

My name is Barry Paint, I was born in St Saviours and educated both at St Saviour's Parish School and subsequently at Les Beaucamps Secondary School.

My working life has always been connected with the sea. I qualified as a Master Mariner after studying at the London School of Navigation and the Greenhythe Nautical College, spending many years in the Merchant Navy. I have also been a professional fisherman and a Special Marine Pilot for both Guernsey and Jersey whilst Commanding locally owned container ships.

For the 21 years, was a General Marine Pilot operating out of St Sampson's and St Peter Port Harbour until my retirement and after being elected for the first time in 2008.

Diana and myself celebrated 50yrs married life in December last year and we have 1 remaining son and 5 grandchildren, 2 from my son and 3 from my late Daughter.

For the past 8 years I have represented this parish as one of your duly elected Deputies, during which time I have served on the Public Accounts Committee, the Environment Department, the Public Services Remuneration sub-Committee in the 2008/2012 term and the Environment Department (2 years), Housing Department, the Scrutiny Committee, the Sea Front working Group and a committee member of Guernsey's Commonwealth Parliamentary Association since it was formed in the 2012/2016 term.

I have also served on the Castel Douzaine as a Douzenier and was elected as Constable of this parish in 2008/2009.

My aim has always been to offer assistance to Castel parishioners and island-wide residents in need of help or advice. My greatest political disappointment was failing to restore the widow's pension that was abolished for new widows on January 1st 2004.

In this term I have tried twice to repair this shameful event but I'm sad to say that there has not been the political support in this Assembly to do that.

I did not intend to stand in this election but over the last two years I have become very concerned that many of the decisions made by this present Assembly have been very damaging to the Islands people as a whole and I feel that it would be wrong not to stand for election this time whilst I am still reasonably fit and well and may get a chance with a new Assembly to put some of these things right.

Our economy

Guernsey has a long tradition of managing its economy competently. Over the centuries, we have been influential in diverse industries, from exporting preserved fish in the 15th Century, quarrying granite, exporting grapes, tomatoes and flowers, shipbuilding, tourism, to even marmalade production and many other forms of making a living and filling the islands coffers.

It is clear that in the last few years tax receipts have fallen, as our biggest contributor the finance sector has contracted and that there is not enough income to pay for all that the Government would like to do.

I believe that we should only spend what we can afford to spend and not a penny more. The government has to prioritize on all projects and only spend on what is absolutely necessary, at the same time we do everything to improve our income in the future.

The present Assembly in my view has totally failed to do that and that has to be corrected. I do not want to see any money spent on vanity projects, we simply cannot afford to do that anymore.

That can only lead to higher taxes and charges which I will not support. We have to slim down Government and it has to manage with in its income like every single person or family has to do.

It is essential that Government continues to offer support to entrepreneurs who are actively searching out other openings in world market place and not put any obstruction in the way of honest enterprise as has been the case in certain events recently. This will assist us in several ways. It will create employment and bring more revenue into the island without the need to use up valuable land space.

Education

The success of our local industries depends upon our standard of education and will ultimately have a great effect on our future economy. The quality of the education services that we offer our young people has to be the best we can afford and must be a top priority with the next Government.

I am in favour of retaining the education system as it is and not changing to a copy of the failing UK system. We can improve what we have in many ways without disrupting what we have built, which has proved to be very successful in the past and can do in the future if it is properly managed.

I am very sad the State have decided to only have 3 High Schools and to close down the Grammar School and believe that this will have a very adverse effect to our Island education system.

We should not forget the rebuilding La Mare de Carteret School which is essential now after 4 years' of no agreement of what to do on this site. One of the concerns I have about this proposed development is the need for a County Class Sports Centre on the site.

While nice to have, you have to question the wisdom of such expenditure at this time, I do not believe we should be use the millions it will cost when we have so many other pressing needs

I am a great supporter of the Collage of further education who have assisted numerous children who may have been classed as slower or late learners to achieve high qualification in their late teens. I believe this is one of the best part of our education system.

Health

The Health and Social Services is the largest spending department in the States of Guernsey. In the last 4 years this department costs have increased greatly but we still have a much better health service than the UK.

We are informed that it is unlikely that UK would be willing re-establish our former reciprocal agreement or even more unlikely that we could establish a new agreement with the European Union. We are also informed that UK will be attempting to pull out of other reciprocal agreements it has with other countries throughout the world.

It is therefore essential that all people wishing to travel are covered by private travel insurance. If they choose not the financial circumstances to them could be disastrous.

For those that that cannot be covered by private travel insurance because of age or health problems we have to do all we can to find some way that the risk to them is in some way reduced. As I understand this is an ongoing issue and is being look at the moment.

Social Security and Benefits.

