

June 2025

An Environmental Husting for Guernsey – Formal Report

Hustings for a Sustainable Future

Hear the candidates in their own words.
4 sessions of 8 candidates each.
Statements, commitments, Q&A.

Beaucamps School Hall
Wednesday 21st May
5:30-9:30pm



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Executive Summary

With an election due to take place on the 18th June, Blue Marine Foundation hosted an environmentally focussed husting on the 21st May, designed to inform and empower voters who care about the future of Guernsey and its natural environment. With 82 candidates standing for 38 seats, the evening was structured to keep it focused and meaningful.

The evening was split into four sessions, each with eight candidates, totalling 32 across the evening. At the start of the session, each candidate was given two minutes to state their priorities for the environment. After all eight statements were given, all candidates then engaged in a Q&A with the audience. The sessions were split out as follows:

The husting revealed a strong consensus on the need for urgent and ambitious environmental action, with particular emphasis on the development of renewable energy infrastructure. The proposed offshore wind farm emerged as a clear priority for many candidates, who cited its potential to deliver energy security, employment opportunities, and progress towards climate targets. Several candidates also viewed the wind farm as an economic opportunity, with the potential to generate income through energy exports and lease payments. While there was variation in views on how such infrastructure should be funded, there was agreement that green energy projects should be viewed as long-term investments rather than short-term costs.

A marine protection question was posed to all candidates by Blue Marine, where widespread support across all sessions was shown for the implementation of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Candidates highlighted the need for MPAs to be evidence-based, shaped by the forthcoming Marine Spatial Plan, and developed in consultation with local fishers and marine users. Many emphasised the dual benefits of conservation and sustainable fisheries, while also acknowledging challenges around enforcement and jurisdiction. Jersey's progress on MPAs was frequently cited as a positive example.

The husting also brought to attention the importance of reducing carbon emissions through better building practices, waste management, and public transport infrastructure. Several candidates stressed the need to educate the public on individual actions to reduce energy use and environmental impact, while ensuring the transition is fair and inclusive. A number of participants called for targeted public campaigns and incentives to support energy efficiency, such as insulation and active travel.

Audience questions repeatedly raised issues around affordability and inclusion, with candidates recognising the importance of a “just transition” that supports low-income households and protects vulnerable groups. There was also significant discussion of environmental legislation—including the long-delayed wildlife law—with differing views on whether this should be prioritised in the next States term. Across the sessions, candidates consistently acknowledged the intrinsic link between environmental health and Guernsey's economy, well-being, and future resilience.

A video recording of the evening can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jcX7SYj5ky8>

Absentees:

Several candidates were unable to attend the event due to prior commitments and sent their apologies. These included Andrea Dudley-Owen, John Dyke, Simon Vermeulen and Sue Aldwell.

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Session 1

Candidate Statements

Stuart Jehan (Forward Guernsey)

- Stuart positioned climate as one of Forward Guernsey's six core policy priorities, emphasising both environmental and economic benefits.
 - He strongly supported the development of an offshore wind farm, not only to cut emissions but also to:
 - Lower energy bills,
 - Provide energy security,
 - Create high-skill green jobs for locals in engineering, marine services, and technology.
 - Called for marine biodiversity protection, including partnerships with fisheries and environmental groups.
 - Advocated for nature-based solutions to protect coastlines and reduce flood risks.
 - Highlighted the importance of making sustainability affordable and inclusive, e.g. domestic solar panels.
 - Urged for evidence-based decision making in government, embedding environmental considerations across all departments.
-

Sally Rochester

- Sally offered a broad, values-driven vision focused on intergenerational well-being, sustainability, and community prosperity.
 - Framed the environment as one of three central pillars: alongside social equality and economic success.
 - Highlighted her professional experience as an accountant and mother, with a Master's in Sustainability and involvement in both the finance and third sectors.
 - Emphasised the need for long-term planning, good governance, and public participation in environmental policy-making.
 - Called for leadership grounded in courage, wisdom, and kindness, aiming to unite diverse priorities under a shared vision.
-

Jennifer Strachen

- Jennifer spoke from her background in sustainable finance and business engagement, as Associate Director at AM Advisory and co-lead of Guernsey Chamber's sustainable business initiative.
 - She framed the environment as both a personal passion and economic opportunity.
 - Set out a three-part vision:
 1. Ensure delivery of existing strategies like the Strategy for Nature and Blue-Green Economy Plan, with the right data, funding, and tools.
 2. Champion offshore wind development, and promote Guernsey as a hub for renewable innovation.
 3. Push for ecotourism and smart, sustainable building practices.
 - Stressed the need for collaboration between government, civil society, businesses, and the public to succeed.
-

Aiden Matthews

- Emphasised the balance between environmental protection and Guernsey's housing crisis.
 - Argued against building on greenfield sites; instead prioritised reusing brownfield areas, disused hotels, and glasshouse sites from Guernsey's horticultural past.
 - Stressed the value of Guernsey's patchwork biodiversity, including Ramsar wetlands and marine ecosystems like Les Humps.
 - Highlighted the need for clear marine protections, and enforcement of existing fishing rules.
 - Called for increased renewables, particularly offshore wind and eventually tidal energy.
 - Closed with concerns over forever chemicals (PFAS) and pesticide contamination in water.
-

Tina Bury

- Opened with humility, saying she's "not an environmental expert" but cares deeply and is committed to listening to those who are.
 - Reinforced that the environment underpins everything, and without it, even a strong economy is meaningless.
 - Reviewed progress made during her term:
 - Creation of the Nature Commission,
 - Development of the Marine Spatial Plan,
 - Commitment to Biodiversity Net Gain in planning,
 - Agreement on the Electricity Strategy,
 - Exploration of offshore renewables.
 - Vowed to continue supporting all efforts to protect Guernsey's environment and to remain an advocate within government.
-

Andy Cameron

- Focused on practical achievements in transport and digital infrastructure as tools for environmental progress.
 - Promoted active travel and school transport reform:
 - Enabled real-time bus data on Google Maps,
 - Helped launch the Guernsey Taxi App (reducing emissions via fewer "dead miles").
 - Championed infrastructure for safe cycling and walking, especially around schools.
 - Emphasised the need for energy efficiency upgrades in housing:
 - Retrofits, insulation, and heat pumps to reduce emissions, lower bills, and address fuel poverty.
 - Framed environmental policy as fairness—ensuring lower-income households aren't left behind.
-

John Gollop

- Reflected on his long service on various environmental and planning committees.
 - Supported the Nature Commission and many Environment & Infrastructure (E&I) committee efforts.
 - Called for financial and legislative integration of environmental factors into all policymaking.
 - Argued that ideology isn't inherently bad, noting his membership in the Green Party of England and Wales.
 - Stressed the importance of strategic planning, biodiversity protection, reviving horticulture, and repurposing derelict glasshouses.
 - Advocated for grants, subsidies, and land purchases to enable environmental stewardship.
-

Rob Prow

- Took a pragmatic, Guernsey-first approach, stating the island should focus on what it can meaningfully achieve locally.
 - Argued for sustainable land use: protecting green fields, rebuilding on derelict sites, and building upwards where appropriate.
 - Advocated for local food production to reduce reliance on imports and packaging.
 - Supported solar panel incentives, but was cautious about following global targets without critical evaluation.
 - Closed with a clear acknowledgement of the climate crisis, referencing David Attenborough's work, while encouraging focus on doable local actions.
-

Q&A

Question from Blue Marine Foundation

"What is your opinion on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), and how do you see them working for Guernsey?"

