

PAUL LE PELLEY



PROMISES MADE, PROMISES KEPT

Dear Elector,

I am seeking re-election as a Deputy in the electoral district of ST SAMPSON, having been elected for the first time in 2012.

WHAT I STAND FOR AT A GLANCE

- A smaller and more efficient Government and Civil Service.
- Living within our means.
- Maintaining our independence and safeguarding our rights and privileges
- Increasing the quality of Education provision from pre-school to post 16.
- Resolving and implementing the Island Waste Strategy.
- Some form of Island Wide Voting.
- Improving our air and sea communication links.
- Housing provision for first time buyers and those in need of Social Housing.
- Implementing the Inclusion and Disability Strategy and other Equality Issues.
- Improved Health Care and the Reintroduction of a Reciprocal Health Agreement.
- Care of the elderly.
- Greater respect for the Guernsey Way and the island's character, culture and heritage.
- Development and Protection of the Economy.
- Continuation and Extension of the Government working closely with the third sector.

I do not want a Goods and Services Tax (GST), Paid Parking, UK/EU interference in our daily lives or any Secondary School Closures.

I will be calling at the address of everyone on the St Sampson's electoral roll during the next three weeks and will be happy to discuss with each and every one of you, the issues referred to in this manifesto. I will be happy to answer any other questions you may have. Should we miss each other, please feel free to contact me, either by phone or email.

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A BIT ABOUT ME

I am married to Catherine. We have two children – one who since my last manifesto has graduated from Durham University and the other who is studying at the Sixth Form Centre – and also share our house with Chino the house rabbit (who is the best listener). I was a teacher for over thirty years at St Sampson's Secondary School. Before joining the States of Deliberation in 2012, I was the Curator of the Folk and Costume Museum for 7 years. Currently I am the Junior Constable of St Sampson, a Parish Welfare Officer and regularly participate in Community Police Patrols around the parish.

In my role as Deputy, I have served on the following Boards, Committees or Working Parties:

- Housing (Board representative on disability and mental health matters)
- Culture & Leisure (Board representative on disability matters)
- Scrutiny (Vice Chair)
- SLAWS (Supported Living and Ageing Well in Society)
- SWBIC (Social Welfare Benefits Investigation Committee)
- Assistant to Disability Champion
- Douzaine Liaison Committee

I have lived and worked in the Parish of St Sampson for over forty years. I feel I know my parish and its parishioners well and would very much like to offer my services to you, the electors of St Sampson, so that I can represent you and the wider Island community in the States of Deliberation for a further term.

WHAT I FEEL STRONGLY ABOUT

Smaller More Efficient Government

The Island needs an even leaner, meaner machine of Government.

We have made some progress by reducing the number of Deputies from 45 to 38 - a 15% reduction - and have also reduced the number of Government Departments from 11 to 7. We need to keep a watchful eye on the Chief Executive's 'Service Guernsey' initiative and make sure that it delivers the service that he claims it will.

The Financial Transformation Programme (FTP) has allowed us to make recurring savings in the region of £28m year on year. But we can and must do better. The FTP initiative needs to be continued - perhaps not at the same level of intensity - but continued nevertheless. We are still in difficult financial times.

Consulting and Listening:

The Guernsey people need to be assured that the States of Guernsey is in listening mode. They need to know that consultations are carried out with the knowledge that the Government will act in accordance with the overwhelming view of the public - not do its own thing if it does not like the result.

The *Enough is Enough* (motor tax and emissions) and *We All Matter Eh!* (disability matters) campaigns - both of which I supported - and other lobby groups, which represent large numbers of islanders, must have their views taken into account when policies are being formulated. I have been listening and the message that I have received loud and clear from the electorate is two fold: "Stop spending money unnecessarily and stop trying to find clever ways of taxing the people to fund this spending." I couldn't agree more!

Openness, Transparency and Accountability:

Government must be open and transparent. Of course, some commercially sensitive information may have to be withheld from public disclosure but that said, a lot more of our dealings need to be shared with the general public. A 'Freedom of Information' Act could be of use here. Certainly the new form of Scrutiny, which will come into effect after 1st May, 2016, will have a very important role to play in holding us all to account.

Living Within Our Means:

We all want the best that we can afford. We also want the Government to provide us with all the services that we need. We are living longer so the ratio between our working lives and our time spent in retirement is getting less. The cost of our care in old age is increasing. We are demanding services that will need a 30% tax take to provide for our needs rather than the current 20% income tax rate. This is unsustainable. Either we have to reduce our expectations, dramatically increase our social and tax contributions or the Government has to find other ways of raising revenue to pay for our care in old age.

