APPENDIX XV
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St Aubin 23/01 2008

To the Constable of St Brelade.

Re: St Aubin Future Forum.

Dear Sir,
Having been selected to participate in the St Aubin Future Forum, we went to the Information meeting on January 17th.
From what we learned, in more detail, about the form this forum was to be conducted, we decided not to participate.
However, if we had participated, we would have given our input as follows:

Reclamation (The assumed main subject for the forum).
It is obvious that Deputy Ferguson, when she wrote the Report, did not know, and still does not know, the actual situation of the parking and traffic conditions in the village. To say that the "The centre of St Aubin is choked with cars at all times of the day" is a completely misleading statement.
She is also talking about "relocating vehicles". This probably means that the two car parks, nearest the centre, would be closed and used for other developments. This "relocation" would not please either traders or car park users.
In the same paragraph she mentions St Aubin as "this jewel in the Jersey's crown". So, why should you spoil this view, now meeting visitors and tourists (especially the ones arriving with the Le Petit Train) by building an enormous car park (and possible future office and apartment buildings). The view is already partly spoilt by the dominating awful roof of the new Boat House.
About the reclamation; we would also point out that the majority of St Aubins residents, and some of the traders, are against a reclamation (reference - the meeting in November 2006). And also, what will a reclamation do to the flow of water in the bay and to the yearly visiting geese? They will, as we have learned, never come back to the island.
When it comes to financing, will the tax payer pay for it and if so, will the land later on be sold to interested developers?

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About the harbour.
We would strongly object against "the creation of a gated wet basin..." (if it still part of the feasibility study). Also; over-wintering vessels ashore on the North Quay is, as we understand, no longer a reality.
Finally about the harbour; the North Quay repair should be treated as a separate project and be completed as soon as possible. As we understand it, money has already been allocated for this repair.
About parking for boat owners, why not provide a fence, just after where the car park at the Boat House finishes, with a gate for cars and one gate for walkers. ("Before the Boat House" this area was once reserved for boat owners only).

About "the part-pedestrianization of the Bulwarks"
Our comments or questions should have been - how would it work?
As we see it, an "Access only" sign, at the beginning of the Bulwarks, must also allow for traffic to and from Ghost Hill. That would only restrict tourists for driving through. Not much gained there.
To make Mont du Boulevard a one way street, to force the traffic from the Ghost Hill area to take the Market Hill Road, would not be much appreciated by the people living along that road.

Parking (The assumed second main subject for the forum).
We would have raised our question about the reasons for why the development of the Railroad Tunnels had not already taken place.
The space has been available for all these 40 years, mentioned in the land reclamation Report, and, if developed, there would have been less reasons for the feasibility study.
If, at all possible, we still see it as a strong alternative, to any of the other alternatives.
The location is very near to the village centre. Space could be reserved for traders and staff (at reduced cost). Also; space for boat owners could also be allocated (if not provided in any other location).
The cost for making the necessary modifications and installations should be considerably less than for providing a reclamation car park.

Meanwhile, we would suggest that chevron parking should be provided in the La Haule area of the La Neuve Route. Also; on top of the Land Slip, there is a field that could be used for parking - someone will probably know why this field is not already developed.

These additional parking spaces would provide enough spaces while building a new parking house on the Land Slip car park, another alternative, less costly than the reclamation alternative. The chevron parking spaces should be provided as soon as possible.
Regarding covenant on the Land Slip area, we believe that this covenant is negotiable.

Traffic
One suggestion we have here is to reduce the speed limit through the village from 30 mph to 20 mph. To be implemented as soon as possible.
Another suggestion is to introduce a 15 mph speed limit on the Mount the Boulevard, starting at the Yacht Club. The Boulevard should also be provided with effective road humps. Also this one to be implemented as soon as possible.

Policing
Ever since the sign "No entry for vehicular traffic" was erected - just outside the police station - it has been completely ignored and so, to a certain extent, have the same signs, on the spherical stones, in front of the Parish Hall. Remove the signs or fine the offenders.
CCTV cameras should be located at the lower end of the High Street and at Charing Cross.
The crossing at the Westbound bus stop should be made to an official pedestrian crossing. (Yesterday).

Future
What we imagine, but what we hope future residents will not have to see, is a "Tesco shape" building on the proposed reclamation area.
There is also the prospect that - if St Aubin will not become, or continue to be, a "sleepy dormitory for workers in St Helier"- St Aubin will most likely end up with a waterfront like St Helier with hotel, office buildings and apartment houses on the proposed and probably also on an extended reclamation.
About developing further cafés and restaurants along the Bulwark, we do not think that would be in favour of the already established ones.

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Housing
It is obvious that a reclamation will have a negative effect on house prices in the area.

Finally
With minor, as required, improvements and with careful maintenance of what we already have got, let us keep St Aubin as "the jewel in the Jersey's crown.

Yours faithfully

Sven and Margaret Agren

c/c Deputy S.G. Ferguson