Stuart Jehan:

- Strongly supportive of establishing an MPA in Guernsey.
 - Suggested building on existing Ramsar sites and learning from Jersey's MPA model.
 - Emphasised the need for ecological data and collaboration with local stakeholders, especially fishers.
 - Highlighted potential for collaboration with Jersey and the UK, referencing OSPAR conventions.
 - Framed MPAs as a management tool, not a ban on activity.
-

Sally Rochester:

- Supported the global target of protecting 30% of marine areas by 2030, as outlined in the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.
 - Argued that Guernsey should align with international ambition, but with caution.
 - Noted that Guernsey lacks a full understanding of its marine assets, and urged comprehensive research before designating MPAs.
 - Called for a careful, evidence-led approach to protection.
-

Jennifer Strachen:

- Expressed general support for MPAs but struck a cautious tone.
 - Noted Guernsey has limited inshore bottom trawling and government capacity.
 - Believed other environmental issues may be more pressing in the short term.
 - Recommended a "wait and see" approach while the wind farm work provides new data on seabeds.
-

Aiden Matthews:

- Supportive of setting up an MPA, but stressed the importance of knowing where and how.
 - Mentioned marine surveys are underway to support future designations.
 - Highlighted existing patchwork protections via fishing licenses — though these aren't well enforced.
 - Stressed that MPAs would bring clarity and consistency to marine governance.
-

Tina Bury:

- Focused on the definition and credibility of MPAs — some global MPAs are poorly implemented.
 - Emphasised that Guernsey's MPA must be meaningful and enforceable.
 - Supported completion of the Marine Spatial Plan, which would guide effective MPA design.
 - Called for continuing the data collection work already in progress.
-

Andy Cameron:

- Strongly supportive of MPAs.
 - Noted positive ecological changes following recent fishing license restrictions — increased sightings of dolphins and seals.
 - Believed fish stocks have improved, and MPAs could reinforce this trend.
 - Sees MPAs as a logical extension of Guernsey's recent marine policy actions.
-

John Gollop:

- Advocated for an ambitious Marine National Park, not just a standard MPA.
 - Called for involvement from fishers, Crown authorities, and economic development stakeholders.
 - Recalled Charles Clover's talk at the Literary Festival as inspiring on this issue.
 - Highlighted ecological trade-offs — e.g. increase in octopus impacting crab and lobster stocks — and called for a reset in the fishing industry.
-

Rob Prow:

- Offered a clear and concise yes to MPAs.
 - Appreciated having the chance to listen to others before answering, and found wide agreement encouraging.
 - Acknowledged need for research, data and proper scoping, but supported the principle without hesitation.
 - Emphasised the importance of having structures in place for meaningful marine protection.
-

Audience Question 1 – Global Responsibility & Guernsey's Influence

"Given Guernsey's role as a wealthy jurisdiction and offshore financial centre, what opportunities exist to influence global environmental outcomes — particularly through the financial services sector — despite the island's small geographic size?"

Sally Rochester:

- Strong support for sustainable finance strategy.
 - Guernsey has a global responsibility to lead by example and divert finance toward sustainable futures.
-

Jennifer Strachen:

- Agreed finance is Guernsey's biggest lever for global impact.
 - Also flagged the role of the insurance sector, which already sees climate risks firsthand.
 - Stressed Guernsey must "walk the walk" locally to have global credibility.
-

Aiden Matthews:

- Rejected the idea that Guernsey is too small to make a difference.
 - Emphasised that Guernsey's emissions reduction path is easier than most due to lack of heavy industry.
 - Suggested tracking scope 3 emissions in financial institutions.
-

Tina Bury:

- Reinforced that Guernsey is already looking outward (e.g. offshore wind as an export model).
 - Cited waste strategy as a successful, globally respected policy.
 - Urged continuation and expansion of such models.
-

Andy Cameron:

- Called on Guernsey to lead as a wealthy jurisdiction.
 - Pushed for businesses to fulfil corporate social responsibility and support initiatives like the Nature Commission.
-

John Gollop:

- Highlighted the ESG agenda.
 - Said the States of Guernsey (as a major investor) should model ethical investment.
 - Criticised recent lack of momentum in green finance leadership.
-

Rob Prow:

- Clarified earlier comments — did not mean Guernsey has “less” responsibility.
 - Argued Guernsey should focus where it can meaningfully influence, particularly through its financial centre.
 - Expressed full support for green finance.
-

Stuart Jehan:

- Drew comparisons with Luxembourg, which has aggressive green targets.
 - Suggested government-backed loans for solar panels and EVs.
 - Called for stronger environmental education to shift behaviour.
-

Audience Question 2 – Scaly Crickets vs East Coast Development

“Should protecting scaly crickets take precedence over East Coast development plans?”

Jennifer Strachen:

- Saw this as a good example of balancing development and biodiversity.
 - Praised the Guernsey Development Agency (GDA) for exploring ways to relocate crickets responsibly.
-

Aiden Matthews:

- Believes both are possible — protect the crickets and proceed with development.
 - Highlighted habitat relocation work already underway.
-

Tina Bury:

- Supported the GDA's joined-up thinking.
 - Noted schools would be involved in the education component of habitat relocation.
-

Andy Cameron:

- Argued crickets are less rare than initially believed.
 - Supports development with habitat relocation as a compromise.
-

John Gollop:

- Passionately defended the crickets and biodiversity.
 - Argued environmental concerns played a key role in rejecting a major harbour project.
 - Advocated for new habitat creation.
-

Rob Prow:

- Saw this as a perfect example of environmental-development tensions.
 - Said all stakeholders must factor in the environment — GDA, planners, politicians alike.
-

Stuart Jehan:

- Called for land use decisions to align with biodiversity goals.
 - Advocated for habitat restoration, pollinator corridors, and nature-based solutions.
-

Sally Rochester:

- Framed the question as one of underlying principle, not just about crickets.
 - Said biodiversity supports health, climate resilience, and economic prosperity.
-

Audience Question 3 – Road Safety for Children & Active Travel

“How would you make Guernsey’s roads safer so children can walk or cycle to school? The current infrastructure makes parents too afraid to allow it.”

Aiden Matthews:

- Shares the concern as a parent himself.
 - Supports one-way systems, cycle lanes, and more school street schemes.
 - Said Guernsey’s narrow roads are a challenge but solvable.
-

Tina Bury:

- Cited her work on affordable housing and planning connective infrastructure, including cycle paths.
 - Called for better design in new developments.
-

Andy Cameron:

- Active travel champion, sits on school boards.
 - Praised St Martin’s School Streets; wants more cycle contraflows around vulnerable schools.
 - Said head teacher engagement is key — some are supportive, others resistant.
-

John Gollop:

- Supported active travel, noted past involvement in Living Streets.
 - Called for speed restrictions, wider pavements, and better bus services.
-

Rob Prow:

- Said road safety should be elevated on the political agenda.
 - Acknowledged existing work but admitted not enough has been done.
-

Stuart Jehan:

- Praised growing uptake of cycling.
 - Recommended learning from the Dutch model: give bikes priority, install proper cycle lanes, and change the culture.
-

Sally Rochester:

- Cited traffic data showing 19% of journeys were active during Better Journeys Week.
 - Supported island-wide planning for active travel infrastructure.
-

Jennifer Strachen:

- Wanted to make driving less convenient — e.g. remove free parking, reduce car incentives.
 - Encouraged subsidies for e-bikes, better bus incentives, and a cultural mindset shift.
-

Audience Question 4 – Solar Panels & Incentivising Corporate Sustainability

“Domestic solar panel incentives aren’t viable for most households due to cost. What would you do to incentivise corporations and businesses to take responsibility for sustainability in Guernsey?”

