the benefit of the community
- Community ownership of land and long-term stewardship of assets
- Mixed-tenure homes and housing types that are affordable for ordinary people
- Beautifully and imaginatively designed homes with gardens in healthy communities
- A strong local jobs offer in the Garden City itself and within easy commuting distance
- Opportunities for residents to grow their own food, including allotments
- Generous green space, including: surrounding belt of countryside to prevent unplanned sprawl; well connected and biodiversity-rich public parks; high quality gardens; tree-lined streets; and open spaces
- Strong cultural, recreational and shopping facilities in walkable neighbourhoods
- Integrated and accessible transport systems

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

I have been an Environmental Campaigner for many years – my charity Earth Project Jersey which I created works with SOS Jersey to help protect our environment, both land and coastal waters. I have run many projects and campaigns to this aim.

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?*
- **I have lead our Parish Climate change group – St Helier was the first Parish to create one - Parish of St Helier: Climate Change Emergency Working Group.**
- **See this link for more info (too much to write here)**
- **<https://www.sthelier.je/parish-of-st-helier-carbon-neutral-working-group>**

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?*
- **We need to look at alternative renewable energy - unfortunately through Government failings we missed the opportunity to join in the French wind farm that has been built to the south a partnership arrangement was on offer but we were slow on the uptake and nothing was concluded.**
- **Jersey is ideally situated to develop renewable energy - Tidal and Wind-power and possibly Geothermal as well Individuals could be encouraged to use more Photovoltaic cells on house roofs and Gardens.**
- 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 incentivise and uptake of renewable microgeneration for Islanders?
- **The JEC is only part owned by the Government - it should be nationalised and rationalised and brought into the 21st century the JEC has been slow on the uptake for all of the above concepts**
- 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?*
- **Apart from the above (Nationalising the JEC) – I would of course put subsidies in place so that both residential and commercial properties could migrate away from fossil fuels to Green energy.**

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?*
- **I have at least 6 new Green taxes up my sleeve that would bring more than sufficient funds into the kitty to not only solve the transport issue but to fund my plan for St Helier to become a Garden city**

I will give you just one example as I do not wish to publicly announce these potential taxes at the moment – A workplace parking levy -

What is a workplace parking levy?

A workplace parking levy (WPL) is a charge made by a local authority on employers for the number of parking spaces provided for employees. All money raised from a WPL must be ring-fenced for investment in local transport improvements.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-47089134>

- *What initiatives do you plan on implementing within your parish to support the Sustainable Transport Policy and encourage increased sustainable transport amongst your Parishioners.*
- **I plan already to improve walking a cycling routes through the Parish another initiative of the Garden City Plan – much more is involved in this – too much detail to tell you here – I have a 50-page document prepared on my Garden City plan for St Helier**
- 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?*
- **One Easy solution - currently it is Unsafe for children to cycle on our main roads (in particular) - we need much safer routes and choices – I have many plans for safer routes especially to schools in and around St Helier - Please watch this space!!**
- 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 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?*
- **1st of all can I just say I met with the folks who promoted that week and helped them get the message out there I have some 20,000 followers on social media so it’s something I can easily do. I have already answered this above – (I'm ahead of you here - lol)**

- 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?*
- **I helped Gavin Breeze to set up Evie in St Helier and still support him as much as I can as I am a member of the St Helier Roads committee - Evie is doing an amazing job in Jersey but needs much more support from both Government and Parishes.**
- **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?*
- **Already asked and answered above – St Helier has already started to remove the use of Fossil fuel in its municipality.**
- <https://www.sthelier.je/parish-of-st-helier-carbon-neutral-working-group>
- **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?*
- **Re-visit the targets to bring the Island back on track - 2030 is a target that is achievable for many mitigation measure – giving up the use of fossil fuels for one.**

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?*
- **Make St Helier a Garden City!!! Job done!**
- *What measures will you put in place during the next term to ensure that environmental biodiversity will be protected and enhanced?*
- *For the Island we need more environmental protection*
- **We desperately need an INDEPENDENT Environmental regulator and we need to give you completable Agrochemicals and move to Regenerative Farming practices -**
- *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?*
 - **The Coastal National Park can be extended some more? I helped with the recent review but it was not taken as far as I suggested and I would have liked much more of St Helier to be protected for instance.**

- **A lot of unused agricultural land could be transformed and made more accessible to the public and planted with trees – pocket forests etc. which would increase biodiversity considerably. Another win!**
- 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?*

Absolutely and I support Green Finance

Green Finance: Benefits:-

- **Encouraging green financing on a massive scale implies that green or environmental initiatives get priority over usual business investments that may or may not be sustainable.**
- **A focus on such type of finance leads to transparency and a regular flow of investments into environmental objectives.**
- **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?*
- **Naturally I would have voted for it!**

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?*
- *I founded Earth Project Jersey – here is our mission statement – which says it all.*
- ***Our mission is to improve the environmental quality of our Island by partnering with businesses, individuals and community groups. Better soils cleaner air and water quality. A better and healthier environment for all the flora and fauna of the Island***

The Earth Project Jersey:

Will be driven by the people rather than Government.

