

PLEASE VOTE LESTER QUERIPPEL FOR A **PROACTIVE** DEPUTY

PROPOSER: Laurie Queripel **SECONDER:** Andrew Bisson



THE TIME IS NOW!

MY MISSION STATEMENT IF RE-ELECTED

- To continue to value and support my fellow islanders and strive to improve the quality of their lives.
- To continue to value and support local businesses.
- To continue to encourage an inclusive society.
- To continue to strive to retain and maintain the culture, heritage, traditions and community spirit of Guernsey.
- To continue to support ways in which we can diversify our economy.

A LITTLE BIT ABOUT ME

- 1983-2012 Proprietor of my own successful Decorating business.
- 2006-12 Arts Commissioner.
- 2008-12 St Peter Port Douzenier.
- 2012-20 St Peter Port North Deputy.
- 2012-16 Member of the Scrutiny Committee.
- 2013-16 Chairman of Age Concern.
- 2013-19 Founder/Chairman of the Age Concern Fuel Fund.
- 2016-20 Member of the Development and Planning Authority.
- Currently: Facilitator of the Guernsey Poetry Group.
- Currently: President of the Guernsey Walking Football Club.

THE TIME IS NOW

Is my manifesto slogan because if ever there was a time for the positive attributes of the Guernsey character to come to the fore that time is **NOW!** Resourcefulness, enterprise, determination, practical thinking, shrewd judgement, these are just some of the qualities required to take Guernsey forward and aid our recovery and these are qualities I can offer.

The next Assembly needs to 'hit the ground running' and be proactive. The time is NOW to attain joined up government. I have no interest in personality politics. States members time and energy should be targeted at the ultimate aim of the government, which is to create and implement policies and initiatives to ensure the social, economic and environmental well-being of the community.

The challenges we face are significant but they aren't insurmountable. Should I be fortunate enough to be re-elected, I will bring to bear the experience and knowledge I have gained these last eight years to help address these challenges and secure the future well-being of our island home. I appreciate the Assembly is in need of 'new faces', but we can't afford to lose too much knowledge and experience. As in all things, we need to attain balance.

PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM (The system)

The time is NOW for the Public Sector Reform agenda to pay dividends. The purpose of this initiative is to identify where efficiencies can be made without impacting upon services. The result should be the States getting its own house in order and living within its means. The system is meant to serve you and I. It shouldn't impose upon us in any way and it shouldn't be self-serving or confusing. It should help to create a fair and orderly society and assist people in the living of their lives and the running of their businesses, not overwhelm us with bureaucracy. If you re-elect me, I will continue to hold the 'system' to account at all times.

PRIORITISATION

Resources are precious and prioritisation (and re-prioritisation) will be an essential theme in the next States, especially in light of the economic and social effects of Covid. Resources should be targeted where the evidence shows they are required and any action taken needs to be appropriate, proportionate and affordable for Guernsey. I well understand that government investment in infrastructure during times of economic downturn can provide a stimulus, but projects need to be well chosen so as to provide maximum long term social and economic benefit to our community. As much capital spend as possible needs to be retained on island so as to add value and activate the multiplier effect (research shows that for every pound spent locally up to five pounds is generated). I will continue to scrutinise very carefully, any capital projects or new policy proposals that are brought forward in an effort to ensure these tests are met.

EDUCATION

I was a Signatory on the successful Requete that halted the One School/Two sites model (Pause and Review). I would support the utilisation of three school sites to provide a higher quality all ability Secondary education system that would provide opportunities for all students to realise and fulfil their potential. Whether their strengths are of an academic or practical/vocational nature, all our young people should feel valued and be encouraged. An educational system that helps young islanders to be aspirational, confident, well adjusted and well rounded individuals can only be good for them, our community and economy.

SPORT / THE ARTS

I have been one of the few Deputies who consistently 'champion' sport and the arts. People of all ages and abilities participate in stimulating and therapeutic artistic and sporting events which encourages social interaction. Involvement in sport and the arts helps to build confidence and self-worth and brings fun and fulfilment into our lives. There is immense value to be realised by investing in both. They enrich our lives. They build friendships and bridges between people. They build bridges between jurisdictions.

Health professionals have acknowledged that sport and the arts can aid the healing process. Sport and the arts, along with our heritage and our culture, underpins the very social fabric of our community. In addition to all of that, it has been proven that sport, the arts and the creative industries are all economic enablers!

TAXES / CHARGES

Guernsey is a low tax jurisdiction but it is an expensive place to live. Despite there being great wealth here, many islanders, from pensioners to young working people, struggle to get by. The States should not do anything to unnecessarily add to the cost of living. I will continue to rally against GST on the grounds that it's a regressive tax. GST would impose yet another burdensome and costly layer of red tape upon local businesses at a time when, for the sake of the economy, we need to be facilitating and supporting our retailers and traders. Any changes to our tax system in order to raise additional revenue, if it is genuinely required, needs to be fair, equitable and balanced. Ability to pay must be a key consideration in any plans to reform our tax system.

Our current corporate tax strategy is zero 10. This is being kept under review in order to establish whether any revenue lost from the corporate sector can be restored. We need to remain an attractive and competitive place to do business but a territorial tax may provide a solution. I will press for this option to be explored. We already have an advantage over comparator jurisdictions as we do not have the wealth and consumer taxes they have in place.

DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

I have served as a member of the Development and Planning Authority for the major part of this term. Despite it being a challenging and contentious role, I have loved every minute of it. I am absolutely fascinated by the whole planning process. Should you decide to re-elect me, I would once again seek a seat on the Authority.