Tina Bury:

- Agreed that corporates have greater capacity than individuals to contribute.
 - Suggested using financial incentives, like tax breaks or sustainability-linked planning conditions, to nudge change.
 - Framed the aim as behavioural change, not profit-making.
-

Andy Cameron:

- Opposed subsidising micro-renewables on homes due to cost-effectiveness.
 - Favoured greater investment in larger-scale renewable energy projects.
 - Supported loan/grant schemes for insulation and efficiency over domestic solar.
 - Highlighted the inequity in current winter fuel allowances — same amount given regardless of housing quality.
-

John Gollop:

- Emphasised a mix of “carrots and sticks” — incentives but also taxes (e.g. consumption tax) on energy use.
 - Wanted to see clear sustainability conditions in planning and procurement.
 - Proposed smarter targeting of subsidies based on need and impact.
-

Rob Prow:

- Stressed that incentivisation is a key government tool.
 - Said it should go beyond funding — include planning advantages, simplified permitting, and regulatory streamlining.
 - Emphasised making sustainable behaviour easier, not just cheaper.
-

Stuart Jehan:

- Proposed preferential loans for solar installations, based on successful EU models.
 - Suggested repayments should match electricity savings to ensure net-zero cost for businesses and consumers.
 - Emphasised universal affordability as essential to success.
-

Sally Rochester:

- Argued that business must be a major driver of Guernsey's sustainable future.
 - Criticised short-term profit focus; urged legal, fiscal, and cultural tools to change behaviour.
 - Supported public demand as a mechanism to shift business priorities.
-

Jennifer Strachen:

- Encouraged use of tax breaks for bus passes and subsidies for staff to get e-bikes.
 - Proposed loan schemes tied to property, not the person — easing solar adoption.
 - Also called for disincentives — e.g. charging for corporate parking — to reduce car dependency.
-

Aiden Matthews:

- Acknowledged the difficulty in balancing regulation vs incentive.
 - Suggested using planning policies to require solar and other measures in new builds.
 - Cautioned against ruling out domestic solar entirely — it can build public buy-in and grid resilience, even if not carbon efficient.
-

Session 2

Candidate Statements

Gavin St Pier (Forward Guernsey)

- Admitted that environmental policy is not his area of expertise, and if elected, he would rely on and listen to experts.
 - Emphasised that climate transition is one of Forward Guernsey's six core policy themes.
 - Noted a global decline in political support for net zero, especially referencing Donald Trump's re-election.
 - Despite this, reaffirmed commitment to net zero by 2050, stating it's not just good economics, but "the right thing for the next generations."
 - Proposed a citizens' assembly to make the transition fair and to build public buy-in.
 - Highlighted opportunities in sustainable finance and support for an offshore wind farm.
-

Victoria Oliver

- Focused on her track record as President of the Development & Planning Authority.
 - Highlighted adoption of the Strategy for Nature, placing the environment at the heart of the planning system.
 - Strengthened biodiversity protections and introduced tree protection measures.
 - Worked closely with landowners and community groups to reflect local environmental knowledge in decision-making.
 - Emphasised balance: that development and environmental protection can work together.
 - Played a key role in ensuring infrastructure projects like the Harbour Action Areas are guided by sustainability, adaptation, and preservation.
 - Brought professional experience as a chartered surveyor, combined with strong community engagement.
-

Lindsay De Sausmarez

- Current President of the Committee for the Environment & Infrastructure, and deputy since 2016.
 - Entered politics due to her background in environmental activism (e.g. campaigns against single-use plastic bags and incinerators).
 - Highlighted Guernsey's waste strategy as globally respected, rooted in strong community principles.
 - Listed key environmental achievements she's helped lead:
 - Climate Change Policy, Energy Policy, Electricity Strategy
 - Strategy for Nature, Transport strategies, School streets
 - Air and water pollution standards, Pesticide reduction plan
 - Outlined future priorities:
 - Implementing the Pathway to Net Zero, especially around transport and housing
 - Nature recovery and strengthening coastal defences
 - Emphasised protecting marine environments alongside terrestrial ones.
-

Tom Moore

- Called for Guernsey to be fairer, more resilient, and forward-thinking.
 - Advocated for energy independence and accelerating development of local renewables, not just offshore wind.
 - Highlighted vulnerability to energy shocks and blackouts, and the high cost of diesel generation (£1M/month).
 - Suggested using seabed lease revenues to fund tidal power surveys (e.g. Little Russel).
 - Emphasised prioritising brownfield over greenfield development, despite associated challenges.
 - Called for protection of high biodiversity and green spaces.
 - Proposed exploring green hydrogen via desalinisation using surplus energy.
 - Recommended interest-free loans for home energy efficiency upgrades.
 - Linked Guernsey's energy development to broader UK needs (GB Energy Project).
-

Rosemarie Henderson

- Took a pragmatic, inquisitive tone, stating it's hard to distinguish truth from rumour in Guernsey.
 - Raised concern over a rumour that the 12-mile marine limit is under threat, which would undermine biodiversity protection.
 - Urged policymakers to listen to fishermen, whom she called "instrumental" to marine sustainability.
 - Highlighted the irony of local fish being unavailable while supermarkets import fish from far away.
 - Criticised decisions like the Co-op selling its local warehouse, arguing Guernsey lacks adequate storage.
 - Stressed the importance of prioritising and focusing on one issue at a time in the next States term, rather than spreading efforts too thin.
-

Andy Le Livre

- Brought decades of experience in social welfare and housing, both as a deputy and civil servant.
- Linked housing need (5,000 more homes over 15 years) to environmental impact.
- Criticised the current disjointed strategy landscape: economic growth, immigration, and housing policies often work against each other.
- Explained how policy-making is inherently slow due to conflicting demands and consequences.

- Offered a realistic view: transformative change takes time — citing his own housing reform success that took 18 years.
 - Concluded by encouraging voters to limit expectations and understand the systemic delays of government.
-

Susie Gallienne

- Declared that environmental issues must be considered in everything Guernsey does.
 - Urged the next Assembly to stand firm against pushback rooted in cost or planning objections.
 - Expressed urgency, referencing Tim Berners-Lee's talk as a wake-up call.
 - Encouraged exploration of small-scale, practical initiatives, e.g.:
 - A rating system for States projects based on environmental impact (like appliance energy labels).
 - Encouraging import of short-range second-hand EVs from the UK — more suited to Guernsey.
 - Active travel incentives via workplace reward schemes (e.g. loyalty cards redeemed for time off).
 - Grounded her approach in her background in health promotion, stressing incentives for behaviour change.
-

Sasha Kazantseva-Miller

- Recounted her motivation for entering politics: to support sustainable development.
- Co-founded the Sustainable Business Initiative and launched the podcast Transition Islands.
- Supported major policies: Energy Policy, Net Zero Pathway, Offshore Wind Project.
- Highlighted practical achievements on the Development & Planning Authority:
 - Expanding biodiversity protection zones
 - Removing planning barriers to solar panels and small-scale heat pumps
 - Supporting urban farming and small-scale hobby agriculture
 - Introducing tree protection guidance and bike parking requirements
- Proposed a Community Infrastructure and Biodiversity Levy, inspired by UK models, to fund offsetting where on-site mitigation isn't possible.
- Emphasised delivering small, practical changes that add up over time.

Q&A

Question from Blue Marine Foundation

“What is your opinion on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), and how do you see them working for Guernsey?”