PRINCIPLE - Revolution starts at the bottom, not the top.

The Earth Project supports Regenerative Farming via the Credible Food Project but in addition goes a few steps further:

The Earth Project will support Corporate, Community and Individuals efforts to help this Island get back to Nature, Do away completely with all chemical fertilisers, weed killers, insecticides and other chemicals which damage our environment and which by polluting the food chain of all life on this planet cause cancers and other ills. And importantly these same chemicals POLLUTE our Water supply and get into the food chain. A concentrated effort to improve our environment is needed not just for humans but for all the flora and fauna of the Island from the Butterflies and Bees to the Birds and the Mammals.

We strive to achieve: Better Soils, Cleaner Air and Clean and Healthier Water plus a healthy environment for all the flora and fauna of this beautiful Island.

All the produce from our farms should be totally chemical free, of the best nutritional value. Likewise the dairy products produced will improve in quality and purity.

Opportunities will thus arise for new products - small farms can return to market gardening producing a range of high quality products which will find a ready market because of their superior quality. Farmers markets and co-operatives will be encouraged so that consumers can buy as local as possible and know exactly where the produce comes from. Health benefits will follow. Healthier food means healthier diets and healthier people. Less obesity and diabetes. A cost saving to our Health service.

Finance

The Earth Project will look to partner with Businesses and Individuals who can take part by joining as Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum Partners according to their “buy in” They will then be able to use the Earth Project Logo to show their participation.

Projects that we partner and sponsor e.g. “Wild” Your Garden can be given up to five stars according to their benefits and be promoted on The Earth Project’s Facebook page and Website.

The opportunity to take responsibility—together—for the land that feeds us is a wise investment for governments, businesses and families. We invite farmers, landowners, and consumers alike to join in collaboration in this next agricultural revolution—a profitable revolution that starts under our feet.

Note:- other actions:

There will be many other aspects of this to discuss – IDEAS welcome!

We would also Oppose JEC’s Micro Renewables TAX

And support incentives for local “grow your own” allotments.

- 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 good 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?*

This is a difficult one - the Practice of Regenerative farming would help. We need to grow more diverse crops instead on the monoculture of Jersey Royals but the food security is

out of our hands to some extent because supermarkets do not hold the stocks they use to locally e.g. the co-op has - in recent times - given up their local warehouse for “just in time supply chains” A are a problem which is very difficult to even think about legislating for.

- *How to you plan on supporting and developing the agricultural industry within your parish?*
- **Subsidies to allow them to switch to Regenerative farming and Hopefully If Kirsten Morel gets in continues to allow Green subsidies for them to look after the land they own and rent to increase biodiversity**
- **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?*
- **I have ideas for many Green taxes but sorry not going to let that cat out of the bag on here**

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?*

How about not just a circular economy (BRILLIANT ENOUGH) but how about – even better - Doughnut economics?

What is doughnut economic theory?

The Doughnut consists of two concentric rings: a social foundation, to ensure that no one is left falling short on life's essentials, and an ecological ceiling, to ensure that humanity does not collectively overshoot the planetary boundaries that protect Earth's life-supporting systems.

- 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?* **St Helier could take on more recycling from other parishes. We currently do our own and also that of the Parish of St Saviour's.**

We have a much more efficient system than the Government recycling at La Collette as we run at a profit selling our recycling product - plastic, cardboard and metals to a French recycling depot as opposed to the UK which is not only more expensive to ship to but is not a reliable market place and increases the carbon footprint by talking the extra miles.

However we would probably need to invest in better, bigger equipment to do this which I would suggest a state grant could cover? Jersey's recycling rate does not compare well with either Guernsey or the Isle of Man.

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?*
We have been so slow following international agreements – there is a huge amount of work to be done to catch up – I think we need to get our own Island up to speed on all the issues in this document I have discussed and answered so far and then I feel that we can make a contribution – Internationally.

- 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?*

- **We can instigate a program to plant many more trees in Jersey – Thousands of them over the next ten – twenty years – the best time to plant a tree? Answer - Twenty years ago!!**

- **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?*

- **By Promoting GREEN FINANCE!**

- **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?*

- **Its is all in our Parish Document**

Deliverables - The Working Group's deliverables, as set out in the Terms of Reference, are shown below.

a. A report that sets out the current carbon footprint of Parish activities and services and an indicative carbon footprint for the Parish as a whole.

b. A report that sets out a programme of work that aims to deliver Parish activities and services with carbon neutrality by 2025-2030. This report to include indicative implications, in terms of carbon footprint, finance, workforce, legal and existing policies.

c. A report that identifies what the Parish can do to encourage those that live and work in the Parish to become carbon neutral by 2025-2030.

The full report

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extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.sthelier.je/build/img/news/Parish-of-St-Helier-Climate-Emergency-Working-Group-Plan.pdf

- **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?*

I will engage and gain support from my fellow politician and bring policies and amendments to the house to bring measures as I have outlined above.

A huge task but as they say find a busy man?? - And I am one!!

Best regards

John Baker

Candidate for St Helier Central.

Soon to be the Garden City!!