



The Constables of St Sampson

Chambre de la Douzaine

Le Murier

St Sampson

GY2 4HQ

A press release from the Constables and Douzaines of St Sampson and Vale to be embargoed until 0600hrs Monday 19 July 2021.

Risk of economic and environmental disaster, say douzaines

GOVERNMENT'S decade long failure to plan adequately for essential infrastructure is risking economic and environmental disaster says St Sampson's Douzaine.

An impact statement prepared by the parish and supported by the Vale Douzaine lists multiple examples where States' lack of foresight has disproportionately impacted businesses and residents in the north of the island, endangering islanders and eroding quality of life.

The statement, which calls on government for an official response, highlights the possibility of another fire at Guernsey Recycling and Scrap Metal's operation, which is adjacent to St Sampson's Church, the island's oil and fuel storage facility, Norman Piette's timber mill and Guernsey Water's Longue Hougue reservoir, together with a blast hazard posed by fuel tankers drying at St Sampson's harbour.

In 2009 the States agreed to prepare an infrastructure plan to provide long-term thinking and value for money in developing and maintaining the road transport network, the ports, hospitals, schools, climate change, flood defences, e-connectivity, transport links, public transport, utilities, waste management systems, social housing and Guernsey's ageing population, the douzaines say.

Referencing the absent plan, St Sampson's douzenier Rob Gill said:

"Twelve years on, this plan has yet to be published and the States of Guernsey will not commit to a date by which this will be completed.

"Meanwhile, the Island Development Plan, in force until 2026, published five years

late and even then already out of date, is considered seriously flawed by all parishes. There is simply no consideration being given to the extensive infrastructure required to support proposed developments or the conservation of the parish.”

The statement has been circulated to all States members and highlights the number of homes being proposed for the north of the island in the absence of any planned infrastructure to support them, compounded by the chronic problems of traffic that already exist.

The bulk of the island’s freight – 8,400 trailer movements a year from the harbour to Bulwer Avenue and the handling of 360,000 pallets – is concentrated in unfit-for-purpose sites while other developments cause an estimated 1,000+ additional vehicles to the South Side each day.

In the view of St Sampson’s and the Vale: “Without immediate planning and investment in the following areas we believe that government continues to:

- Risk preventable disasters and the loss of businesses and essential services
- Reduce operational efficiencies and environmental sustainability of industry and associated island services
- Impede economic growth, private investment and development
- Prevent the development of valuable public amenities thus impeding cultural, historical and recreational provision
- Reduce quality of life for parishioners and islanders [and]
- Create a sad legacy for generations to come”

Mr Gill and Vale Senior Constable Richard Leale said that numerous steps had been taken to address these concerns directly with government but without meaningful engagement or progress.

“There is now no alternative other than to publicly demand that government does what it identified 12 years ago as a priority and prepares a meaningful infrastructure plan within a pertinent time frame,” they say.

Notes for Editors:

The impact statement prepared by St Sampson's is attached and lists nine areas of concern that, in the view of the douzaines, merit further media attention and follow-up. We will be pleased to assist with that process.

For further information, pictures, interviews etc, please contact:

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Or contact St Sampson's Douzaine on 01481 244130 or constables@stsampson.gg