

## The Progress Party response to the Green Hustings ' Questionnaire

### **Starter Questions**

We accept that climate change is a major threat to the islands environment. We support the declaration of a climate emergency and our agreed aim to make Jersey carbon neutral by 2030 although this has now been extended. It is important to Jerseys reputation internationally that we follow international targets on reducing the use of carbon.

Our sitting States Members were pleased to support our political colleagues in declaring a Climate emergency and the measures that the island has put in place to reduce carbon use locally within the Carbon Neutral Roadmap. Our new candidates will support future initiatives to meet both the deadlines put in place and the changes in culture that will be required locally to meet international agreements.

As we look to advance Jerseys sustainability initiatives to tackle both the climate and biodiversity all of our candidates are committed to greater learning of what will be required but each of us have an interest be it through logistics, farming, transport, construction, fishing to add to the States Assembly's ability to tackle these issues.

### **Themes: Local**

Within each parish that our candidates would represent its important that the parish authority itself implements practices to increase biodiversity, reduce use of fossils fuels and offers parishioners services such as recycling. Each of the parishes that we would represent should continue to implement safer walking and cycling routes, especially to schools to limit car use. We would like to see better monitoring of air quality outside schools and their playing fields to limit the risk to children and promote more sustainable transport. We would also support more electric car charging points around parishes to encourage the use of electric vehicles

### **Energy**

We are reliant on the connection to France for our electricity if we are to say our supply is carbon neutral. We have seen recently with the unfortunate fishing dispute with our closest neighbours that our supply of energy was being used to put political pressure on the island and any such threat to cut supply is deplorable. However it has woken us up to the fact that our supply of electric could be a threat in future and that if we are not to return to expensive and environmentally damaging fossil fuels then we need to consider more sustainable sources of energy such as wind and solar power.

Decentralised renewable generation of power should encouraged more than it is at present. The JEC should provide greater incentives to local individuals and companies to invest in solar power and be prepared to offer a better return on electricity that can return to the main grid.

If we are to encourage more islanders to invest in household low carbon heating systems at considerable cost then we are going to have to do more than just encourage and be prepared to provide subsidies to those who can least afford to switch. Air and ground source heat pumps are cheaper to run , efficient and good environmental. However there are issues that do need to be addressed if more homes are to convert such as the need to ensure good insulation and they provide a lower heat supply.

## Transport

The key areas in the transport sector that need addressing are :

1. The cost of bus travel if more islanders are to be enticed into not using their cars
2. The provision of more safe walking and cycling routes into St.Helier
3. The provision of a covered cycling parking area where cyclists can easily shower and change
4. Better promotion and support for the use of e-bikes, e-scooters including charging points
5. Promote and reward those who car share regularly
6. The introduction of electric buses as a priority during the next term

Through Jersey Sport and other key stakeholders we would coordinate a programme to attract more islanders to cycle which would not only reduce car use but would generally improve both the physical and mental wellbeing of islanders

The island should aim to stop the importation of diesel and petrol vehicles as soon as is practicably possible and look to phase out the worst polluting vehicles as a priority. However social inequality will be increased if only the well off have the ability to access private transport so we must consider how we address fairly access to electric and other sustainable forms of transport.

Some degree of funding for active travel can be driven from existing departmental budgets but car parking charges could be used to encourage more sustainable transport use

We must support and encourage Liberty Bus to provide the best possible service to islanders irrespective of where you live. St.Brelade is superbly connected by the No 15 bus at 15 minute intervals and an equally comprehensive service should be provided in other parts of the island, perhaps in smaller buses or mini buses. We must take Active Travel seriously over the next four years.

We would encourage better use of sustainable transport through parish magazines, websites and social media.

We would address the gender gap in cycling through better education and by providing safer cycling routes for all schools. These routes should be actively promoted at each primary and secondary school in Jersey. We would introduce cycling courses in all schools to promote cycling give students a safe and knowledgeable introduction to cycling as we do with swimming.

Jersey is already a test bed for innovation and Digital Jersey actively attracts businesses that would like to grow and develop their ideas locally. We would support initiatives for innovation in travel that could be tested on island. Driver less delivery of products and the use of drones for a number of applications including agriculture would be well suited to an island environment.