I am not convinced that the £330 million States of Guernsey Bond issued last year was a good idea. It looks too much like a National Debt, which Guernsey has never had before. I talked and voted against it at the time. I really do hope that my fears are unfounded and that in the long term a good return is obtained.

The Education System in Guernsey:

I recently voted to surmise the debate on the Education Department's proposals on secondary education as I felt that voting for such a contentious set of proposals within six weeks of a general election would turn into an election issue. And so it has!

I voted in favour of the retention of selection at the age of 11 - without the stress of the current 11+ examination. This was in fact the position of the vast majority (61%) of those who completed the Education Department's consultation document "**Your Schools - Your Choice**". What is the point of a Department consulting the public only to totally disregard a response because it does not match the pre-determined decision? Deputy Trott and I proposed selection based on a continuous assessment model over the last two years of a child's Primary School life. Unfortunately, this proposal was defeated. I also supported a four secondary schools model but this idea, too, was defeated.

I am sure that this issue will be debated again in the new Assembly. If re-elected, I will continue to push for the retention of the Grammar School (with a less stressful method of selection) and for our other 3 Secondary High Schools. I do not agree with the suggestion that La Mare de Carteret, which accommodates quite a number of our St Sampson's children, should close. The school is an essential part of the community that surrounds it. We cannot afford to lose it.

Island Waste Strategy:

For far too long, parish officials and members of the public have been kept in the dark about what is going to be implemented and when with regard to our waste disposal. Decisions have been delayed. This uncertainty cannot be allowed to continue. It may well be too late to have a radical re-think on our Waste Strategy - we have to bite the bullet and make the best of a bad job. Decisions need to be made quickly about the continuation of kerb-side recycling collections, the number and location of the Recycle Bring-Banks - we need more not less and not all on the coast where items are too easily blown about the coastline - and what about glass waste?

Where, when and how is our black bag waste to be treated and disposed of? Does it really have to be shipped out through St Peter Port? I would like to see the continuation of free clear and blue bags for paper/cardboard and tins/plastic recyclables and will press for firm answers to the above questions.

Island Wide Voting (IWV):

It appears that the majority of islanders want Island Wide Voting. I was one of the seven Requirants who asked for some form of Island Wide Voting to be debated in the States at the beginning of the year. I support Island Wide Voting in the 2020 General Election - subject to the approval of the referendum to be held early in the next term of Government.

Air and Sea Communication Links:

There can be little doubt that islanders are not satisfied with the services currently being provided. Both Aurigny and Condor have come in for a considerable amount of criticism of late. Condor especially has failed to deliver. The decision to replace two smaller boats with one larger vessel was the wrong policy. The Liberation is the wrong boat for the Guernsey-Poole route. Journeys are too often cancelled due to weather restrictions or technical issues. And prices are too high. Islanders and tourists need a reasonably priced and guaranteed service to and from the islands. The External Transport Group needs to come up with alternative arrangements quickly - a Plan B and a Plan C - the holiday season is already upon us. Locals and tourists alike deserve better.

Housing Provision:

When I was elected in 2012, I promised to get the high-rise Cour du Parc building in La Charroterie back in use. The building is now reconfigured and in use with 50 flats. I also promised to investigate Epworth House in Les Grandes Maisons Road. An extensive survey showed that it was beyond economical repair; plans are now well underway to have it replaced with new buildings on the site.

Housing is still desperately needed for first time buyers and also for social housing tenants. The GHA is doing its best to supply much needed housing. In 2011 the Housing Board had anticipated a need to build 300 or so houses per year (1500 in total) over the next five years. The Board has been frustrated as no construction work has begun on well over 600 permissions to build properties which have been granted by the Environment Department. This number has been taken away from the 1500 mentioned above which has made obtaining other building permissions harder to obtain. Other Departments have not been prepared to release States' owned land for housing projects. Property developers appear to be holding back on starting building operations in the hope that there will be an upturn in the market. Some form of penalty for a site with building permission not being developed could be introduced - TRP being applied as if the building is there - or the withdrawal of building permission after a year would help things along. First time buyers could also be helped by a temporary suspension of stamp duty.

Population Density in St Sampson:

But a word of caution too. As mentioned in the previous paragraph, we do need more houses - and lots of them - but St Sampson is already the second most densely populated parish in the island. It also contains four of the five designated Housing Target Areas (HTAs) with some developers having plans to build 200 - 400 units of accommodation on each of the sites, should one or more of them gain planning approval.

