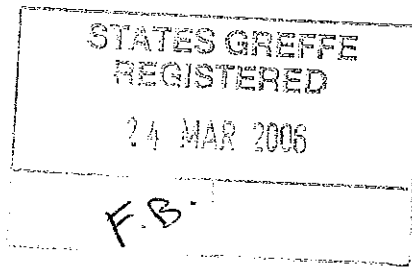


514/2(3)



23 March 2006

The Scrutiny Panel  
The Planning Process  
Scrutiny Office  
Morier House  
St Helier  
JE1 1DD

Dear Sirs

I write further to your invitation for written submissions from members of the public in respect of the Planning Process in Jersey. I have recently been through the process of submitting a Planning application and must say that the handling of it by the States Planning Department was exemplary. Having said this, it maybe goes without saying that I was pleased with the result, having achieved what I set out to achieve. But, I feel this satisfactory result was arrived at as a result of the help and assistance of Planning, rather than 'in spite of' as the media often lead us to believe.

Why did my application result in such a satisfactory conclusion? Before pen was put to paper, together with my architect, I met with planning staff to see what they felt was appropriate. The application was in a sensitive area, developing a site in Samares Lane, St Clement and demolishing an existing significant building. Every step of the way I explained what I wanted to achieve and why I was doing it. The advice I received was excellent and in my view resulted in a smooth approval process, having submitted an application that appeared to satisfy the needs of both parties.

I did get an insight into the problems that Planning are faced with, having seen the quality of some of the objections. Some are just silly and should I feel be returned to the sender as having been 'dismissed'. At least this way they know their objection has been ignored. In my case a neighbour who had just moved into a redevelopment next door objected to having a building site on his doorstep, conveniently forgetting his new home had been a building site next to us for the previous year!! Some objections were well thought out, accurately presenting information and expressing concerns about increased traffic and use of utilities. But, these issues had already been considered as part of our thought process.

In my opinion the quality of the objections by Parish politicians left much to be desired. I felt they were using their Parish position to express personal views, in particular 'tarring all applications with the same brush'. I particularly objected to being referred to as a 'greedy developer' when all I was aiming to do was provide a suitable home for my family in retirement, within a Parish I had lived in for 17 years and where I wished to remain.

I believe most of the submissions you will receive will be negative, mainly from those who failed to get what they wanted. Please accept this as being the other side of the story where with good liaison between all parties I certainly experienced a satisfactory result.

Yours faithfully

Stuart J Hill