We all know that there are many local people who could not survive without States support and helping those at the bottom is a policy I agree with. However, I equally believe that the Social Security Department should make more effort in encouraging those who are fit to work to do so that they can contribute to the local community.

In the last 4 year this department has done a lot of work in encouraging the unemployed back into employment, or as my good friend Deputy Dave Jones says "those lying in bed looking for work" but much more needs to be done to achieve the best results and I'm sure that SSD will continue to make sure everyone has a place in society.

This could be achieved using various work fare initiatives. For example, those unemployed could be used to maintain our cliff paths and beaches. This would not only give them a useful source of income but also help to keep them within the work ethic. My opinion has not changed on this since the last election.

Agriculture, Horticulture and Fisheries

Most of our food continues to be imported, making us very vulnerable to UK commercial forces on prices, not helped by the constant rises in Harbour fees which push up the price of all goods to families on the island. The cost of living in Guernsey has now become a major issue and I will work with others who want to try and drive it down.

Farmers

The milk producing Farms are now reduced to 14 farms in all and are in some way supported by the State which is essential to their survival.

Some supply other food stuff to assist them in making a living but the loss of their herds is critical, they are a part of Guernsey's culture and history and this industry must be supported despite the best efforts of some of those trying to wreck it by constant meddling,

Growers

It is proving much cheaper and for some more convenient to import our vegetables and flowers from UK, Jersey and other Countries which is a great pity. For over 150 years we lead the world in Horticulture the export of grapes, tomato's then flowers and other produce.

With the huge changes in chilling and mass production and fast shipping of produce grown in warmer climates that all helped devastate our local industries. I hope that we can

continue to produce at least some of the food stuff we need in the future, I believe that we could return to what these industries once were as shipping costs rise. It is something we should invest in, even to the point of becoming self-sufficient in much of our local produce.

Fishing

For centuries fishing our Islands waters has earned many people a living. That has not changed but it is becoming much more difficult and expensive to do so.

We have a very small fleet of fishing boats which fish for a large variety of species. About 80 or 90% of what is caught is exported bringing into our economy £4 to 5 million per year and helps keep people employed.

Unfortunately we do not have full control of the waters we fish and have to follow some UK and EU directives. They are trying to get back to the fishing levels they had decades ago and for them to be sustainable, unfortunately EU fishing policies are making matters worse for us, not better. We on the other hand have managed to do that in many ways compared other countries and we must not allow those outside to jeopardize our stocks or our industry with arbitrary quotas.

The size of most of our fishing vessels is quite small which limits them to the weather they can fish in. some of our neighboring countries do not have fishing boats they have fishing ships that can continue their operations no matter the weather is and do much more damage to fish stocks in one week then our fishermen do in one year.

Law and Order

On the whole and at the moment Guernsey is a very low risk crime jurisdiction and I hope it will remain that way. I appreciate that the police have a very difficult and sometimes unpopular job to do and appear to be very restricted in what they are permitted to do. I understand that individual human rights have to be observed but it seems to me that the criminal is far better protected than the victim on occasions!

Transport Links

Our Air links appear to be working reasonably although it is inconceivable to me that we do not have the number of flights linking us with Jersey as we used to, especially when there are events in our sister Island that Guernsey people would like to go to. Aurigny is being subsidized by the tax payer each year but although I'm not too happy with subsidies, I cannot see any other way that we could continue to guarantee that we have regular air links under our control, which has been a problem in the past, having our own airline is our insurance policy but of course it comes at a cost. I say this because nearly all of the private airlines since the last war have come and gone. The question of the cost of flying also needs be examined we have families on the Island where flying for them is unaffordable.

Our sea links are another matter, things with Condor appear to be getting worst. We simply cannot ignore this situation any longer, If Condor cannot improve the situation rapidly before this season starts then Guernsey together with Jersey will have to change things for ourselves, possibly returning to Weymouth with a suitable conventional ferry. return to Weymouth we would have to have the ships no longer than 90 metre's in length, we could partly get over this by assisting Weymouth to extend their RO RO berth to seaward by placing dolphin's further out from their harbour mouth.

Whatever happens we cannot continue with the irregular service we have had last year.

Finally

Whoever you decide to vote for in the forthcoming election it will need to be a person of courage and conviction.

Elected representatives must not be afraid to speak their minds, people sent to the States who can promote good old Guernsey common sense into complex problems that will affect all our futures.

I have 8 years of valuable experience of representing your views within the States of Guernsey and I hope my past endeavors on your behalf speak for themselves.

If you give me your vote on the 27th April, I can assure that you will have a no-nonsense Deputy who will fight to preserve the very best of Guernsey's interests and those of you the voter.

Thank you for your support and time.