

MY ROLE AS A VALE DEPUTY OVER THE LAST FOUR YEARS

During my time at Commerce & Employment I helped to oversee the development/instigation of the following initiatives, expressly designed as economic and business enablers:

- ▶ NEW SLAUGHTERHOUSE (member of the project board)
- ▶ IMAGE RIGHTS LEGISLATION
- ▶ GUERNSEY AIRCRAFT REGISTRY

I was a Commerce & Employment representative on the Construction Industry Forum and helped to identify 2 issues that required attention:

- ▶ The need for the procurement process to provide benefits to the Guernsey economy by engaging, whenever possible, the services of local contractors/suppliers so as to ensure that the majority of the spend stays on-island (there is more to do on this and if re-elected I will continue to pursue this matter).
- ▶ The need for the College of Further Education to provide a wider range of training and apprenticeship courses on-island (albeit with a greater financial contribution from local businesses to help make the courses viable) to reduce the need for local employers to incur the cost of sending trainees off-island.

SCRUTINY / THE SYSTEM / STATES FINANCES

Throughout my first political term I have made a determined effort to hold the States to account and if given the opportunity will continue to do so.

Too often, upon being elected to a Department (to be known as Principal Committees under the reformed government structure), well intentioned deputies believe they are joining a team, this is a fundamental error. Clearly they are in position to work on behalf of their Department but their first duty is to represent the public, provide scrutiny and oversight to ensure that policies, functions and services are appropriate, of a decent quality and providing best value. If returned I will relay this message with regularity and clarity because under the new government structure with fewer States members and fewer Principal Committees with enlarged mandates and additional responsibilities, this duty will take on a greater importance.

If re-elected it is my intention to stand for a position on the new Scrutiny Management Committee. The SMC, with a strengthened mandate and

additional resources, should enable the process of scrutiny to be far more meaningful. Scrutiny should not only be about lessons learnt, a greater application of timely and real time scrutiny in an effort to avoid the development of unnecessary policies and expenditure is needed. Policies, functions, services and expenditure across the States must be subject to comprehensive scrutiny/analysis and Principal Committees should be subject to regular audits to assess their policy and financial performance.

“The purpose of the system is to help create a fair and orderly society, not burden us with unnecessary bureaucracy or red tape”

The pay bill is the single biggest item of States expenditure. Due to the wide variety of public services a miscellany of skills are required to provide those services and staff need to be remunerated accordingly, but I question why the number of employees in the highest pay bracket has doubled in less than 2 years. If returned I will continue to press for review and reform in this area. Indeed the Public Sector Reform, over time, promises efficiencies, a reform dividend and improved public services. This is a welcome initiative but

it must be monitored carefully to ensure that these objectives are delivered and the benefits are felt by islanders in the short and long term.

During the last 4 years the States extended the 10% aspect of the 0-10 corporate tax regime three times to increase the take from the corporate sector. In addition a tax on retail profits above £500,000 was approved enabling revenue to be captured from the larger retailers who previously paid little or no tax. If other ways could be identified to increase tax revenues without further burdening low to middle income islanders I would consider supporting them.

The system is meant to serve you and me, it should not be self serving and should not impose upon us. The purpose of the system (policies, legislation, administration etc) is to help create a fair and orderly society and assist people in the living of their lives and the running of their businesses, not burden us with unnecessary bureaucracy or red tape. It should not be designed to confuse, bewilder or overwhelm, if it does these things then its purpose and function need to be revisited.

I believe in the principles of the welfare state where support and assistance is provided to those who genuinely require it but claiming benefit must not be seen as a career option.

ACCESS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION CODE

If re-elected I will press for improvements in the Information Code. At present the default position is to try and find reasons to withhold rather than disclose information. This is not good enough.

“The States must aspire to higher levels of accountability and transparency”

ISLAND WIDE VOTING / REFERENDUM

I have always believed that the ability to hold referendums should be enabled, especially when it comes to constitutional matters and electoral reform.

As such, I submitted a number of rule 6 questions to the Policy Council pressing them to advance the legislation required to enable referendum. In 2015, during the debate on the States Review Committees third policy letter, Deputy Chris Green and I placed a successful amendment directing the

States Assembly and Constitution Committee to investigate and identify workable models of Island Wide Voting and to report back to the States by no later than 2018 so that one or more of the models could be selected and then be subject to a referendum. I am fairly agnostic about Island Wide Voting and am not dissatisfied with the current district based system, but I believe in the democratic process and if it can be established via a referendum that the majority of islanders want a form of Island Wide Voting then that choice should be accommodated.

