

I have, like the majority I would imagine, watched and listened with a degree of interest to the ongoing hospital project. My concern is that, as is usual in an apathetic democracy, the negative views of a vocal minority overshadow the real attitudes of the majority. It is widely accepted that those who are disgruntled are more likely to speak up than those who are either happy or apathetic. Therefore, the relatively minor objections to the hospital project should not be allowed to outweigh the general feeling. When the People's Park protest took place the turn out was tiny. I heard this morning that there had been 'more than 30' responses to the public consultation according to Senator Moore. 30? If the number is so small why not be accurate? That is a paltry response from an island of over 100k. Again, I suspect that the unhappy islanders are of a limited demographic or, will be living near part of the proposed development. Senator Moore indicated that it was unjust to use borrowing to pay for the hospital as it would be paid for over 40 years by our children and grandchildren - this surely makes absolute sense as it those who will be using the facility. I fail to see how that is a valid objection. As an island we are happy to boast that we have 'world class' fibre broadband and that we have 'world leading' financial services, yet there is a question over whether we need world class healthcare. I know which I'd rather have - and it's not financial services or fibre broadband. I work in education and have seen the upheaval and heartache when children or parents are forced away for complex treatment - having a world class hospital might alleviate this. That's worth paying for. I believe that Overdale is a perfectly acceptable site - there was nothing wrong with People's Park. The park could have been developed then the current hospital site reverted to park land. The Overdale site is a mess and has outdated and unsuitable facilities - the scheme makes sense. Yes, some trees will be uprooted, others can be planted - why not commit to plant 10x the number uprooted? I would suggest that the overwhelming majority of islanders want a resolution to this ongoing debacle and, if they're honest, they don't want the views of a limited minority of largely privileged elderly landowners to hold the rest of the island to ransom. Against the cited 'all negative responses' to the Overdale proposal please note this down as one in favour.