M. JAERSON ESQ.

APPENDIX XIV

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9-1-08

DEAR M. LE CONNETABLE,

I READ THAT YOU ARE ATTEMPTING TO PROGRESS THE PROPOSED RECLAMATION AT ST AUBIN WITH A MEETING AT THE END OF JANUARY; I WOULD HAVE APPLIED FOR A TICKET BUT I SHALL BE AWAY FROM THE ISLAND ON THE DAY.

I DO NOT LIVE IN ST AUBIN BUT I AM CONCERNED FOR THE AREA ON SEVERAL COUNTS: I AM A FREQUENT VISITOR TO THE VILLAGE BOTH BY LAND AND BY SEA, MY HOUSE THOUGH NOT IN THE PARISH OVERLOOKS THE FORT AND THE HARBOUR, I HAVE AN INTEREST IN THE FREEHOLD OF A PROPERTY IN THE HIGH STREET; AND AS A JERSEYMAN I FEEL ENTITLED TO AIR MY VIEWS!

AT THE PARISH HALL MEETING EARLY LAST YEAR I WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT THE BODY OF OPINION WHICH WAS AGAINST THE PROPOSAL WAS USING ARGUMENTS TO OPPOSE WHICH WERE LOUD BUT FLAWED, AND TO SOME EXTENT THINLY DISGUISED "NIMBYISM"

I THINK THAT IT IS A MISTAKE TO PRESENT THE RECLAMATION PROPOSAL AND THE WATER RETENTION SCHEME FOR THE HARBOUR AS ONE PROJECT. WHILE APPRECIATING THE PROBLEM WITH THE NORTH QUAY, IT WOULD BE BETTER TO CONCENTRATE ON THE RECLAMATION AND LEAVE THE HARBOUR PLAN FOR ANOTHER OCCASION.

BUT WHEN PROPOSING THE

RECLAMATION A MORE AMBITIOUS PLAN SHOULD BE ADVANCED, I.E. FROM THE NORTH PIER HEAD TO LA HAULE SLIPWAY. THIS WOULD PROVIDE A WORTHWHILE AREA OF LAND WITH SUFFICIENT SPACE FOR OTHER USES BUT PARKING. THERE IS A NEED FOR PARKING FOR CARS AND LAID UP BOATS, WHICH COULD BE PROVIDED TOGETHER WITH SOME DEVELOPEMENT AND PLENTY OF ROOM TO SPARE FOR AMENITY SPACE, PARKS PROMENADE ETC.

A RETAINING WALL CONSTRUCTED ON THE INCLINE (SIMILAR TO THE BREAKWATER PROTECTING THE NEW MARINA AT ST QUAY, BRITTANY) WOULD BE AESTHETICALLY IN KEEPING WITH THE BAY, AND I BELEIVE WOULD HELP LESSEN THE SWELL WHICH ENTERS THE HARBOUR WHEN ST AUBINS BAY IS FULL OF WATER AND THE SEA WALLS ARE REFLECTING THE SWELL. WHETHER THIS WOULD EFFECT THE SILTING OF THE HARBOUR FOR GOOD OR ILL WOULD HAVE TO BE STUDIED BY HYDRAULIC EXPERTS. THE GRANITE BLOCK EXTERIOR OF THE NORTH QUAY WOULD BE COVERED AND LOST FROM VIEW, AS WOULD THE SOMEWHAT RARRED SEA WALL IN FRONT OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH WHICH PROTECTS THE RECLAMATION WHICH WAS DONE FOR THE RAILWAY LINE IN THE 19TH CENTURY. BUT ST AUBINS IS NOT SHORT OF 18TH AND 19TH CENTURY GRANITE WORK, THE FORT ARM, THE SOUTH PIER, THE BULWARKS ETC.

ONCE INFILLED THE RECLAIMED AREA COULD BE DEVELOPED IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS TO THE ADVANTAGE OF THE VILLAGE AND HARBOUR. THE PROVISION OF PARKING FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS IS THE MOST OBVIOUS, I WAS AMAZED TO HEAR FROM SO MANY AT LAST YEAR'S MEETING THAT THER

WAS NO PARKING PROBLEM AT ST AUBIN, AS A VISITOR BY CAR I INVARIABLY HAVE DIFFICULTY, AS A VISITOR BY BOAT I FIND IT DIFFICULT TO PUT THE MOORING LINES ASHORE ON THE NORTH QUAY BECAUSE OF PARKED CARS ALONG THE LANDTIE. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT MORE PARKING WOULD ENHANCE THE VILLAGE.

HARD STANDING FOR LAID-UP BOATS IS ALSO BADLY NEEDED, WITH THE ISLAND WIDE INCREASE IN BOAT-OWNING LAYING UP SPACE IS AT A PREMIUM AND MOVING LAID UP BOATS OFF THE QUAYS WOULD IMPROVE THE VIEW AND THE AMENITY OF THE HARBOUR.

