

Environment Scrutiny Panel

Record of Meeting

Date: **15th July 2010**

Meeting Number: 26


Present	Deputy P Rondel (Chairman) (PR) Deputy D Wimberley (Vice Chairman) (DW) Connétable J Refault (JR)
In attendance	M Haden, Scrutiny Officer M. Orbell, Scrutiny Officer

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<p>1. Records of meetings The minutes of the meetings of 17th June 2010 were approved and signed.</p>	
<p>Item 12 17.06.10 Item</p>	<p>2. Matters arising The Panel noted the Action update arising from the meeting held on 17th June 2010. The Panel requested that a report be obtained on the St Helier food waste composting project. Members requested that a letter be sent to the Minister for Transport and Technical Services to ask questions about the long term policies for dealing with existing and future incineration ash on the La Collette reclamation site.</p>	<p>MH MH</p>
	<p>3. Correspondence The Panel noted the following correspondence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Letter from Assistant Planning and Environment Minister dated 21st June 2010 re secondary gas analyser b) Letter from Deputy Chief Executive, dated 26th June 2010 re Energy Efficiency in States Buildings c) Correspondence with Director of Planning re Draft Island Plan Review: Examination in Public d) Letter from Programme Officer, dated 5th July 2010, re Draft Island Plan Examination in Public e) Chairman's letter to Privileges and Procedures Committee dated 7th July 2010 re Time for Tap water campaign f) Letter from the Minister for Planning and Environment dated 9th July regarding the recommendations from the review of the planning process for the Energy from Waste Plant and Ramsar, together with a copy of the Chief Executive Officer's letter to DEFRA dated 7th July 2010. 	
<p>Item 4b 01.04.10</p>	<p>4. Topic proposals: Radon The Panel considered a briefing paper prepared by the Scrutiny Office and received the Medical Officer of Health and the Head of Health Protection to consider the potential health impacts of radon and measures in place in the Island to alert property owners to its effects.</p>	

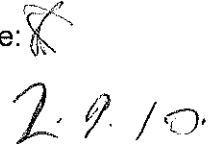
	<p>Members also received copies of reports on surveys carried out in the Island in 1993/4 and 1998.</p> <p>The witnesses told the Panel that radon was understood to be a factor in lung cancer deaths in the Island; however it was a much smaller factor than smoking: extrapolating from UK figures about 2 deaths in an overall total of 45 deaths from lung cancer per year in the Island might be attributed to radon. It was acknowledged that Jersey was likely to be a high radon area as it was similar geologically to Cornwall and SE England. Current Building Bye Laws required that all new buildings were installed with sealed membranes. No further systematic testing of existing properties had taken place in the Island since the 1990s, although the Health Protection department was able to assist home owners who enquired about testing their property. The witnesses believed that an education campaign would be the most appropriate way forward; however there were no plans to extend the current information on the States website as other health issues were considered to warrant greater priority.</p> <p>After the witnesses had departed, Mr. Dun, who had proposed an investigation into radon to the Panel, commented that the current lack of specific Jersey data and information was not satisfactory. He suggested that water supplies, especially when taken from boreholes and used in basements or restricted areas or in industrial processes, quarry sites and places where people might have underground exposure through employment warranted monitoring.</p> <p>The Panel agreed to give further consideration to this issue and requested the Scrutiny Office to undertake further research on current world standards and knowledge about the substance.</p>	MO
<p>Item 4c 01.04.10</p>	<p>5. Planning issues</p> <p>The Panel received the former Chairman of Association of Jersey Architects to discuss the following planning issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential development of St Helier • The Historic Buildings Protection regime • The effectiveness of the current planning approvals process • Island Plan independent examination process 	
<p>Item 5 17.06.10 513/27(8)</p>	<p>6. Comprehensive Spending Review - 2011 savings proposals</p> <p>The Panel considered a briefing paper prepared by the Scrutiny Office regarding the 2011 savings proposals of the Planning and Environment Department.</p> <p>Members agreed to request the Minister to provide further information on the following matters:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) the role of the States Veterinary Surgeon b) the requirement for additional supplementary planning guidance c) the impact of the energy efficiency grants <p>The Panel noted that consideration of the Minister's growth bids for further resources to carry out environmental protection and enforcement activities would be included within its forthcoming reviews of monitoring and protection of the marine environment and the draft Air Quality Strategy</p>	MH
<p>Item 6 17.06.10</p>	<p>7. Draft Sustainable Transport Policy</p> <p>The Panel approved a revised scoping documents and terms of reference for a review of the draft policy.</p>	MO

<p>Item 7 17.06.10</p>	<p>8. Draft Island Plan - Independent Examination in Public The Panel noted the Minister's second report on the draft Island Plan consultations together with a briefing note prepared by the Scrutiny Office on the amendments proposed by the Minister</p>	
<p>Item 48 17.06.10 514/14(8)</p>	<p>9. Protecting our Marine Environment Members noted that the call for evidence for this review had been published and received an update from the Scrutiny Office on the search for a suitable adviser.</p>	<p>MO</p>
<p>Item 11 17.06.10</p>	<p>10. Bottled Water The Panel received an update on the planned Eco-Active Time for Tap campaign against bottled water and noted that both the Privileges and Procedures Committee and Chairmen's Committee supported in principle the Panel's proposal that the provision of bottled water in the States buildings should be withdrawn on condition that taps were fitted with filters. Members believed that it would be interesting to see the results of taste tests between Jersey tap water and bottled water. The Panel agreed to invite the Managing Director of Jersey Water to its next meeting to discuss the quality of local tap water.</p>	<p>MH</p>
	<p>11. Chairmen's Committee The Panel received notes of the meeting held on 17th June 2010.</p>	
	<p>12. Ministerial Decisions The Panel noted recent ministerial decisions related to the Panel's remit.</p>	
	<p>13. Future Meetings The Panel noted the following meetings: (i) 23rd July at 2pm in the Blampied Room - meeting with Minister for Transport and Technical Services to discuss 2012 and 2013 Comprehensive Spending Review proposals (ii) 26th July 2010 - Panel briefing on Liquid Waste Strategy (iii) 2nd September 2010 at 8.30am in Blampied Room - next scheduled Panel meeting</p>	

Signed


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Date:


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Chairman, Environment Panel

