APPENDIX XVI

Vue Des Champs,
Mont Gras D'Eau,
St.Brelade.
JE3 8ED

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744019
24/1/08

Mr.M.K.Jackson,
Connetable,
Braemar,
Mont Gras D'Eau,
St.Brelade.

cc. Senator B.Shenton,
cc. Mr.R.Jones.

Dear Sir,

As a parishioner of St.Brelade for many years I have been taking a keen interest in the recent media coverage of the ongoing debate regarding land reclamation at St.Aubin.

I have to say at this point that I find the proposal of a reclamation project at St.Aubin to be ill-considered and in my view would ruin the charm of the area forever.

In my opinion the idea of reclamation has been touted as a panacea for what ever the car parking problems there are in the village by a group which appears to be driven, understandably perhaps, by self interest. However I don't wish to dwell on that subject as I'm sure it will continue to be debated intensely for some time. Suffice to say my perception was that this scheme was heading for the file marked'fait accompli' until high profile media coverage of Senator Ben Shenton's statements and letters to the J.E.P.. Until then I was beginning to think my view was decidely a minority one.

The purpose of this letter however is to suggest some ideas for easing the parking 'problems' in the St.Aubin area.

The most obvious ones would be to look at all the current areas of parking, legal or otherwise, to see if improvements could be made, such as reducing the width of the prom at it's widest point to ease and make safer traffic flow, remodel the existing public carpark by the Parish Hall and look at the area around the Railway walk opposite the school building on the hill and consider the use of the school yard itself for evening parking during the busier summer months.

I feel sure all these and more besides have already been raised but two options I have not yet seen mentioned are the following.

In brief, first, and by far the most straightforward and indeed the cheapest idea would be to purchase or lease long term the area the area immediately behind the granite wall at the lower end of the Lucas Bros. fields adjacent to the main road. The wall is approximately 300 yards long and at a rough estimate with just single vehicle parking facing north/south and nose in to the wall this could accomodate at least 100 cars.

The land below the wall, particularly the west end, is not that good and a single file car park would not remove any considerable ammount of productive land, which in any case could actually be restored at any time.

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This area is also below road level and a car park of minimal width would not be noticed by anyone other than pedestrians walking on that side of the road, of which there are few as most prefer the sea side prom.

There is a ready made entry for cars entering/exiting from the west end, (entry would be for downhill traffic only at that point), and a suitable entry/exit point could be made opposite the small sea side carpark by the public toilets.

The second idea is more complex as an engineering project though I would have thought fairly straightforward as it has already been mooted for the Gas Place Park scheme.

It has always struck me that the granite frontage of the Le Haule Manor Hotel gardens would be an ideal facade for an 'underground' car park. I am not an engineer but I feel that to build a fair sized carpark behind that granite wall with an entry/exit onto the main road then cover it over with the Hotel's garden should be perfectly feasible. The Hotel would then gain a 'balcony' garden rather than the sunken lawns they have at present sitting behind the wall. The facade, once restored, would retain the current outlook.

Obviously negotiations with the owners may be a challenge but if the project was in the end to everyones advantage then that is far from insurmountable. Understandably the cost would be greater than the field scheme but I think it is worthy of consideration.

Both these ideas have the undisputable benefit of retaining, almost without visible change, the character of St.Aubin which in my view would meet the aims and desires of the residents of the village, the Parish and the island at large.

It is with that thought in mind that I write to you and trust these ideas will be of interest.

Yours sincerely,

Carl Gavey

P.s. To offset the negative comments about the 'ugly' foreshore at low tide, why not put a positive light on it by employing Heritage and/or Wildlife to erect some information boards on the landside of the prom wall showing the low water rocks in profile along with the birds that utilise them.
With a few coin operated telescopes at various points it may help passers by understand the low water environment and it's place in our ecology a little better and appreciate it more.