### Carbon Neutral Roadmap

We generally support the direction and policy principles of the Carbon Neutral Roadmap. We believe that there are areas of the roadmap that deserve further consideration and focus such as blue carbon sequestration where Jersey could not only offset its own carbon use but potentially sell offsets to other bodies or governments. In terms of transport we must disincentivize the registration of high emission vehicles and subsidise the use of more sustainable fuels for vehicles.

We would ensure that government and its departments lead from the front when it comes to reducing the use of carbon. We have seen a changing culture in assessing more sustainable uses of fossil fuels such as in heating buildings but government needs to lead in all areas in reducing its energy needs and look to be both more efficient and prudent with taxpayers money.

### **Biodiversity**

Our candidates have been involved in varying degrees with implementing the greening of the island from supporting Natural Jersey and the promotion of the Parish in Bloom competition to involvement in the Grow Jersey community garden, to implementing the recycling scheme in St. Brelade and other environmental projects that promote good environmental and ecological practice in Jersey. We will continue to be committed to our work on biodiversity but will work with other States members and bodies to improve our diverse environment. We would promote better access to the countryside so that more islanders can understand the damage that has been caused and the contribution they can make to repair it.

We do need more habitat protection for endangered wildlife and plants. Our most sensitive areas need the most protection such as the National Park and areas owned and administered by the National Trust but such protection must also extend out onto our coastline and into the water that surround us. We must look at the way that agriculture is practiced and reduce further the use of pesticides, herbicides and other chemicals that can potentially contaminate our vital water supplies.

We support the drawing up of a long - term plan, programmed and costed for consideration by the States to address and repair the loss of biodiversity over the past decades and to restore the landscape as happened at Plemont

We would support a fully consulted proposition being brought forward to the States to explore the adoption under the UN of the mandatory introduction of nature based financial disclosures on organisations in regards to nature related risks

### **Blue Maine Foundation**

We support as soon as is practicable that a Marine National Park be established in Jerseys territorial waters extending down to approximately 20 metres. We were not unanimous in our support of the Marine Spatial Plan as it was poorly communicated and did not supply the level of detail required to approve such a plan.

### **Agriculture**

We need to understand better the meaning of sustainable farming practices and in particular regenerative agriculture. On the face of it the methods involved with regenerative agriculture such as rotational and mixed crop rotation and the application of compost and manure seem sensible practices to improve soil quality but we would prefer to understand the effects on yields and financial sustainability before committing one way or the other.

We think that food security is a problem for Jersey and that government should support the growing of vegetables for local consumption. All local supermarkets should be encouraged to stock local produce. What is a great concern is the shrinking number of farmers in the island. 20 years ago there were 300 now there are only 40 to 50. The agricultural industry is hugely important in many ways to Jersey and we

agree with the increase in area payments for farmers and especially money that is available in the Productivity Fund.

### **Financing the Future**

We have already provided funding for dealing with Climate Change but we will have to commit further. As it affects all of us and future generations, funding should come from central government but we would be looking to making further efficiencies in government before looking to the local taxpayer to foot the bill.

### **Circular Economy**

Yes, we support the repair, reuse, refurbish, recycle initiatives of a circular economy. To some degree it already exists within our community and attitudes are changing to just throw something away if you don't use it or can't be bothered to fix it as prices are increasing in all sectors of the economy.

Parish recycling should be implemented across the island and should collect as much recyclable material as possible

### **International**

Jersey has a strong international reputation and should be represented as strongly as possible on the international stage. Further representation should be considered by the Next Chief Minister but we do need to play our part in reaching agreed targets but also showing the way for small island jurisdictions

### **Finance**

We will support Jersey Finance to fully understand and commit to being part of the process of the UK being the 'first ever net -zero -aligned finance centre

### **Scope 3**

We believe it is for government rather than the parish to educate and engage islanders to reduce their off - island Scope 3 emissions. Each parish should have a policy for dealing with its own Scope 3 emissions and report their progress to ratepayers if feasible

### **Offsetting**

First and foremost government should lead the way in producing a carbon offsetting policy. Once this is achieved it would provide direction for other civic administrations such as the parishes. There are huge opportunities if government works quickly with stakeholders to implement a Marine National Park and seriously consider proposals for the doubling of sea grass beds that would increase our potential for blue carbon sequestration

### **Future**

All our candidates are committed to working collaboratively with their States Assembly colleagues to meet the challenges that are facing the island and our planet