Victoria Oliver:

- Expressed strong support for MPAs.
 - Noted Guernsey currently has high levels of coastal protection via SSI (Sites of Special Interest) designations, but lacks marine-specific protections.
 - Argued the sea offers Guernsey immense value and must be looked after for future generations.
-

Lindsay De Sausmarez:

- A self-declared big fan of MPAs.
 - Confirmed Guernsey is progressing a Marine Spatial Plan, accelerated by offshore wind work, which will likely include MPAs.
 - Stressed that MPAs must be evidence-based and clearly defined in terms of outcomes.
 - Rejected the idea that the economy and environment are in conflict, arguing that MPAs offer economic benefits, particularly for fisheries.
 - Reassured audience members (e.g. Rosie Henderson) that rumours about losing the 12-mile territorial limit are false.
-

Tom Moore:

- Welcomed Lindsay's comments confirming that MPAs are in development.
 - Said that monitoring and enforcement will be key.
 - Emphasised the need for dialogue with France, as cross-border marine coordination will be crucial.
 - Kept his comments brief.
-

Rosemarie Henderson:

- Supported MPAs in principle: "MPAs are a wonderful idea. I'd fully support it."
 - Admitted she knows very little about MPAs, more familiar with Ramsar sites.
 - Opted to keep her response brief and defer to others with more expertise.
-

Andy Le Livre:

- Openly stated he's "not a particularly green person".
 - Despite that, offered strong support for MPAs, driven by personal connection to Belgrave Bay.
 - Shared memories of growing up swimming and spearfishing there.
 - Emphasised importance of protecting seagrass beds and marine life, not just locally but all around the island.
-

Susie Gallienne:

- Acknowledged that, as a new candidate, she hasn't yet had time to do detailed research into MPAs.
 - However, stated it's logical that fish and marine life need safe places to reproduce and grow.
 - Based on that principle, she supports the idea: "Seems good."
-

Sasha Kazantseva-Miller:

- Described the marine environment as crucial to Guernsey's identity and livelihoods.
 - Strongly supported MPAs, but said they must be developed as part of the Marine Spatial Plan, which will balance:
 - Environmental protection
 - Fishing
 - Renewable energy
 - Other marine uses
 - Emphasised the need for a science-based approach and likened the Marine Spatial Plan to a marine equivalent of the Strategic Land Use Plan.
-

Gavin St Pier:

- Called MPAs essential for biodiversity and climate change mitigation, especially via seagrass meadows.
 - Agreed with Lindsay that MPAs are compatible with economic goals.
 - Referenced the COP15 target of 30% protection by 2030, and admitted Guernsey is behind Jersey on this front.
 - Saw upcoming UN Oceans Conference as a timely opportunity for Guernsey to commit to MPAs in the new political term.
 - Stressed the need for inclusive community engagement — with fishers, maritime users, and the public — to get the design right.
-

Audience Question 1 – Tidal Power and Generator Location

“What is your stance on tidal power, and if you agree with it, where would you put the generators?”

Lindsay De Sausmarez:

- Supported tidal power in principle but explained it is not yet commercially viable.
 - Recalled Jonathan Park’s 2008 claim that Little Russel could power 15 nuclear plants, but 15 years later the technology is still not mature.
 - Guernsey lacks scale and R&D capacity to lead in tidal energy development.
 - Said marine spatial planning will ensure Guernsey is ready to act when the time is right.
-

Sasha Kazantseva-Miller:

- Emphasised that tidal power is part of a broader suite of marine energy technologies, including wave power.
 - Supported Olden (Alderney) as a potential site for pilot projects or testbed installations.
 - Argued Guernsey should focus on getting wind and solar right first, then build from there.
-

Victoria Oliver:

- Said she is eagerly awaiting results from Alderney’s Axial Skelter pilot.
 - Mentioned interest in buoy-based wave energy technologies as well.
 - Highlighted that the technology is emerging and we need to give it time.
 - Stressed the importance of marine studies before committing to siting turbines, and noted the offshore wind work will support this.
-

Gavin St Pier:

- Also referenced Alderney, saying he recently visited and saw the Axial Skelter (a corkscrew-like tidal turbine).
 - Described the tech as simple and close to deployment.
 - Suggested Guernsey should watch its success and consider scaling up if proven viable.
-

Thomas Moore:

- His answer was superseded by Lindsay’s detailed explanation, so he kept it brief.
 - Said that viability and a proper review will be key.
 - Declined to name a location (like Little Russel) without evidence, deferring to future review outcomes.
-

Rosemarie Henderson:

- Supported tidal power: “Terrific idea.”
 - Thought the technology was already available, expressing surprise at Lindsay’s statement to the contrary.
 - Named Little Russel and “another swing area” as possible locations.
 - Expressed frustration that more hasn’t already been done.
-

Andy Le Livre:

- Supported tidal power in principle.
 - Warned that while it sounds appealing, any project must be backed by a robust financial model.
 - Expressed concern that the States might rush into poor commercial arrangements if not careful.
 - Wanted to see a clear, solid finance package before proceeding.
-

Susie Gallienne:

- Acknowledged she hasn’t scoped this issue in full yet.
 - Said the tidal potential must be used, especially for future generations.
 - Proposed exploring partnerships with Jersey, perhaps exporting power to them instead of France.
 - Advocated for a forward-looking plan and open-minded investigation of options.
-

Audience Question 2 – Extensions to Domestic Curtilage and Restoration

"What are your views on the frequent extensions to domestic curtilage, which often lead to biodiversity loss and future development? And what are your ideas on restoring wild areas, such as the Grand Roc restoration project?"

Tom Moore:

- Emphasised the need for caution: if we can’t rehouse or preserve biodiversity, we should leave wild areas alone.
 - Called for stronger regulation to stop inappropriate domestic curtilage expansion.
 - Said it’s important to be able to say “no, please stop” when necessary.
-

Rosemarie Henderson:

- Firmly against domestic curtilage extensions: called them an “anathema.”
 - Expressed surprise at how often she finds herself writing objections.
 - Raised a concern that invasive species sometimes make restoration difficult, as land may no longer suit native replanting efforts.
-

Andy Le Livre:

- Shared a personal connection to Grand Roc beach — said his family uses it often and some rocks are named after them.
 - Warned that reducing car park size could push parking into green spaces, causing more harm.
 - Opposed curtilage extensions, and was pleased to see some recent applications refused by the planning authority.
-

Susie Gallienne:

- Dismissed the idea that people need bigger gardens: “Nobody needs a bigger garden.”
 - Argued that land costs and house expansion trends are driving inappropriate encroachment into fields.
 - Believes that this was once prohibited but rules seem to have slipped.
 - Called for a total stop on such practices.
-

Sasha Kazantseva-Miller:

- Explained that the planning authority had seen thousands of square feet requested for change-of-use.
 - Although Guernsey lacks formal biodiversity net gain policies, the DPA required applicants to demonstrate biodiversity improvements.
 - Noted that many of the approved applications have shown measurable improvements, suggesting the policy is working as intended.
-

Gavin St Pier:

- Agreed with the “death by a thousand cuts” framing.
 - Supported a prevention-first approach to biodiversity loss.
 - Said the issue is mainly one of planning and enforcement.
 - Praised the Nature Commission and conservation volunteers for their work in restoration and invasive species removal.
 - Supported enabling recovery wherever possible.
-

Victoria Oliver:

- Echoed Sasha’s point that early in the political term, they saw a spike in large change-of-use applications.
 - Introduced a requirement for biodiversity net gain — even though not mandated by law — to discourage this trend.
 - Said the policy reduced the number of incoming applications, and those still submitted now show better environmental outcomes.
 - Supported environmental offsetting and targeted restoration, even if changes are small.
-

Lindsay De Sausmarez:

- Acknowledged that some loopholes remain, particularly where small curtilage changes lead to creeping development.
 - Stressed the importance of building in the right place to begin with, to avoid later biodiversity harm.
 - Confirmed that biodiversity net gain is agreed in principle and that a framework is in development.
 - Clarified that Grand Roc was never a car park — it is a Site of Special Scientific Interest.
 - Pointed to projects like E-Care as examples of how proper investment enables effective nature recovery.
-

Audience Question 3 – Environmental Factors in Guernsey Business Report

“The Chamber of Commerce, IOD, and AGC (calling themselves the G8) released a detailed ‘Voice of Guernsey Business Insight Report’ with six major policy objectives. However, there is no mention of environmental factors in that report. What are your views on this omission?”

