

## **Government Plan Review The Jersey National Park**

To The Environment, Housing and Scrutiny Panel

Dear Constable Mike Jackson.

24/09/2019

I thank you for your invitation for a written submission on behalf of the Jersey National Park which I am pleased to forward and add to previous more comprehensive comments from Jim Hopley.

The Panel will already have been made aware from Jim Hopley, Hon Chair of the J(C)NP, that much has been achieved by a small interim working group since the official endorsement of the Jersey National Park into the Island Plan 2011.

During the past five years, following a set of three one-day stakeholder workshops in 2014, every realistic suggestion and recommendation has been achieved, primarily, by Jim Hopley and myself.

This has been attained through modest financial support from the Government of Jersey Environment Department, The Tourism Development Fund and through private donations and, in 2017, as a chosen beneficiary of The Island Walk.

Such continuous voluntary endeavours have recently culminated in acquiring a six-year lease on the Frances Le Sueur Centre at La Mielle de Morville, St Ouen. Following the promise of much needed interior and exterior refurbishment of this architecturally attractive timber building, our future intentions are to increase usage of the centre for the environmental benefit of NGOs, the general public and especially young families.

In this respect, the goal of the Jersey National Park is to achieve the following.

### **INFORMATION.**

The Frances Le Sueur Centre will promote public awareness of the value and diversity of the landscape and wildlife within the Parks boundaries while similarly focussing attention on other serious environmental issues such as climate change, plastic pollution, waste management and population.

### **EDUCATION**

By concentrating on young minds, the centre will continue to encourage a better understanding of the wealth of biodiversity that totally rely on the many different habitats that lie within the boundaries of the entire Jersey National Park. This will be achieved by encouraging increased usage of the centre by local family-friendly environmental study groups and organisations.

## EVENTS

The Frances Le Sueur Centre is extremely well placed for holding a variety of both indoor and outdoor events. These would include walks, talks and exhibitions relating to local history, culture and nature study. Such exhibitions would be widened further to include such interests as local wildlife photography and environmentally themed arts and crafts.

It can genuinely be considered that such practical intentions fit perfectly into the Proposed Common Strategic Policy 2018-22.

It's mission statement clearly declares that "We will protect and value our environment by embracing environmental innovation and ambition, by protecting the natural environment through conservation, protection and sustainable resources".

With regard to the request for comments relating specifically to questions 3, 6 and 7, might I please offer the following.

3 - The level of resourcing has been reviewed, considered and agreed upon by others with a far more extensive professional ability than myself.

6 - Full accountability will be scrutinised by a proposed Jersey National Park Board of Advisers. These will consist of stakeholders living and working within the parks boundaries and agencies with major associated interests - JEC, Jersey Water for instance.

7 - With the current increase in serious environmental issues, both global and local, it is felt that a Jersey National Park brand, and particularly a 'home base' such as the Frances Le Sueur Centre, has a major opportunity to encourage future public engagement. Encompassing, as it does, some 16% land mass of the Island, the Park has a duty of shared stewardship with other stakeholders, not only for the protection of a stunning landscape, but of furthering likewise protective measures towards an increasingly beleaguered biodiversity.

Once again, I thank you for this opportunity of contributing a modest addition to the previous comprehensive comments from Jim Hopley. I know we are both passionate in securing the remarkable environmental potential of our Jersey National Park.

With best and kind regards,



Mike Stentiford MBE  
Jersey National Park interim working group.