GARDENS, OPEN AREAS OF GRASS, THE INEVITABLE SKATE BOARDING AREA, LANDSCAPING AND THE PROMENADE BORDERING THE SHORELINE WOULD BE INCORPORATED TO GIVE ST AUBIN MORE BREATHING SPACE. BETTER FACILITIES FOR THE SEA SPORTS CENTRE AT LA HAVE COULD ALSO BE PROVIDED.

AN AREA OF DEVELOPEMENT, LOW RISE RESIDENTIAL, BETWEEN THE ROAD AND JUST EAST OF THE EXISTING TOILET/CAFE WOULD BE APPROPRIATE, THIS WOULD BE AN IDEAL SITE FOR ANY FUTURE PROVISION OF SHELTERED ACCOMMODATION FOR THE AGED OF THE PARISH. THIS IS LAND WHICH WAS TO A LARGE EXTENT BUILT ON WHEN THERE WERE RAILWAY SHEDS BEHIND WHAT IS NOW THE PARISH HALL. MUCH WAS MADE BY THE "ANTIS" AT THE LAST MEETING OF THE EVILS OF RECLAMATION BECAUSE OF THE "MESS" IT HAS BEEN AT ST HELIER. BUT THEY FORGET THAT THE RECLAMATION AT LA COLLETTE HAS BEEN USED TO ACCOMMODATE VITAL ISLAND FACILITIES — THE ABBATOIR, POWER STATION, GAS TANKS, OIL TANKS, CEMENT SILOS, WAREHOUSES AND CONTAINER PARK, STATES OFFICES FOR TRAFFIC, HARBOUR DEPT WORK SHOPS TANKER BERTH FISHERIES DEPT ETC. TOGETHER WITH VARIOUS

VARIOUS STORES AND WORKSHOPS DEEMED TO BE 'BAD NEIGHBOUR BUSINESSES IN THE TOWN, NONE OF THE ABOVE, UGLY BUT ESSENTIAL, FACILITIES WOULD HAVE BEEN APPROPRIATE ANY WHERE ELSE IN THE ISLAND. THE RECLAMATION WEST OF THE HARBOUR IN ST HELIER ALSO PROVIDES WAREHOUSING, TRAILOR PARKS, FERRY BERTHS ETC., ALL ESSENTIAL; AND SOME MONOLITHIC BLOCKS OF RESIDENTIAL AND LEISURE DEVELOPMENT WHICH WOULD NOT BE REQUIRED AT ST AUBIN.

THE BIRD LOBBY IS AS USUAL STRIDENT IN ITS DEFENCE OF THE ALLEGEDLY ESSENTIAL FEEDING GROUNDS FOR VARIOUS SPECIES, LARGELY GEESE, ON THE BEACH AREA WHICH WOULD BE RECLAIMED. THIS S A COMPLETELY FALSE ARGUMENT, THE BIRDS ARE VISITORS TO THE AREA, IF THEY ARE DEPRIVED OF IT THEY WILL MOVE ON ELSEWHERE, THE BIRD POPULATION IS MOBILE, SOME DAYS THEY ARE THERE SOMETIMES NOT. DURING THE OCCUPATION THERE WERE NO GEESE FEEDING IN ST AUBIN'S BAY IN THE WINTER, HAD THERE BEEN THE GERMANS WOULD HAVE SHOT THEM. THEY ARE COMPARATIVE NEW COMERS IN SUCH NUMBERS IN THE BAY. THEY SEEM TO ENJOY THE AREA NEAR WEST PARK SLIPWAY CLOSE WEST OF ..... THE RECLAMATION! BIRD WATCHERS ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT THEIR CHOSEN PASTIME, BUT THIS PASSION SHOULD BE KEPT IN PROPORTION.

JERSEY'S POPULATION IS INCREASING BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS, WITHOUT SUCH SCHEMES AS PROPOSED, TO PROVIDE MORE LIVING SPACE FOR THE POPULATION THE COUNTRYSIDE WILL RAPIDLY BECOME OVERWHELMED IT WAS IRONIC THAT MANY OF THE VOICES AGAINST THE PROPOSAL WERE OF NEW COMERS TO THE ISLAND, THE VERY PEOPLE WHO MAKE THE EXPANSION OF THE ISLAND NECESSARY! THEY SHOULD BE REMINDED

"THERE IS A BOAT IN THE MORNING" NOT VERY P.C. BUT NONE THE LESS APPROPRIATE !

SO THOSE ARE THE THOUGHTS OF ONE INTERRESTED INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTING THE FORWARD-LOOKING PROMOTERS OF THE "WALLY SCHEME", GOOD LUCK TO YOU.

SINCERELY

A.G.W. CLARKE.