Rosie Henderson:

- Thinks it’s a great pity there was no mention of biodiversity or the sea.
 - Does not have a good answer but advertises an upcoming luncheon at the OGH where more information will be available.
-

Andy Le Livre:

- Finds it a shame but not surprising.
 - Notes that often people say things without meaning them.
 - Highlights improvements in water quality compared to the past (used to swim in polluted waters).
 - Supports policies that improve the environment.
-

Susie Gallian:

- Hasn’t read the report but points out that if environmental issues weren’t prioritized, environmental groups should approach business groups to push for their inclusion.
 - Believes environmental issues should be part of every policy and that culture change is needed so businesses consider environmental factors.
-

Deputy Sasha Kazan Miller:

- Sees it two ways: the report reflects current pressing challenges like housing and public finances.
 - Environmental considerations should still be embedded in all areas, like housing and connectivity improvements.
 - Environmental issues should be a guiding principle across all decision-making, not a separate item.
-

Deputy Gavin St Pier:

- Not surprised by the omission, as public opinion often focuses on immediate priorities.
 - Politicians have a responsibility to lead and make the case that environmental protection is compatible with economic growth.
 - Climate transition was made a priority to demonstrate leadership.
-

Deputy Victoria Oliver:

- Not surprised by the omission given other priorities.
 - Believes the environment should work for businesses, not against them.
 - Points to green finance and impact investment as examples.
 - Notes flooding as a major issue that should be taken seriously.
-

Deputy Lindsay De Sausmarez:

- Challenges the premise that the environment is missing.
 - Argues environmental considerations are foundational and inseparable from economy, energy, transport, housing, and climate.
 - States ignoring ecosystem services risks the economy and quality of life.
-

Thomas Moore:

- Regrets not being able to comment as the report didn't come up in his research.
-

Session 3

Candidate Statements

Tom Rylatt (Forward Guernsey)

- Not an environmental expert but committed to being guided by experts and evidence.
 - Shares personal story: great-grandfather moved to Guernsey for its high air quality after WWI.
 - Co-founded Future Generations, a youth-led climate awareness group.
 - Prioritizes accelerating the offshore wind farm project for energy independence, job creation, and net zero progress.
 - Works with the Guernsey Development Agency on east coast redevelopment.
 - Focus on integrating sustainable transport, green spaces, and marine protection in development plans.
-

Sarah Hansmann Rouxel

- Served on Environment and Infrastructure Committee (2016-2020).
 - Emphasizes how environment connects to health, housing, transport, and tourism.
 - Challenges notion that environmental action is costly—calls it a false economy.
 - Advocates for smart, innovative, collaborative solutions using current technology.
 - Believes sustainability enables economic growth, not restricts it.
 - Envisions Guernsey as a blueprint for small island sustainability.
 - Priorities include nature-based urban planning, greener homes, biodiversity protection, and clean energy.
-

Yvonne Burford

- Long-term environmental champion; led Guernsey's first biodiversity strategy (2015).
 - Holds a master's in renewable energy and sustainable construction.
 - Highlights loss of two-thirds of natural terrestrial habitats in 25 years.
 - Emphasizes environment as a social, economic, and quality-of-life issue.
 - Calls for better monitoring, research, and data-driven decisions.
 - Priorities: robust implementation of biodiversity strategy, habitat restoration, nature-friendly farming.
 - Supports citizen science, education, community engagement, and net zero pathway with clean energy and resilient infrastructure.
 - Stresses partnership with third sector organizations to protect natural heritage.
-

Paul Montague

- Philosophy teacher for 30 years, focused on rational, pragmatic, evidence-based decision-making.
 - Environmental priorities: clean energy progress, biodiversity protection, water and waste resilience, sustainable transport.
 - Warns climate change impacts are already unavoidable, calls for government preparedness for droughts and storms.
 - Highlights poor electrical infrastructure needing urgent renewal.
 - Emphasizes need to improve scientific literacy among public to counter misinformation.
 - Advocates for youth engagement with nature to foster lasting environmental awareness.
-

Simon Fairclough

- Member of Committee for Environment and Infrastructure.
 - Prioritizes offshore wind development and continuation of electricity strategy.
 - Calls for more resources to support vital environmental work.
 - Wants robust wildlife and habitat protection laws and stronger planning policies.
 - Supports third sector and Nature Commission efforts on habitat protection and marine conservation.
 - Advocates for sustainable fisheries, independent ecological assessments, and recognition of wildlife corridors.
 - Emphasizes need for cross-committee collective will to prioritize environment in next States term.
 - Warns “the clock is ticking” on environmental action.
-

Lee Van Katwyk

- Comes from family with generations of recycling industry involvement.
 - Has international experience as kayak guide, wakeboard and scuba instructor, and environmental educator.
 - Recently bought property on Guernsey; excited about starting a family.
 - Passionate about protecting land and marine biodiversity for future generations.
 - Supports protecting hedgerows, promoting wildflowers, and backing Nature Commission for data collection.
 - Emphasizes importance of habitat protection and conservation.
-

Neil Inder

- Deputy and President of Economic Development.
 - Identifies with original environmental principles: concern about overpopulation and overconsumption.
 - Personal commitment shown through restoring native trees and habitat on his property.
 - Drives an electric car, uses solar panels, minimizes carbon footprint, and limits travel.
 - Proposes mandatory solar panels on all new roofs.
 - Suggests vineyard sites should be returned to fields or open areas.
 - Calls for States members to lead by example on travel emissions.
 - Supports groups like Guernsey Conservation Volunteers for habitat restoration.
-

Q&A

Question from Blue Marine Foundation

“What is your opinion on marine protected areas and how do you think they will work for Guernsey?”

Sarah Hansmann Rouxel:

- Supports implementation of MPAs.
 - Highlights need for marine spatial plan to identify where MPAs should be.
 - Emphasizes having a broader strategy to implement MPAs in the right locations.
-

Yvonne Burford:

- Says robust MPAs are vital to safeguard marine environment.
 - Marine spatial plan is a prioritized work stream, like an island development plan for the sea.
 - Plan will balance conservation with sustainable fishing and other uses, benefiting both environment and economy.
 - Expected by end of next year.
-

Paul Montague:

- Acknowledges MPAs’ benefits but issues warnings.
 - Stresses genuine local stakeholder involvement, especially with the fishing community.
 - Notes enforcement and monitoring will cost money.
 - Points out jurisdictional complexities and that MPAs can be complete or partial – one size doesn’t fit all.
-

Simon Fairclough:

- Thinks MPAs could work for Guernsey, but need to work with other islands.
 - Notes current protections are insufficient with threats from disturbance, invasive species, exploitation, pollution.
 - References only two Ramsar sites designated, which is not enough.
 - MPAs should be considered as part of the blue economy supporting plan.
-

Lee Van Katwyk:

- Fully supports MPAs but stresses need for research first to identify key areas like breeding grounds.
 - Highlights importance of education to gain sea fisheries’ support by showing future benefits.
 - Wants MPAs introduced based on solid evidence.
-

Neil Inder:

- Reflects that the fishing industry is now a heritage industry with aging vessels and high startup costs.
 - Fully supports MPAs as part of moving away from heavy commercial fishing.
 - Believes MPAs should have been set aside years ago, but supports them now as part of a new sea-based economy.
-

Tom Rylatt:

- Agrees with Paul on the need to take people with us in decision-making so they feel included.
 - Fully supports MPAs.
 - Cites World Economic Forum evidence showing MPAs benefit commercial fisheries and tourism in many countries.
 - Sees MPAs as both an economic driver and a way to protect marine biodiversity.
-

Audience Question 1 – Building Regulations and Construction Materials

“By enhancing building regulations, can we improve the quality of our construction industry resulting in better structures and less escaping of energy, therefore reducing energy emissions? Also, is there scope to mandate the use of sustainable and durable materials in construction to reduce carbon footprint and waste?”