IN CONCLUSION / THE ROLE OF A DEPUTY

In a system of democratic representation it is vitally important that a partnership is formed between the electorate and the elected. The role of a peoples deputy is to govern and serve, listen to, address and represent the views and concerns of parishioners and islanders. The true measure of

a politician is the quality and value of service that he/she provides to the community. I believe I have remained faithful to the values and policy ideas laid out in my 2012 manifesto and if re-elected I will again be guided by the principles contained within this manifesto.

Why vote for LAURIE QUERIPPEL for Vale Deputy?

Laurie is:

- ☒ Committed & Determined
- ☒ Passionate & Energetic
- ☒ Open Minded
- ☒ Diligent & Organised

He has:

- ☒ A desire to pursue the issues and ask the pertinent questions
- ☒ A willingness to listen and seek out answers and solutions
- ☒ An ability to research, scrutinise and analyse matters in order to reach informed conclusions.

Grateful thanks to my proposer Maureen de Jong (Retired Banking Manager) and seconder Henry Lancaster (States member 1979 - 1985).

If we don't meet on the doorstep and you have any queries or suggestions please feel free to contact me directly.

Tel: 01481 200423

Email: laurie.queripel@gmail.com

Vote Laurie Queripel for Vale Deputy



“Traditional values, progressive ideas”

VALE DEPUTY ELECTIONS 27 APRIL 2016

Dear fellow Vale parishioner,

I stated in my 2012 manifesto that the next few years would be crucial for Guernsey and that if the right steps were taken the Island would have a good future. These observations still apply and if anything are even more relevant today.

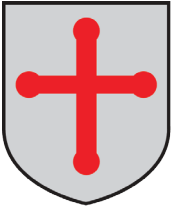
I was privileged to be elected to the States as a Vale Deputy in 2012 and as such I am aware of most of the challenges and issues facing our community.

These challenges, although significant, are not insurmountable and if I am fortunate enough to be re-elected I would be very keen to bring to bear the experience and knowledge I have gained over the last four years to help address these issues and secure the future well being of our Island home.

Among the key objectives will be:

- ▶ The States living within its means and returning to a balanced budget
- ▶ Remaining competitive from a business perspective while securing sufficient revenues to maintain a high quality level of services
- ▶ Meeting the demographic challenge without significantly increasing the size of the population

Please vote for me, Laurie Queripel.





LAURIE'S FACT FILE

- 55 year old Guernseyman
- First elected to the States in 2012
- Member of the Scrutiny Committee
- Member of the Legislation Select Committee
- Member of the Commerce & Employment Department (May 2012 – September 2014)
- Vale Douzenier since January 2009
- Parish Constable in 2011 and 2012
- Prior to being elected, I was self employed for over 25 years (mainly working within the local construction industry).

PRIORITISATION / REPRESENTATION / INCLUSIVE GOVERNMENT

The current Assembly has approved a number of strategies. We do need to plan for the future economically, socially, strategically and environmentally to ensure the well being of our island for this and coming generations. However, I suspect many islanders feel disconnected from government because they cannot relate to the development of so many high level strategies with little or no practical application. Good intentions need to be converted into something tangible and the benefits must be felt at grass roots level in a way that touches islanders everyday lives.

Resources are precious and prioritisation will be an essential theme in the next States. The States should not add unnecessary cost to our lives. Resources should be targeted where there is evidence that they are required and any action taken needs to be appropriate,

proportionate and right for Guernsey. Not all change is for the better and therefore cannot be classed as progress.

Our Island has a unique identity and culture, doing things the Guernsey way has served us well. Our forebears were resourceful and resilient with a desire to be self determining, this spirit must be preserved. Truly progressive change will not subsume but rather sit alongside our rich heritage which must be valued and defended. If I am part of the next Assembly these thoughts will be uppermost in my mind when putting forward or considering proposals for change. This is the thinking behind my manifesto slogan.