The Authority produced its own Action Plan earlier this year that addresses the concerns raised by members of our community regarding policies in the Island Development Plan. Two of my primary concerns is the loss of green fields to development (the use of brownfield sites should be prioritised) and resource hungry Development Frameworks, which are purely speculative. If you decide to re-elect me, these are just two of the planning issues I will pursue.

SOCIAL HOUSING

Recent figures released by Employment and Social Security tell us that 275 people are currently on the waiting list for Social Housing. More than 70 Social Housing properties are under occupied: 12 properties are over occupied and 50 properties are currently vacant and undergoing renovation. There are at least three issues that require attention here:

1. The under occupied/over occupied issue.
2. The States aren't building enough Social Housing units to meet demand, despite the efforts of the Guernsey Housing Association.
3. Is there a need to rip out and replace kitchens and bathrooms so often when a tenant leaves a property? If you decide to re-elect me, I will continue to ask the questions that need to be asked in an attempt to rectify the situation, because NOW is the time for it to be rectified.

POPULATION / SKILLS

Guernsey is one of the most densely populated places in the world. Foremost in our minds must be the quality of life for islanders and the limits of our land mass, infrastructure and services. Smarter methods are required to help address the demographic challenges and the skills needed to sustain a healthy economy. Our people are the islands greatest asset. Bright Futures have recently identified that there is a mismatch between the skills on offer and the skills required within our economy. Local recruitment agencies have reported a surge in applications. There will always be a need to import some specialisms but greater efforts should be made to tap into the potential of our existing workforce to enhance and diversify the skills base. More islanders doing higher value jobs can only be good for our society and economy.

The non-local white van man issue will require attention. Money that is spent off island (non-local contractors, suppliers, consultants etc) is usually gone forever: its value and added value is lost to our economy. Jersey have recognised this situation. Currently Guernsey traders (and by extension all traders not based in our sister isle) wanting to work in Jersey have to register, meet certain conditions and pay a permit fee. Conversely, Jersey traders (and traders from other jurisdictions) who wish to work in our island do not have to adhere to any such requirements. Setting up a point of entry permit system will not create a closed market, but it will help to ensure that off island traders have to comply with all the obligations that local traders are required to comply with, which adds cost to their businesses (Income tax and Social Security contributions that are due, population/housing laws, health & safety, waste regulations, building control, certain accreditations). The States should take action in these areas and I will pursue these matters with vigour.

THE TIME TO BE PRO-ACTIVE IS NOW!

The States has a history of being reactive as opposed to being pro-active. Here are just two examples:

1. The Bowling Alley at Victoria Avenue was sold recently for just over £2 million. I did suggest the States purchase and operate it, but unfortunately that didn't happen. Consequently, we are now minus a multi entertainment facility that was a huge attraction for locals and tourists alike. There are even 8 flats within the building, so an immediate income stream was guaranteed. I'll never understand why the States didn't buy the property.
2. The old HMV outlet in the Market building in our Town could, and should, have been turned into a multi-functional Art Centre and Performance Space. I suggested it to the States but unfortunately it didn't happen. One side of the hall could have housed a permanent Victor Hugo exhibition and also a gallery for local artists to display their work. There could have been a café and bar on that side as well. The other side could have housed a stage for live concerts and a rehearsal space for local theatrical and musical groups. The space could have also been hired out for corporate events. To give an example of it's potential, a 3 Day Retro Festival was held there in 2019, which was immensely popular, resulting in the event being a 'sell out'. Such opportunities will no doubt arise again, and if you decide to re-elect me, I will pursue them.

PAID PARKING

In 2014/15, the late Wendy de Bourgonniere and I joined forces to organise a petition against Paid Parking in our beloved Town and our other shopping centres: The Bridge and St Martins Village. We were absolutely delighted when the time came to present the petition to the Environment department (February 2015) and we'd gathered an amazing 6,267 signatures.

STAYCATION / SUPPORT LOCAL

The time is NOW to support local. We have some wonderful hotels here in the island and seeing as we're still in the sanctuary of our 'bubble', NOW is the time to book into a local hotel and experience all they have to offer. My experience has been that the staff simply can't do enough to ensure that a guest has a pleasurable and enjoyable stay. The reality is, our hotels, and also several of our local businesses, are struggling to survive and desperately need our support. So we really do NEED to support them and buy local, otherwise it will be 'bye local'.

THE CHILDREN'S LAW

In 2012, when we were both members of the Scrutiny Committee, my brother Deputy Laurie Queripel and I, instigated a review of the Children's Law here in the Bailiwick. We felt the need to instigate the review because within the first year of our being elected into the States in 2012, we'd been contacted by several families who expressed concerns about what they felt were 'failings' in the system.

The review was undertaken by Professor Kathleen Marshall from the UK and the report that resulted from it, published in November 2015, contained 21 recommendations for departments of the States to consider. The vast majority of those recommendations were accepted and implemented by the relevant departments. If you re-elect me I will continue to monitor developments in this area.

THE ROLE OF A DEPUTY

High Level Policies and Strategies are all well and good but too often the public feel disconnected from their government. Deputies are elected as representatives of the people and therefore working at 'grassroots' level is essential. This often involves helping fellow islanders to resolve problems they encounter on a daily basis. On that note, I have worked on 287 constituency cases, the vast majority of which have been successfully resolved. This has helped to improve the quality of life of those fellow islanders and this to me is one of the most rewarding parts of the job.

Deputies need to work together and reach consensus, but challenge is also vital. I will continue to speak out and challenge whenever I feel the need to do so, should you decide to re-elect me.

QUESTIONS?

I only have enough space in this Manifesto to cover a handful of issues. Therefore, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you

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