



Patrons: H.E. The Lieutenant-Governor and the Bailiff of Jersey

Ms K. Fleming
Rural Economy
Environment
Howard Davis Farm
La Route de la Trinite
Trinity
JE3 SJP

12 MAY 2010
H.D.F. TRINITY

11 May 2010

Dear Ms Fleming

Please find enclosed the comments from Jersey Trees for Life regarding the Rural Economy Strategy Green Paper.

We enclose them following a request from Deputy Labey to our Chairman, Mr Peter Townend, to submit comments by May 14th.

The comments are following review of the Green Paper by Mr Townend and our arboricultural officer, Mr Conrad Evans.

Yours sincerely

(Mr) M P Morel
Education and Administration Officer

JERSEY TREES FOR LIFE**Rural Economy Strategy Review - May 2010**

RES GREEN PAPER	JTFL COMMENTS
<p>Issue PR 2 Labour productivity</p> <p>.. "career development, apprenticeships, education and training"</p>	<p>The States of Jersey should provide affordable or subsidised courses (to suit required language) to ensure best practice or to meet industry standards in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hedge management • hedge laying • flail usage. • tractor driving
<p>Issue PR 6 Access to the countryside</p> <p>.. "being able to access an attractive countryside"</p>	<p>As per the current Country Renewal Scheme grants, offer remuneration to make land accessible for foot paths (to keep people off certain roads) bridle paths, cycle & mountain bike routes and tracks. Hedges can be planted to segregate users on the same paths.</p>
<p>Policy option PR7 Environment plan</p> <p>.. "identify where soil and water must be protected"</p>	<p>CRS grants to be offered for tree and hedge planting schemes to reduce soil run off.</p> <p>Discourage or prevent, through legislation, the amalgamation of small fields into larger ones. The removal of boundary banks (including hedges & trees) has resulted in larger fields around Val de la Mare reservoir being created. This has led to top soil being washed away, blocking streams, increasing fertiliser levels to the detriment of certain plants as well as sediment making its way into the reservoir.</p> <p>Ensure fields are ploughed in such a direction to retain soil (contour ploughing).</p>
<p>Issue PR 15b Countryside Renewal Scheme</p>	<p>Reinstate the Scheme with the following changes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Take out the provision for slurry stores. Large capital sums should be treated as a low interest loan. 2. Change the date of grant payment to reflect the seasonal element of the work such as tree planting and sowing wild bird attracting crops. 3. Increase the payments for hedge planting as most farms are run by tenants and not the beneficial owner – the short term future of agriculture does not allow tenants to invest in land that they do not own.

<p>Policy option E 2 Identifying key habitats within an Environment Plan</p> <p>“The Environmental Plan to identify and provide recommendations for the maintenance and enhancement of biological diversity both within and between habitats on all land covered by the Plan. This will include areas of woodland, wet meadow and other permanent grassland, ponds, marsh, dunes, heathland, cliff slope and boundary features (banks, hedges and ditches).”</p>	<p>Identifying important woodland and hedge habitats is useful but funds need to be made available by the way of grants to facilitate the necessary work to improve and enhance such habitats.</p> <p>Hedge planting should be encouraged to maintain our traditional and historical divisions between fields. This will retain the rural character of the countryside in the form of a “patchwork” of small fields, in scale with the size of the Island.</p> <p>Hedges help to retain and define field boundaries by preventing trampling by livestock and erosion by farming practices and mechanical implements.</p>
<p>ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>E 5 - Jersey Biological Records Centre</p>	<p>This would help direct people’s efforts and ensure work was not being duplicated. Being able to log into a database to input information would be useful. Alternatively, make software accessible to certain non governmental organisations so information can be shared.</p>

Conrad Evans 10.05.10

<p>Issue PR 22 Charges for States of Jersey Services</p>	<p>Charging for non statutory services will put people off attaining sound, impartial advice and may prove detrimental if everything is taken on a commercial level.</p>
<p>Issue PR 25 The need for Research and Development</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Educate the public to assist in the identification of pests & diseases affecting trees & rural hedgerows. 2. Create a data base of outbreaks & monitor. 3. Devise and stick to a strict inspection schedule so pests like the oak processionary moth do not get a foothold in the Island. 4. Environment Division & other States' Departments to share and receive information about hedge & tree planting schemes. This will assist in with the implementation of Biodiversity Action Plans and show where future planting projects can be planned.
<p>Policy option PE 5b Climate Change - mitigation and adaptation</p> <p>... "to investigate opportunities encouraging woodland management, tree planting and hedgerow establishment e.g. through the Countryside Renewal Scheme."</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The States should set targets for the number of trees needed to offset the Island's carbon footprint. 2. The value of the CRS can not be stressed enough as its funding makes the planting and management of trees more accessible and financially achievable. Without any financial assistance woodland management is ignored. 3. The public needs educating in the benefits of woodland management as the public generally considers that woodland is self sustaining and needs no human intervention.
<p>Issue PE 8 Agri-Tourism</p>	<p>Impose a "green departure" tax where visitors pay a levee on departure to have trees planted to offset their impact of their travel on the environment. The fund would be used to subsidise tree and hedge planting in order to mitigate against atmospheric pollution etc.</p>
<p>Issue PE 2 Community Agriculture (CA) or Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)</p> <p>.. "Setting up and attending events linked to the farm (e.g. education visits)."</p>	<p>No specific mention is made of school education. Most children of school age take environmental information in (invariably more so than their parents or the older generation) and can thus pass it on to their family and peers.</p>
<p>ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>E1 - Best practice Biodiversity E 3 - Wildlife corridors E 6b - Water and soil management</p>	<p>All these issues are dealt with in various components of the CRS and show the scheme's worth.</p>