Yvonne Burford:

- Strongly supports using sustainable and recyclable materials in construction.
 - Notes examples of buildings made almost entirely from recyclable materials to minimize carbon footprint upon demolition.
 - Acknowledges that mandating such materials through planning is difficult but stresses the need to work towards a circular economy.
-

Paul Montague:

- Agrees with the issue, sharing a personal experience with flooding caused by cheap materials.
 - Emphasizes the difficulty of enforcing regulations but advocates for education on sustainability.
 - Highlights the value of buying quality materials that last, citing a long-lasting school blackboard as an example.
-

Simon Fairclough:

- Mentions that the States recently passed a Pathway to Net Zero policy, which includes reviewing building controls to improve standards.
 - Notes ambitions like energy performance certificates and better building standards aligned with the UK’s Future Homes Standard.
 - Points out the challenge of retrofitting a lot of existing older housing stock.
-

Lee Van Katwyk:

- Stresses the need for affordable housing for island youth and cautions against regulations that increase costs too much.
 - Supports incentives for better materials that last longer and reduce environmental impact.
 - Warns against adding excessive red tape that burdens the building industry.
-

Neil Inder:

- Agrees with the need for change but stresses retrofitting existing buildings rather than demolishing and rebuilding, which wastes materials and contributes significantly to the carbon footprint.
 - Calls for a better balance between new builds and sustainability.
-

Tom Rylatt:

- Acknowledges the urgency of building 5,000 homes in 15 years, emphasizing a pragmatic balance between sustainability and immediate housing needs.
 - Supports energy performance certificates, highlighting their success in the UK in raising housing standards and sustainability.
-

Sarah Hansmann Rouxel:

- Supports the circular economy and recognizes barriers in the dispersed construction industry, including lack of regulations and building standards.
 - Emphasizes the tension between building costs and standards.
 - Notes ongoing work by government and industry to identify barriers and bring costs down while improving standards collaboratively.
-

Audience Question 2 – Environment Underpinning Economy

*Do you believe that the natural environment underpins our economy?
(Simple yes or no allowed, but more explanation preferred.)*

Paul Montague:

- Yes.
 - Emphasizes that the environment and economy are not mutually exclusive.
 - Highlights that the green economy and circular economy work well globally.
 - Stresses the importance of nature for mental health, especially encouraging youngsters to spend more time outdoors enjoying Guernsey's nature.
-

Simon Fairclough:

- Gives a one-word answer: Yes.
-

Lee Van Katwyk:

- Absolutely yes.
 - Notes the environment is critical for the economy.
 - Warns about the accelerating sea level rise (4 mm/year) and its future risks if the environment isn't protected.
-

Neil Inder:

- Yes, but with caveats.
 - Raises the issue of population growth impacting nature negatively.
 - Suggests the next States should discuss population caps to protect the environment.
-

Tom Rylatt:

- Completely agree – yes.
 - Uses the example of flood defenses at GDA which are economic enablers.
 - Stresses that without protecting marine and natural biodiversity, the economy and society will suffer.
-

Sarah Hansmann Rouxel:

- Absolutely yes.
 - Believes economy and environment are a symbiotic relationship, not a tension.
 - Argues that social and environmental policies are key to making the economy work sustainably.
-

Yvonne Burford:

- Yes, and more than that – it underpins society as well.
 - Warns about extreme consequences if the environment fails (e.g., loss of pollinators, no food).
 - States that protecting the environment is vital for both economy and society.
-

Audience Question 3 – Congestion

“Do you think there is a traffic congestion problem on the island? If so, what are your solutions?”

Simon Fairclough:

- Yes, there is a congestion problem.
 - Solutions are challenging; focus on better bus services and more cycling options.
 - More people are already using buses and bikes, so making these options easier and more accessible is key.
-

Lee Van Katwyk:

- Acknowledges congestion but island is heading in the right direction with more bike and bus use.
 - Infrastructure to support these alternatives is lacking.
 - Wants incentives for electric bikes and infrastructure allowing bikes and cars to coexist smoothly.
-

Neil Inder:

- Sees congestion and traffic diverting to coastal roads.
 - Unsure of full solution but promotes more motorcycle use as an efficient alternative.
-

Tom Rylatt:

- Compares islanders' attachment to cars to Americans' attachment to guns, making solutions tricky.
 - Supports transport hubs with mini electric buses shuttling frequently to encourage public transport.
 - Promotes cycle lanes integrated with redevelopment projects.
-

Sarah Hansmann Rouxel:

- Confirms congestion problem and notes an existing integrated transport strategy.
 - Lack of funding and levers has limited progress.
 - Solutions so far are incremental, but larger infrastructure projects are needed.
-

Yvonne Burford:

- Strongly agrees there is a traffic problem.
 - Recalled past transport strategy efforts and public protests.
 - Emphasizes making alternatives easier to choose.
 - Supports more school streets and ongoing transport strategy implementation.
-

Paul Montague:

- As a cyclist, doesn't personally face traffic problems but highlights solutions:
 - More one-way roads with cycling contraflows
 - Paid parking with office car spaces taxed as a benefit
 - Increase in electric bikes to improve safety for all road users.
-

Audience Question 4 – Energy Production and Green Energy Opportunities

"What do you feel the energy production and green energy opportunities are for the island? What can households do to play their part? What incentives can government provide? And how can we afford it all?"

Lee Van Katwyk:

- Wants big corporations to pay the brunt of green energy costs.
 - Excited about tidal screw technology in Alderney.
 - Suggests solar panels over town car parks to generate energy and reduce bills.
 - Supports incentivizing solar panels for households but opposes passing costs to everyday people.
-

Neil Inder:

- Supports solar energy as a key sustainable growth area.
 - Believes almost every roof should have solar panels, except those poorly located.
 - Sees solar as an important industry and opportunity for the island.
-

Tom Rylatt:

- Cautious about giving money to people who can already afford solar panels.
 - Wants incentives that are affordable for middle/lower-income households.
 - Suggests improving active travel infrastructure (e.g., expanding the tranquil network) as part of holistic sustainability incentives.
-

Sarah Hansmann Rouxel:

- Emphasizes cost of inaction outweighs investment in green energy.
 - Supports community solar arrays to help spread costs and increase access.
 - Urges considering long-term benefits and cost savings for future generations.
-

Yvonne Burford:

- Highlights Electricity Strategy by Deputy Lindsey Domery as a roadmap for green energy.
 - Notes this strategy is cheaper than current energy costs and can pay for itself.
 - Cautions against mandating solar panels on every roof as not the most efficient use of funds.
 - Supports targeted investments over widespread mandates.
-

Paul Montague:

- Stresses that "the cheapest energy is the energy you don't use" — promoting energy efficiency.
 - Advocates for education and smart metering to reduce household energy consumption.
 - Supports tidal energy as a longer-term priority.
 - Points out wind energy as a consistent renewable resource for Guernsey.
-

Simon Fairclough:

- Sees connectivity and upgrading the energy grid as critical to green energy progress.
 - Calls for renegotiation of EDF contract to avoid higher energy costs for consumers.
 - Warns against energy inequity—ensuring access is fair for all.
 - Views the government's role as facilitator and infrastructure investor.
-

Audience Question 5 – Transition to the Green Economy

"If we accept that the transition to the green economy is happening, how do we ensure we have a just transition for everyone from all levels of society?"

