

STATES OF JERSEY

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BELLOZANNE WASTE TREATMENT WORKS: PETITION

**Lodged au Greffe on 28th March 2006
by Deputy J.B. Fox of St. Helier**

STATES GREFFE

PROPOSITION

THE STATES are asked to decide whether they are of opinion –

to request the Minister for Transport and Technical Services –

- (a) to undertake an assessment of the Bellozanne Sewage Treatment Works by the end of 2006 to identify the sources of the unpleasant smells that are causing a nuisance to those living and working in the vicinity of the Works; and
- (b) to prepare a full engineering appraisal, following the assessment, showing how the smells could be minimized and setting out the total capital cost of the required buildings, enclosures, odour control equipment and all associated engineering works, and to request the Minister to then make the necessary submission based on the appraisal, as part of the capital prioritization process, so that funds can be sought to enable the remedial work to be undertaken.

DEPUTY J.B. FOX OF ST. HELIER

REPORT

On Thursday 16th March 2006, I received a petition of 434 names from Mrs. Judy Beaumont of Pomme d'Or Flats, West Hill, St. Helier, which reads as follows –

“To His Excellency, Air Chief Marshal Sir John Cheshire KBE CB, Lieutenant Governor.

To Sir Philip Bailhache, Bailiff, President.

To Members of the States of Jersey,

‘The humble petition of the residents/workers of the First Tower area shews, their concern about the smells permeating throughout the adjacent residential areas from the Waste Water Treatment Works and accordingly, your petitioners pray that, Environment and Public Services Committee shall endeavour to make funds available to resolve this problem and thus minimize these foul, unpleasant smells, which cause considerable nuisance in our daily lives and your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.’ ”

To support this petition Mrs. Beaumont has compiled the following points that the residents/workers of the First Tower area have stated the reasons as outlined.

1. *The smell is repugnant.*
2. *It can linger for days on and I have recorded it for up to a 14 day stretch, day and night.*
3. *Weather is a factor, hot heavy weather without wind. It sits in the valley and is drawn towards the sea, usually very slowly clearing often staying into the afternoon or evening.*
4. *It permeates properties without even the windows open, especially ours as they are single glazed. Many flats on the estate have made this comment.*
5. *It has awoken me in the night and makes me feel sick and this disgusting smell has made my mouth taste the same. This has happened to other residents too.*
6. *The staff at the sewage works and surrounding offices can vouch for the smell; it is in their offices as they arrive for work in the morning, having been trapped inside overnight. It is then impossible to clear because opening windows makes it worse when it is outside too. The Director, John Rogers, at the works suffers the same fate in his own office.*
7. *Heavy morning or overnight dew makes the smell cling in the valley not allowing it to escape.*
8. *You cannot put out washing when there is a smell and if you do, it absorbs the smell.*
9. *In the summer, on those nice warm days, evenings it's impossible to sit outside or even open windows or doors. Visitors to your home are amazed and usually disgusted at its stench and can't believe that we have to accept it.*
10. *It is a constant factor in the First Tower School, which the Headmistress/Caretaker battle to overcome on a weekly basis for the sake of all the children.*
11. *The seagulls use it as a local restaurant, dipping and diving and eating the fats off the top of the sewer cells, and whatever else they can retrieve. Then the seagulls come onto the surrounding rooftops and regurgitate it to eat, especially when they are feeding young. This must surely have some serious health implications?*
12. *We put up with the whole Island's excrement! Why should we alone suffer, when it is everyone's responsibility? We realise the Treatment Works will not be moved and therefore accept that only*

capping, venting and housing the relevant areas will be the answer to this issue.

To support the residents/workers I ask the States today to request the Minister of Transport and Technical Services to bring forward a proposal from the Department to resolve the odour problem at Bellozanne, which we recognize is a large and complex project that will require several million pounds of expenditure. It is appreciated at this time that a figure is unavailable without a full engineering appraisal and risk assessment.

I am advised that it will be necessary to –

- (1) Assess the sewage treatment works and identify the areas where smells emanate. Carry out an appraisal of the individual components in that area and determine the number of air changes required per hour.

This will then determine whether the electrical appliances within that area will then fall into a hazardous classification. If so, they will either have to be removed from that area or replaced with new equipment that falls within the zone classification for that area.

- (2) With the above information, the engineers can then prepare a capital estimate for the cost of buildings, enclosures, odour control equipment and the cost of changing the electrical equipment to conform to the new hazardous zone requirements. Once this is done the Minister will be able to submit the necessary bid to the States' capital programme so that funds can be made available to enable the work to be completed.

Financial and manpower implications

The financial implications for the Minister for Transport and Technical Services of complying with this proposition itself are linked to the cost of the feasibility study and technical appraisal which I am advised may cost up to £100,000. The Minister has agreed to fund the initial odour survey and scoping work from the Department's budget. The balance will have to be provided from a planning vote for the detailed technical development work, should the scheme be approved in principle for inclusion in the forward capital programme. The costs of the actual remedial works are not known but are considered significant, certainly several million pounds. There is no headroom within the currently approved capital programme 2006 – 2010 to contain such costs without deferring or deleting an existing scheme of commensurate value.

The manpower implications of implementing the remedial works cannot be determined until a feasibility study has been undertaken.

Form of petition

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PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY AND IN CAPITALS

ADDRESS	NAME	SIGNATURE

434 signatures