“Traditional values, progressive ideas”

During this term I have tried to apply the following 4 part test to all policy proposals considered by the Assembly (if re-elected I will continue to do so):

- **IS IT NECESSARY?**
- **WILL IT BE EFFECTIVE?**
- **IS IT AFFORDABLE?**
- **WILL IT PROVIDE VALUE FOR MONEY?**

“Our forebears were resourceful and resilient with a desire to be self determining, this spirit must be preserved”

Operational matters often impact upon islanders lives and I believe that greater political attention is needed in this area so I have taken a back to basics approach during this term. By way of a few examples and arising from Vale parishioners requests I have worked with the Vale Douzaine and Guernsey Electricity to improve street lighting along the Braye Road, I successfully petitioned the Environment Department to restore the L'Abbaye crossroads filter system, and I pressed both the Home and Environment Departments to take steps to tackle the problem of abandoned vehicles - measures to address this issue will be forthcoming. I have worked on over a 100 constituency cases, many, but unfortunately not all, have been successfully concluded.

If re-elected I will continue to make great efforts in these areas because government should help to foster an inclusive society that values, enables, empowers and works with its people.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING / DERELICT VINERIES

The Housing Department and the Guernsey Housing Association have achieved much in developing social housing and providing opportunities for partial ownership. However, on its own the Corporate Housing Programme is not enough. Currently there are approximately 600 permissions for development that have not been acted upon. In addition, there are a significant number of properties on the market towards the more affordable end, some are the result of recent development, others are longer standing.

An existing resource is going unused, which with some good will and cooperation could be utilised. I have been made aware that a number of developers would be willing to get involved in the provision of affordable housing by working in partnership with the States. Dialogue, which I would be happy to be a part of, could be opened with interested developers in the hope of formulating a more inclusive action plan for affordable housing.

It is a waste of a resource to see so many vergées of land lying neglected in the form of derelict vineries. I have put forward and would like to continue to pursue the idea of proportional development whereby some development is permitted to take place on derelict vinery sites either for housing or commercial/industrial use on condition that the rest of the site is cleared and cleaned to create open/ green spaces which could be used for agricultural activity and bio diversity purposes. These sites, that were developed for commercial use anyway, could then be of an economic, social and environmental benefit.

EXTERNAL TRANSPORT LINKS

A regular and reliable sea link service suited to Guernsey's needs, strategically, socially and economically is vital. I would support any measures that would enable the States to take a more robust approach in holding Condor to account in order to provide the Island and islanders with the standard of service that they need and deserve (including more direct States involvement if it proved to be absolutely necessary).

RECIPROCAL HEALTH AGREEMENT

It is highly unlikely that the UK government will agree to the restoration of the RHA, although this matter should still be pursued by the States if the opportunity arises. In October 2015 a successful amendment proposed by Deputy Fallaize and seconded by myself directed the Social Security Department to investigate a health scheme to cover islanders travelling to the UK, the investigation to include the possibility of working with a private sector provider.

Deputy Fallaize and I developed this amendment because we had been contacted by so many islanders who were either elderly or had pre-existing conditions. The story was always the same, either travel insurance could not be obtained or the premium quoted in most cases was beyond their means (often several hundred pounds). These islanders were left with a stark choice, take a risk and travel without insurance or don't travel and in effect be trapped on island (most simply wanted to visit family and or friends in

the UK for a few days). In the current economic environment we felt this model represented a pragmatic, feasible and affordable solution, a way at least of covering islanders who travel to the UK. The positive response we received from SSD seemed to confirm our view and the Department have pledged to prioritise this work-stream. This is a good news story, a scheme of this nature could be in place in the very foreseeable future.

EDUCATION

I voted in favour of removing selection at 11 (11+) in support of the equality of opportunity ethos allied to the Education Departments Vision.

The States have determined that in an all ability system it is important that policies are established to enable gifted and talented pupils to be recognised and an environment created that will help to stimulate and challenge them. By the same token policies are also required to cater for those who may seek to disrupt the learning process. In the next States there may be an attempt to reinstate the 11+ but if I am part of the Assembly it will take a very persuasive case indeed to convince me to vote in favour of returning to a form of selection.

I voted to retain a 4 school model for secondary education.