Neil Inder:

- Emphasizes the need for a clear fiscal policy.
 - Warns the island is out of money, so without fiscal discipline, investment will fail.
 - The next government must continue fiscal policy or the green transition will be wasted.
-

Tom Rylatt:

- Focus on raising revenue from environmental projects like wind farms and surplus energy exports.
 - Advocates wholesale tax reform for a fairer tax system balancing businesses, individuals, and high net worth individuals.
 - Long-term sustainable fiscal approach is necessary.
-

Sarah Hansmann Rouxel:

- Supports grants for energy efficiency to reduce energy bills, benefiting low-income households.
 - Highlights creation of green jobs with a positive multiplier effect on the economy.
 - Emphasizes fair tariffs and existing utility work to support affordability.
-

Yvonne Burford:

- Refers to existing electricity strategy and net-zero pathway approved by the States that reduce carbon and energy costs.
 - Advocates for demand management and improving home energy efficiency (including tariff reviews and energy performance certificates).
 - This approach makes homes cheaper to run in the long term.
-

Paul Montague:

- Stresses the goal of a transition that leaves no one behind.
 - Agrees with Neil on needing fiscal policy clarity for funding.
 - Calls for evidence-based decisions measuring not only emissions but also energy poverty and fairness.
 - Wants the transition to be community-driven, redistributive, and transparent rather than top-down.
-

Simon Fairclough:

- States the government's role is to facilitate, not fund, the transition.
 - Notes a review of existing environmental taxes to optimize alignment with financial and social objectives.
 - Committed to protecting low-income groups and meeting the principles of a just and equitable transition.
 - Emphasizes sticking to the commitment already made by the States.
-

Lee Van Katwyk:

- Identifies as a local with practical experience in recycling, not an expert economist or scientist.
 - Pledges to seek expert advice to ensure protection of natural landscapes and the environment.
-

Session 4

Candidate Statements

Rhona Humphreys (Forward Guernsey)

- Stands with Forward Guernsey party.
 - Emphasizes environment as a cross-cutting issue that must influence all decisions.
 - Strong support for advancing the States' wind farm project—seen as both environmentally and financially beneficial.
 - Advocates for investment in safe cycling infrastructure, better public transport to reduce car dependency.
 - Calls for businesses to be required to account for their environmental impact, with support and training.
 - Pledges to listen to experts and back environmentally beneficial projects to preserve Guernsey for the future.
-

Jonathan Le Tocq

- Has a personal background connected to farming and fishing families.
 - Values teaching and appreciating Guernsey's environment for future generations.
 - Proud of past involvement in recycling initiatives and preventing an incinerator.
 - Played a role in signing Guernsey up to the Paris Agreement and promoting green finance.
 - Supports the ongoing electricity strategy.
 - Emphasizes supporting farmers and fishermen as key protectors of the environment.
-

Marc Laine

- Former environmental company owner and sustainability expert.
 - Critical of "double standards" by the States, the largest employer and landowner, for not leading by example.
 - Calls for the States to enforce sustainable business practices in procurement.
 - Skeptical about expensive strategies; favors affordable, practical environmental actions.
 - Uses solar power example (post office as a success) to argue for real, affordable improvements now rather than distant targets.
-

Dr. David De Lisle

- Former Environment Minister and initiator of Guernsey's first environmental strategy.
 - Advocates protecting green fields from development, directing growth to brownfield sites.
 - Wants to reduce herbicide use due to health concerns.
 - Highlights pollution issues including sewage discharge into coastal waters.
 - Supports developing local renewable energy sources: solar, tidal, and wind.
-

Art Allen

- Independent candidate, previously seen as a “maverick” for pushing rapid change.
 - Supports progressing with the wind farm project.
 - Believes in pursuing affordable renewable options after assessing viability.
 - Strongly supports protecting green fields.
 - Identifies traffic congestion (specifically Admiral Park traffic lights) as a key environmental/quality of life issue.
-

Ross Le Brun

- Focused on preserving quality of life and natural heritage for future generations.
 - Notes decline in wildlife like slow worms.
 - Supports encouraging cycling and independent mobility for children.
 - Wants to expand social initiatives related to land use and agriculture.
 - Advocates for higher-density, smart development to protect land rather than expanding outwards.
-

Chris Le Tissier

- Views environment as central to Guernsey's identity, economy, health, and future.
 - Stresses balancing development with nature-positive policies—no net loss of biodiversity.
 - Calls for accelerating clean energy transition: renewables, improved housing efficiency.
 - Wants circular economy initiatives to reduce waste and promote reuse.
 - Emphasizes valuing natural capital across sectors—not just conservation but integrated sustainability.
-

Dr. Andy Sloan

- Champion of Guernsey's sustainable finance sector and climate agenda.
 - Former climate advisor and international climate panel reviewer.
 - Focuses on climate action grounded in realism—importance of affordability and measurable impact.
 - Prioritizes investment in clean energy infrastructure and low-carbon power over marginal measures.
 - Supports marine protected areas and biodiversity targets but insists they be data-driven and locally adapted.
 - Promises leadership with strategic, economics-based approach to build a green economy with credible, funded plans.
-

Q&A

Question from Blue Marine Foundation

"What is your opinion on marine protected areas (MPAs) and how do you think they would work for Guernsey?"

Jonathan Le Tocq:

- MPAs are a great idea.
 - Cautions against a one-size-fits-all approach due to Guernsey being a small island.
 - Monitoring, policing, and enforcement costs are significant challenges.
 - Notes Guernsey's territorial seas are three times the size of Jersey's, implying bigger enforcement challenges.
-

Mark Laine:

- Supports marine conservation areas and the strategy behind them.
 - Suggests tactical, immediate actions such as installing moorings at Havlet Bay and Furain Bay that do not damage seagrass.
 - Says these actions can be implemented now if the States support and companies sponsor them.
-

Dr David De Lisle:

- Strongly supports MPAs.
 - Emphasizes the urgent need to restore damaged ecosystems and conserve marine life.
 - Mentions specific local environmental damages (Little Russell raw sewage, oyster shell fishery limitations near Boseet and Fort George, pollution near bathing pools).
 - MPAs would reassure the public that these environmental issues are being addressed.
-

Art Allen:

- Agrees with previous comments.
 - Stresses the need for cooperation from boat owners.
 - Expresses skepticism about achieving cooperation given current challenges (e.g., airport issues).
 - Emphasizes collective effort to succeed.
-

Ross Le Brun:

- Supports the idea of MPAs.
 - Notes Jersey's progress: currently 23% protected, aiming for 30%.
 - Points out Jersey has a bigger fishing industry and gained industry support.
 - Reflects on a local reef (Bo Blondle) that was overfished, possibly due to warming seas.
 - Mentions the need to manage shore habitats carefully (e.g., turning rocks destroys habitats).
 - Notes some shore gatherers suggest MPAs.
-

Chris Le Tissier

- Supports MPAs, but opposes blanket bans.
 - Favors smart, locally designed zones that protect marine life and support sustainable fishing.
 - MPAs can rebuild fish stocks, boost eco-tourism, and keep seas healthy.
 - Emphasizes working with fishing community, using good science, and long-term planning.
-

Dr. Andy Sloan

- Believes MPAs are necessary for safeguarding Guernsey's marine biodiversity.
 - Advocates a balanced approach that protects vital habitats without overly restricting livelihoods.
 - Fishing community involvement is essential in designing MPAs.
 - The goal is sustainable marine environments benefiting nature and local industries long-term.
-

Rhona Humphreys

- Initially unfamiliar with MPAs but researched and now fully supports them.
 - States Guernsey has a responsibility to create MPAs.
 - MPAs would protect marine habitats, support fish stocks, and build climate resilience.
 - MPAs must be done well, with proper consultation involving people familiar with Guernsey's tides and the fishing community.
 - Highlights positive impacts on fish stocks, seagrass, and climate change mitigation.
 - Concludes that action is essential.
-

Audience Question 1 – Paying for the Switch to Green Energy

"How are you going to pay for the switch to green energy, given the conflicts of interest between Guernsey Electricity and the government, and the ongoing costs of infrastructure? How will the works be funded?"