We need to ensure that St Sampson does not become even more congested than it is. An insufficient infrastructure, poor drainage, narrow lanes and busy arterial roads could bring more misery than comfort if things are not handled correctly and in proportion. Other parishes need to take their share of housing too.

Disability and Inclusion Strategy and Other Equality Issues:

In November 2013, Deputies unanimously voted in favour of a Disability and Inclusion strategy but there is still a long way to go before the disabled in our society get the fair deal that they deserve. During my time as a member of the Disability Champion's Team, a Disabilities Officer has been appointed, road crossings have been improved, accessible taxis have been licensed and more disabled parking spaces created in and around Town. But there is so much more to be done to integrate disabled people fully into society and this mission is close to my heart.

I am pleased that the States agreed to bring in legislation to allow same-sex marriage. This is good news for our community but there are many other equality issues that will need to be addressed in the next term of government.

Health Care:

The Health and Social Services Department (HSSD) is a very expensive and difficult Department to run. Indeed it has been overspending its budget for years. I, for one, do not hold this against them. I believe that we need to "grow our own" nurses rather than rely on staff being supplied at great costs by various agencies. We must support our deserving and hardworking nurses (as well as other essential medical staff) and perhaps encourage those who have left the service for family or other reasons to return and offer the appropriate retraining and/or upskilling. This may well require more money but I'd rather invest in local nurses than see money spent on commissions to various agencies for providing short-term overseas staff.

Reciprocal Health Agreement:

For the past four years I have been pushing for the re-in statement of the Reciprocal Health Agreement with the UK. I believe that this is a very worthwhile agreement both for locals wishing to go on holiday or visit relatives in the UK and for visitors or Guernsey people who have settled on the mainland wishing to visit family and friends in the Island. The biggest stumbling block has been how to assess and find the amount required to fund such an agreement. Recently, we debated this matter in the States and were unsuccessful - if re-elected, I will persevere with this important issue.

Care of the Elderly:

The care of the elderly came to the fore in The Supported Living and Ageing Well in Society (SLAWS) debate. I strongly feel that, if they wish to, elderly people should remain in their homes for as long as possible with carers providing support. The two extra-care homes opened recently - La Nouvelle Maraitaine in the Vale and La Grande Courtil in St Martin are care homes of which the Island of Guernsey can be truly proud. With more extra-care places needed and with the north and the south of the Island adequately catered for, I would suggest building a third extra-care home somewhere in the West of the Island.

The Guernsey Way - Our History, Culture and Heritage:

Although hard to define, I think everyone knows what is meant by "The Guernsey Way". We do not like to be rushed. Gentle suggestions are welcome but we do not want to be told forcibly what to do, when or how to do it. We need to celebrate being "Guernsey". We have **every right** to be proud of our Island, our history, culture and heritage and must ensure that this is not lost or forgotten. That includes our customs, folklore, place names, land measures, laws and language. I will fight to ensure that we retain our hard won rights and privileges and that they are not eroded by UK and/or EU directives.

Industries Vital to the Economy:

The economy is probably the most important area of Government concern for it is the driver of everything else. It pays for our education, health, police and fire services.

Whilst ensuring that our shrinking finance industry continues to do good business we also need to maintain a close eye on what the UK and the EU are trying to do to our local fishing industry. We need to be much more assertive in telling the UK and the EU that we are a self-governing independent state that does not have to comply with each and every EU Directive.

We need to encourage tourism - more and more cruise liner passengers are expected in 2016 - and it is imperative that we have a quality product to show off. The excellent work carried out by the Floral Guernsey Legacy team at La Vallette and the work planned at the Little Chapel at Les Vauxbelets are essential to the visitor experience. Initiatives such as these will encourage visitors to come back again and again and also to advertise the Island to their family and friends back home. I would like to address concerns expressed about the damage likely to be done by 'White Van Man' enterprises. People coming to the island to work without paying income tax and social security contributions are a drain on our society. That they may be able to undercut local construction businesses and allied trades because they do not have the same overheads is worrying for the economy. This problem may well require legislation to either prevent such 'white van men' coming to the island or to ensure that they are properly controlled when they are here and pay the dues correctly expected of them.

**I should like to thank Mr D Le Cheminant & Mr L Allen for proposing and seconding my nomination.
Please support me by giving me one of your 'up to six' votes on the 27th April.**