

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

Mary Venturini

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?*

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?*

To increase public transport across the North of the island so that those of us who live in the North do not have to go to St Helier to get to other places in the island

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

I am have a large patch of about 100 oak trees saplings. I offered them to the Durrell but you didn't want them. I am still looking for someone to take them. I have bees, a bell-weather of air purity. I have made compost all my life. I have an electric car and solar energy.

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?*

Perhaps incentives for car sharing especially for parents taking their children to school.

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.

As we do not make enough power on island this is always going to be the case. We need to use less and make more ourselves, with solar and wind.

- 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?*

See above. Restrictions on solar installations on historic houses should be relaxed, as they should on agricultural land. Infrastructure in order to feed excess power back into the system should have been as much a priority as making Jersey a digital island with fibre glass connections. We are now behind the game on the supply of power.

- 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 incentivisation and uptake of renewable microgeneration for Islanders?

100 per cent. We are way behind on policies for this.

- 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?*

Find out how much money is available and then allocate a given sum for solar installation each year. Last time money was available for solar installation, several years ago, it hardly trickled through to the client. Solar or some sort of renewable should be a part of every new build.

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?*

Encourage more electrical charging points. Encourage hydrogen fuelled buses as well as electric ones. Encourage the car dealers to supply only electric and not hybrid cars, selling them as electric. Encourage dealers to look into hydrogen cars. Encourage the distribution outlets to get ready for hydrogen storage. Also look at parking fees and have a sliding scale of fees as well as special permit facilities. There should also be a revision of motor taxes

- *If elected, how would you support the development and funding of active travel on the Island?*
- *What initiatives do you plan on implementing within your parish to support the Sustainable Transport Policy and encourage increased sustainable transport amongst your Parishioners.*

More bus routes, especially along the north of the island

- 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?*

Make it safer, easier and more fashionable. Lighter bikes would also help and easier storage at the other end of the journey.

- 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?*

It would be unrealistic for someone expect a child to walk from Sion to St John's primary school. For secondary school children bikes are a solution but bicycling into school in St Helier on a cold, dark, winter morning is not attractive. Public transport is the answer or school subsidised buses.

- 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?*

Jersey should be at the forefront of all experimental and innovative forms of power production, distribution and transport. We should not be lagging behind as we are at present.

- **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?*

Again it depends on financial resources, but I would make this a priority. Maybe we need a carbon tax on car ownership or car mileage. Companies should also be encouraged to allow employees to work at home more and to have flexi hours, especially in an island where the service sector is large. The town car parking policies and parking prices should also be examined. At the moment car parking is very cheap compared to other places. There should be a new system of car parking fees.

- **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?*

Encourage carbon capture in the soil as well as financial sanctions against the big consumer of fossil fuels.

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

Possibly a set-aside policy as was used in the UK on a rotating basis. Encourage carbon capture in the soil

- 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

- **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 would have voted for it because the maintenance of fish stocks are vital for the island and the rest of the world.

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?*

Absolutely essential that the farming community should be on board. Too often this has not been the case. Farmers and environmentalists should work hand in hand not against each other.

- 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?*

See answer to question above

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

This is not something that can be achieved overnight only by long and frequent consultation between environmentalists and farmers and politicians. Agriculture must become part of the solution to climate change.

- **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?*

It doesn't seem to be doing anything at all. We need to give climate change much greater attention than at present. A green tax earmarked for a special fund maybe?

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?*

This is something that has to be encouraged at a very early age. It would also be good to have more repair facilities. There are only a handful of people/companies who repair domestic appliances for example. There are now more clothing repair shops than a few years ago.

- 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 John started recycling before other parishes. We should now have a system that waste is weighed according to category and you should then be given a rate rebate at the end of the year if you come in under a certain weight. Also plastic recycling should be made easier.

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?*

More forceful political presence tied to an image of being an experimental island.

- 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?*
- **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?*

We should have top experts in our finance industry encouraged to come up with feasible projects.

- **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?*

First chart where scope 3 emissions are likely to occur in the supply and distribution chains. Put an educational programme in place and then a way of checking progress

- **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?*

Not sure that carbon offsetting is a panacea. You may be able to save on carbon emission somewhere only to pollute more elsewhere. I think this area need serious study.

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?*

By allotting more time to the subject and getting at least one aspect, transport, under control.