# **GUERNSEY FRENCH**

I served as a Language Commissioner for the last 3 years. Guernsey French is one of the oldest living languages in Europe and it's likely that the last living native speaker will be gone in our lifetime.

When a nation loses its language, it loses its identity.

I would like to continue my role as a Language Commissioner and promote our living language.

# LONG TERM CARE OF THE ELDERLY

The long term cost of the elderly is going to be one of our greatest challenges. And there is a threat to householders that their homes will be sold to pay for that care. I will not support any move by Government to impose the sale of Islanders primary home to fund that care.

Before we start scaring the most vulnerable in their time of most need, Government would be better concentrating on its own efficiencies before for-sale signs go up on the elderly's houses.

# **DEMOCRACY FOR ALL PARISHIONERS**

I'm aware that some parishioners will struggle to read this designed manifesto. Please contact me and I will hand deliver an easy read version to your door.

Guernsey has a number of accessibility taxis; both with wheelchair access and trained drivers to manage people with mobility issues. If you require one of these taxi services please book directly:

Asheigh Lacey 07781 178 178

Daniel Le Sauvage 07781 162 662

# **ENDORSEMENTS FROM PARISHIONERS**

# ANDY FOTHERGILL

Joint Managing Director printed.gg



"What I like about Neil is that he sees the position of Deputy as a service to the parish and Island, not one of power. Neil is a reasonable guy who I know will do his very best to get things done."

# **SONIA TAYLOR**

Director, Bailiwick Estates Ltd. Commercial Property Managers



"I've known Neil for a number of years and worked with him on a number of business projects. In all dealings with him I've found him to have focus, tenacity and integrity. He has my vote and he will work hard in his role."



# Dear fellow Vale Parishioner

I stood before you in April 2016 at the General Election and polled **1332** votes. 6 months later with the untimely death of the mighty Deputy David Jones I find myself before you again asking that you consider me as one of your People's Deputies.

I have spent my life in business as a Director growing local talent through my companies. I am considered entrepreneurial by my contemporaries and have contributed to the Island through the creation of jobs. I have a strong background in developing small to medium size businesses.

I am a family man who understands the pressures on the middle earners and am generally a believer in a hand up, not a hand out.

This by-election is about how an individual can be of use to the current government. I can assist in the areas of the transport, business development and economic growth.

I am fierce defender of Guernsey, its people and its culture and would be honoured to serve you, the Vale parish and the Island.

# **GENERAL THEMES**

- Guernsey people first
- Better transport links
- Agile government
- Living within means
- Reduce government waste
- Develop small business
- Support for first time buyers



# A BIT ABOUT ME

Educated in Guernsey I spent three years in Tokyo teaching English as a foreign language. In 1992 I started an advertising agency and created, wrote and voiced the **Randall's Brewery Campaign, Len & Enid**.

My role at the agency was business development, involved in pitching for new business, media buying and budgeting. Moving into the digital space in 1999 I started Submarine Limited. We developed a number of high profile websites including Visit Guernsey, and numerous e-commerce websites. I sold my portion of the business in 2015 and am a proprietor of self-catering unit(s) in the **Beaucette** area.

I'm married and have two daughters, Anastasia and Poppy, one at **Vale Junior School** and the other at **St. Sampson's High** 

# PUBLIC SERVICE & BUSINESS RESPONSIBILITY

I have given and continue to give my spare time to the Guernsey Community:

Chamber of Commerce Council Member 2004-2006

Association of Guernsey Charities

Honorary Secretary 2004-2007

Submarine Charitable Trust Trustee 2006 - 2012

Language Commission Commissioner 2013 - 2016

Taxi Federation Honorary Secretary 2015 - to date

## **WASTE DISPOSAL**

The Mont Cuet landfill has to close. It's an unsustainable blight on our parish ruining the enjoyment of residents and visitors with the awful smell that blows across L'Ancresse Bay.

We have an indication of what is likely to happen to our waste, but no idea as to the cost to individual households. I'm in general support of the direction of the waste strategy, however the cost to the householder must be fair and equitable.

I'm struggling to understand why our waste appears to be heading to Sweden, where Jersey has an oversized incinerator running below its efficient capacity. Surely the Islands can have one last sensible conversation to see if we can't strike a deal that benefits all?

# TRANSPORT LINKS - SEA

The ongoing damage Condor is doing to our Island is immense and we need immediate solutions. Condor posted a 22% downturn in June of this year, later it posted an 18% over all downturn in figures. Condor has broken the visitor economy and Government is silent on the issue.