I could understand the rationale for moving to 3 schools (possible financial savings, more efficient use of facilities, research that suggests educational outcomes are not harmed by having larger schools). Nonetheless I believe that the sense of community and belonging are stronger in schools with smaller cohorts and the quality of pastoral care higher. I think the La Mare area benefits, in a wider social sense, from having a school campus in its midst and as such hope that the rebuild goes ahead. However I do think that the Education Department could have helped the cause by putting forward a more modest design at less cost.

POPULATION

I strongly supported and along with many other islanders campaigned for a birthright status to be granted to children born of Guernsey families (one parent and one grandparent). This campaign was successful and Guernsey will now, along with many other jurisdictions, have a system in place that will allow these children to claim Guernsey as their state from birth (a form of citizenship).

During the debate on the Policy Councils New Population Regime report in July 2013 Deputy Dave Jones and I placed an amendment directing that the TRP restriction be retained so that properties at the lower/affordable end of the housing market would continue to be accessible to islanders only and not license/permit holders.

Our reasoning was that if this end of the market was opened up to those who had been granted permits (some of whom would come with the benefit of relocation packages) it would be even more difficult for young locals seeking to buy a home to get onto the property ladder. Unfortunately this amendment failed but we did get a second amendment approved that placed a provision in the Law that would enable the TRP restriction, or something similar, to be restored if its removal subsequently proved to disadvantage locals.

The idea of pursuing significant population growth via inward migration to help meet our future economic and public service funding challenges will just create a vicious circle with the exercise having to be repeated every few years resulting in the population increasing to 70/80,000 and beyond, it is simply not sustainable. Guernsey is one of the most densely populated places in the world, so foremost in our thinking must be the quality of life for islanders and the limits of our land mass, infrastructure and services. Smarter methods need to be identified to help address the demographic challenges that we face.

We need to find ways to facilitate and assist businesses, employers and employees plus those of working age who are currently not in work so that their full potential can be realised and their contribution to the economy optimised. Key to this will be the adequate provision of affordable premises for traditional business sectors, heavy and light industry which will in turn help to diversify the economy, provide employment opportunities, maintain and enhance the skills base and ensure that vital services can be provided from on island. This should be part of a strategic rethink in regard to the way the States works with the construction industry and associated sectors.

The non local white van man issue is only part of the equation. Guernsey is, in effect, an isolated economy, money that is spent off-island (non local contractors, suppliers, consultants etc) is usually gone forever, its value and added value lost to our economy.

“Research strongly suggests that every pound spent on-island could be worth between five and ten pounds in the longer term”

An unfettered free market approach cannot be applied in a small community such as Guernsey. Proportionate States support and protection, for strategic and economic reasons, needs to be considered. Jersey reached this conclusion a long time ago. The ludicrous situation exists whereby Guernsey traders contracted to work in Jersey have to register, meet with certain conditions and pay a permit fee, conversely Jersey traders who wish to work in our Island do not have to comply with any such requirements.

Any population growth via inward migration must be measured against the social, economic and environmental aims of the States Strategic Plan and proved to provide a net benefit. Bringing lots of people into the Island to do low value jobs or to drive down the value of jobs that islanders already do simply does not make sense. Of course we need to

ensure that we possess the ability to respond to new business opportunities that will add value to our economy.

L'ANCRESSE COMMON / GOLF COURSE

I was part of a small team of Vale Deputies led by Deputy Fallaize who successfully brokered a deal between the Vale Commons Council and the L'Ancrese golf clubs that enabled a new lease to be negotiated for the playing of golf on the Common for the next 25 years.

This agreement will provide the VCC with much needed extra funds so that they can continue their good work in maintaining the area of the Common they have responsibility for and also expand their efforts in regard to its upkeep and to meet modern standards of environmental management.

WASTE

It is hard to argue with the Waste Hierarchy (prevention, reuse, recycling, recovery, disposal) as many of the resources we consume are of a finite nature.

We know that simply dumping our untreated waste into a hole in the ground is the cheapest form of disposal, but it is not sustainable or environmentally friendly (I still maintain however that landfill via modern methods whereby waste is processed to produce a uniform material, i.e. pellets and reduce odour would be an acceptable and viable option). Any new waste strategy will come at a greater cost than our current method of disposal but it cannot be at all costs, it must be affordable for the States and for households.

“simply dumping our untreated waste into a hole in the ground is the cheapest form of disposal but it is not acceptable”