

## Durrell Answers – Deputy Rob Ward

I have answered the extensive range of questions below. Happy to talk about any of them.

### **What, in your mind, was your greatest environmental or sustainability-related political achievement in the last four years?**

1. Having the assembly accept my proposition to declare a climate change emergency.
2. Move £1.4 million to active travel projects
3. The introduction of a £20 yearly bus pass for under 19's

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

To implement an island wide “just transition” project for Jersey. To build greater links with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Organisation small islands network on climate change of which I am a member. To have Jersey lead the way in how to combat climate change.

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

From proposition brought to states in last assembly for sustainable transport etc. I am a user of active travel as my main form of transport.

I was a science teacher and so have a reasonable knowledge of the Science behind the issues.

### **What areas do you see as the priority areas for decarbonising within your Parish?**

Transport. A town hopper bus that can be a fleet of small electric buses to enable car free transport. Parish has declared a climate emergency via a projet I brought to the parish assembly. It now needs to act on this.

Decarbonise the parish fleet. Improve Green spaces and subsequent air quality for residents.

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

We have a seemingly low carbon electricity supply. Much of it from nuclear power which is older technology. We still import coal and fossil fuels for home heating and transport. We need to phse this out as quickly as possible with biofuel as a transition fuel.

Local generation via solar, wind and tidal needs to be developed.

### **How would you work with Jersey Electricity to encourage the incentivisation and uptake of renewable microgeneration for Islanders?**

This is a majority state owned entity, and we should be driving the development of alternatives mentioned above for the good of our population.

### **If elected, how would you support the development and funding of active travel on the Island?**

I had £1.4 million moved to active travel in the Carbon neutral roadmap as one of the last actions I this term. This needs to continue and projects acted on.

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

Improving public transport will reduce car numbers entering St Helier. This enables more walking and other active transport to become a reality. Recent work with Dutch cycling embassy group demonstrated the numerous ways we can address this. They just need to be acted upon using funds allocated.

**What would you do to address the gender gap for active travel and encourage cycling for all young people on the Island?**

It needs to be safer first. Schools running cycling initiatives is vital. A system of “bus buddies” can be developed to support those unsure. Walking buses and cycling to school groups also increase confidence. On a wider issue, we must address societal attitudes to young people and women/girls.

**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?**

Support this. We need new primary schools in St Helier. They need to be in places where walking is the best and safest route. The end of millennium park has been protected from development by my amendment to the bridging island plan and provides such an opportunity.

We then need to create green spaces across St Helier and ensure developments link these with walking routes. A joined-up approach is needed.

**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?**

Yes. We can be a world leader.

**What will you do to ensure that Jersey takes action to significantly reduce carbon emissions during the next term?**

1. Renegotiate bus contract to make fit for jersey and our need for accessible and first choice transport system. Key pledge 7 from manifesto
2. Establish a system to enable homes to transition to low Carbon heating which includes a programme of home insulation. Key pledge 8 from manifesto
3. Continue to fund and develop active travel programmes

**What role would you play in implementing the greening of St Helier/your parish?**

See above regarding green spaces across St Helier.

We need to ensure building by laws for developers are stricter on the provision of green space as Government bridging plan watered down the requirement for passivhaus standards on builds.

**What measures will you put in place during the next term to ensure that environmental biodiversity will be protected and enhanced?**

We must win the argument that Biodiversity damage and climate change are inextricably linked. We must develop farming and agriculture on island appropriately and ensure funding for companies that damage ecosystems is not systemic in Jersey finance. I would like to see an international ecocide law in place. This we can promote via our links with wider island communities.

**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?**

Yes. Reform Jersey did not vote for any green fields to be rezoned in the Bridging island plan.

**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 naturerelated 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?**

Yes

**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?**

I voted for this. It is the right course of action and the argument made against re fishing demonstrated a lack of understanding of the project and the longer-term benefits.

**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? How to you plan on supporting and developing the agricultural industry within your parish?**

Food security is an issue. We import most of our food whilst exporting so much we grow.

Seasonality on our eating patterns needs to be restored from both an environmental angle and the health benefits. This starts with young people and is why hot school meals are important made from locally grown food. Key pledge 5 of our manifesto. We must grow more food locally both commercially and with individual having access to community projects. A definition of sustainability needs to be understood, agreed, and acted upon across our food production in Jersey. We must also have the facility to process food into the food chain rather than dump or burn it. This also addresses food poverty in our society.

**Circular economy What are your views on the circular economy and its applicability to Jersey?**

On an island where every import has a significant environmental cost the notion of reuse, repair and maintain is both needed and the best way to address long term consumption.

**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?**

Pleased to have it. Can be extended to glass.

**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?**

I am part of Commonwealth Parliamentary Organisation small islands network on climate change. I attended COP 26 legislators' summit and have maintained links across the world. I would want to expand this as chair of the CPA in Jersey.

**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?**

Stop import of goods linked to deforestation. Support the pledge as a wider finance centre. Support an international ecocide law.

**How do you plan to support Jersey's finance industry in collaboration with the UK to provide a solution in their decarbonisation journey?**

We must ensure this is seen as a real opportunity for Jersey. Government must fully support this move starting with its own investments.

**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?**

Fly less. Eat less meat. Import less. Maintain my active transport and continue to use biofuel until I can move to an electric means of transport.

**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?**

Offsetting concerns me as it creates an atmosphere of "continue as you are and buy your way out". It also creates monoculture in the name of Carbon locking which is counter productive to the biodiversity crisis. Local offsets and genuine reductions in our Carbon emissions are key.

**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 continue to be a strong voice for action on climate change. I see 2030 as the date we should be targeting and do not agree that adopting the Paris agreement was a step forward. More a step back in losing our commitments in larger country commitments. I have mentioned key policies re home heating, transport and see Reform Jersey as continuing to lead the drive for our actions on climate change and the biodiversity crisis.