Mark Laine:

- Acknowledges it's a good but tough question.
 - Emphasizes need to focus on growing the economy and working on smaller interim projects.
 - Mentions private sector work and issues around buyback tariffs.
 - Highlights importance of energy security and having competing power generation.
-

Dr. David De Lisle:

- Opposes a third cable to France as a solution.
 - Suggests the £100 million for that could be given to local people to develop renewables themselves.
 - Estimates about £3,000 per household could be invested in renewable development.
-

Art Allen:

- Agrees with boosting the economy as the key.
 - Economy is everything; it must pull Guernsey out of taxation issues and pay for needed infrastructure.
 - Calls for faster government action on this.
-

Ross Le Brun:

- Has experience working for Guernsey Electricity.
 - Explains that ongoing infrastructure maintenance is continuous, like painting a bridge.
 - Emphasizes the need to generate electricity locally for times when imports aren't possible.
 - Doesn't provide a clear funding solution beyond economic growth.
-

Chris Le Tissier:

- States the States (government) can facilitate the transition but currently has no money.
 - Users will pay some costs.
 - Echoes the need to grow the economy so the States can contribute more funding.
 - Describes it as a “chicken and egg” situation, with much depending on Guernsey Electricity.
-

Dr. Andy Sloan:

- Notes it’s a long-term investment over 20–40 years.
 - Highlights the need to replace oil-fired generation on the island.
 - Encourages self-sufficiency in renewable energy production by individuals, which is currently lacking.
-

Rhona Humphreys:

- Says the cost of *not* transitioning is greater than the cost of doing so.
 - Emphasizes economic growth linked to green investments and projects like the wind farm.
 - Admits she doesn’t have a direct funding solution but stresses the urgency and inevitability of doing it.
-

Jonathan Le Tocq:

- Points out that underinvestment in infrastructure overall is a challenge.
 - Proposes diversifying taxation to afford borrowing for the transition.
 - Expects everyone will need to pay more for a period as the cost is amortized over decades.
-

Audience Question 2 – Reducing Carbon Footprint Through Education

“Would you support an island-wide campaign to educate the community on small actions to reduce carbon footprint? How would you bring the community along?”

Dr. David De Lisle:

- Education is absolutely key to success.
 - It takes time to get messages across (e.g., biodiversity took many years to gain traction).
 - Important to bring the whole population along as quickly as possible.
 - Deputies must understand the problem deeply to communicate effectively.
-

Art Allen:

- Recognizes financial barriers, especially for low-income people who are “working to survive.”
 - Emphasizes that telling people to insulate homes or install solar panels is difficult when they struggle with day-to-day survival.
 - Suggests focusing on how low-wage earners can afford to take these actions.
-

Ross Le Brun:

- Small steps are reflected in his three priorities:
 - Build more heat-efficient apartments.
 - Grow more food locally to reduce waste.
 - Reduce car dependency and treat cars less like essential “body armor.”
 - Small systemic changes support individual efforts.
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Chris Le Tissier:

- Many people already understand climate change and have seen weather changes in their lifetime.
 - The main barrier is the current cost-of-living crisis.
 - When faced with choices like food or home insulation, most people will prioritize immediate needs and delay climate actions.
-

Dr. Andy Sloan:

- Local emissions mostly come from aviation and waste, not electricity (which is low-carbon due to imports).
 - Educating people about the emissions from waste can open up easy opportunities for reduction.
 - Small things can add up, but many people are unaware of them.
 - Education can help people “buy in” and adopt behaviors for emission reductions.
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Rhona Humphreys:

- Outreach is essential but there is a public “burnout” and skepticism about environmental messaging.
 - Points to the island’s recycling success as proof behavior change is possible.
 - Advocates for small, quick, punchy campaigns with simple messages (e.g., “turn your tap off,” “turn your light off”).
 - Avoid overloading people with complex science; keep it simple.
-

Jonathan Le Tocq:

- Draws on personal family history of rationing and “make, do, and mend” attitude.
 - Believes small, fun changes can reduce waste in a small island community.
 - Encourages learning from other small island regions in Europe with successful environmental programs.
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Mark Laine:

- States departments need to lead by example (e.g., stock and use local bio-soap products instead of imported ones).
 - Without leadership and accountability, education campaigns won’t be effective.
 - Notes a lack of “voice of challenge” to hold companies, departments, and individuals accountable for green claims.
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Audience Question 3 – Prioritising Wildlife Legislation

“Guernsey doesn’t have a wildlife law. Can you make a case for prioritizing wildlife legislation? What are the benefits or challenges?”

Art Allen:

- Welcomes the idea; easy question.
 - Animal lovers would support it.
 - A majority of people would give a “big tick” to such legislation.
 - Cost is always a consideration but it should be encouraged.
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Ross Le Brun:

- Unsure what a wildlife law fully entails but assumes it means protecting wildlife as in the UK.
 - Notes examples from the UK: protections for animals like swifts, bats, barn owls when demolishing buildings.
 - Guernsey currently lacks such protections.
 - Implies Guernsey could improve in this area.
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Chris Le Tissier:

- Calls it a “no-brainer” that people want to protect wildlife.
 - Emphasizes the devil is in the details — specifics of the proposed law are important.
 - Concerns about:
 - Cost to residents.
 - Additional civil servants required to enforce the law.
 - Potential unintended consequences.
 - Supports the idea in principle but wants to see the details first.
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Dr. Andy Sloan:

- Admits lack of knowledge about the issue.
 - Questions what wildlife legislation would replace or displace in terms of priorities/resources.
 - Emphasizes need to understand immediate benefits to evaluate if and when to prioritize it.
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Rhona Humphreys:

- Supports Guernsey having a wildlife law.
 - Does not think it should be a priority this term.
 - Believes there are more urgent issues.
 - Thinks most people in Guernsey already do the right thing most of the time.
 - Acknowledges it might be a vote winner but not the right priority.
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Jonathan Le Tocq:

- Believes Guernsey tends to over-legislate.
 - Concerned over difficulties in monitoring, enforcing, and policing new laws.
 - Suggests focusing first on objectives that might be met by smaller steps like education, encouragement, and leading by example.
 - Prefers a more gradual approach before enacting legislation.
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Mark Laine:

- “Devil’s in the detail” — cautious about adopting UK laws wholesale.
 - Wants laws appropriate to Guernsey’s context.
 - Interested in seeing a business case to justify prioritizing the law.
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Dr David De Lisle:

- Notes ongoing biodiversity loss.
 - Believes the wildlife law would help protect wildlife.
 - References the late Griff Caldwell’s support for such legislation.
 - Suggests the law could tackle harmful practices like the use of toxic chemicals affecting wildlife.
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