The government needs to get its fingers out of its ears. Be under no illusion the end of year figures for our visitor statistics will be through the floor. Government needs to act now and decisively.



Government to act decisively



Government to consider direct intervention

# **TRANSPORT LINKS - AIR**

Jersey figures are showing a downturn in inter-island traffic and a similar story has happened in Guernsey. When Aurigny was running it as a sole operator it was a smooth and efficient service.

Competition on the Jersey-Guernsey route has been disastrous, directly impacting on our business and visitor economy.

What is required is Aurigny back on the route in direct and aggressive competition against Flybe/Blue Islands.



Aurigny back on the inter-island



Aurigny to address its pricing structures on the Gatwick route

# **ISLAND WIDE VOTING**

In this term there will be an Island Wide referendum on Island Wide Voting and the people of Guernsey will decide what kind of election we will have in 2020.

I am generally in favour of a form of Island Wide Voting. We are in an odd position where anyone can stand in the Vale as long as the proposer and seconder are residents in the parish. By any measure, there is no democratic logic to that.

In a more modern Guernsey I understand why voters want to vote for preferred candidates outside of their parish or register a protest vote for any candidate. The reality is however, Island Wide voting won't fix our structural deficit, our transport links or ensure we have a properly funded disability strategy.

Whatever the outcome of the Referendum I'm hoping we can all get together and fix the real issues in this Island.

#### **FIRST TIME BUYERS**

### In my last manifesto I wrote:

"Home ownership of property provides families with a real stake in society.....Plot costs are the main barrier to home ownership.

Government has vergees and vergees of unused land and we need to get some of it into housing use"

Leale's Yard has addressed some of the First Time Buyer issues, with units reasonably priced.

I have concerns about the density and would not support any creep of Leale's into the so-called 'data park'.

Some work needs to be done on support for our young families and I am warm to a Guernsey Bank with flexible loaning terms.



Guernsey Savings and Loan Scheme

# **COASTAL CAR PARKS**

If government cannot sort out ignorant car owners leaving their cars dumped around our parish you have to wonder if we have a functioning government.

The matter appears to be related to 'ownership of land'. Our counterparts in Jersey have got around this by using the phrase 'administered by' in their Law.

Our natural environment, our common, our beaches and lanes are our assets. And it's unfair to have it blighted by the ignorant.



Enforce existing laws



Clear parish of dumped cars

# **EDUCATION**

Very few of the current House voted for the old Education Debate. We have a new Board, a new cohort of Deputies. There is every indication that the Board are likely to propose:



Dispense with 11+



No Primary School assessment



Rebuild La Mare de Carteret (Reduced size)



Grammar School Remains (School sets entrance exam)

The Board have stated that they agree that Primary School teachers shouldn't be in a position to 'continually assess' their charges and I agree with that.

With no real detail at the time of going to print indications are that the default position for all pupils will be catchment secondary schools.

Parents who want Grammar education can apply to take an entrance exam.

Choice in the system remains and I support that model.

# **GROWING THE ECONOMY**

#### **CREATIVE AND DIGITAL ECONOMY**

Guernsey has always sought opportunities. We have a world class creative industry, IT skills in abundance, website and programming skills employing a lot of people. An unsung net contributor to our economy.

Guernsey Finance should promote these services along with the Financial Services as an add on to the Guernsey offering. After all its new strap line is 'We are Guernsey' isn't it?

#### **FIXERS AND MANUFACTURERS**

The catchall word for the small professional firms that provide services to us; be that the welder, the mechanic, the carpenter or decorator is 'Fred in the Shed'. It's a demeaning phrase for teams of professionals that have done their apprenticeships and put their time in on the tools.

There is a huge issue over land and existing building use that need addressing. We need to be more flexible with our planning laws to allow small businesses to succeed.



Planning to allow small business to trade out of existing buildings

#### LOCAL TALENT

Through my business career I have found all my employees in the Island. With in-house training and development there's nothing that our youngsters cannot achieve. As an Island we educate our youth, send them off to Universities, but there is reducing incentive for them to return.

The default position for many new positions and roles should be Guernsey talent first.

# **STATES CONTRACTS**

Government spending on island secures jobs and enterprises and is a valuable part of the economy. The default position for all Government Contracts should be "where can we benefit the Guernsey economy". It seems too easy for Government to slide work out of the Island, where Guernsey grown businesses can do the work.



Guernsey companies to benefit from Guernsey contracts