

PERSONAL STATEMENTS

7. The Connétable of St. Peter:

The 14th July 2008 will seem a distant memory for many but for the residents living and working at Broadlands St. Peter it was a day they will never forget. Over 40 family members and children were affected by one of the worst fires in recent years. I would like to pay tribute to all parishioners and friends Island-wide who rallied with support, time and the donation of all types of clothing and furniture in their hour of need demonstrating the care and compassion shown by so many. As Connétable I warmly thank my senior Procurer, Rector and Deputy, the States Fire Services, the States Police and the Ambulance Service along with the support staff from the Housing, Social Security and Tourism Departments, and the emergency officer. A special thank you to my Chef des Police and fellow members together with officers from neighbouring parishes who did not have to be called but appeared suddenly in St. Peter to assist in the hour of need. Also the outstanding work done by my parish secretary and staff at the parish hall and community centre; not forgetting the ladies who manned the clothing distribution at the St. Thomas' Church Hall. My thanks to St. Peter's grande marche and the many businesses who responded immediately with offers of help and food preparation later into the night. Finally to the parish and Island businesses and organisations along with many individual residents who contributed to the magnificent total of £50,000 that was donated to support the fund which I launched within 48 hours of the fire. My thanks to Mr. John Refault, my senior Procurer, Mr. Chris Bright, Editor of the *Jersey Evening Post*, Reverend Martin Poltin, Rector of St. Peter and Jurat John Le Brettle who were responsible for the fund allocation, which has now been distributed. That fund is now officially closed. Thank you to the Chief Minister and Members of this House for their concern and support for everyone affected by this dreadful fire, along with the news teams of the *Jersey Evening Post*, BBC, Radio Jersey and Spotlight News, Channel Television and Channel 103 for their sensitive reporting of a very difficult experience for so many families who were left with only the clothes they were wearing. In a very kind gesture from the management of the Living Legend St. Peter it is very pleasing to see the families enjoy a relaxed evening recently. My sincere thanks to everyone for your help and support for so many in their hour of need. **[Approbation]**