

COUNCIL FOR THE PROTECTION OF JERSEY'S HERITAGE



Anneville Lodge, Le Mont des Landes, St Martin, JERSEY, JE3 6DJ

The Editor
The Jersey Evening Post
Five Oaks
St. Saviour
Jersey
JE4 8XQ By email

19 April 2012

Sir,

A FITTING LEGACY TO MARK THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE

In declaring its continued and wholehearted support for the campaign by The National Trust for Jersey for the acquisition of the holiday camp site at Plémont, in order to preserve this magnificent stretch of coastal landscape and return it to its natural state, as a fitting legacy to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the Council is disappointed to discover that with 800 years of allegiance to the British Crown behind us, Jersey cannot offer this site as our response to the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge <http://www.qe2fields.com> because it needs the owner to sign the Deed of Dedication. This campaign is being led by HRH Prince William, Duke of Cambridge and quoting from this website "This is a fantastic campaign to protect 2012 outdoor recreational spaces in communities across the country as a permanent, living legacy of this great event".

This campaign fits the situation at Plémont perfectly. The highly contentious Environmental Impact Assessment submitted by the developer in support of the present application contains the following factual statement:

"over half of Fields 44 and 47 which are undeveloped and formerly used for recreational purposes."

The planning application is to build no fewer than 12 of the 28 houses in these historic field areas clearly shown on the Duke of Richmond map made in 1795, and where many of us can remember, in the not too distant past, people played football and other games. Needless to say, this is all land in the Green Zone where there is "*a presumption against any new development for any purpose whatsoever.*" Indeed, it is difficult to understand why we need a Public Inquiry to confirm that the present planning application is completely unacceptable under current law.

To build 28 expensive houses, most of them not where the derelict buildings now stand, but on previously undeveloped land in the Green Zone would amount to an environmental disaster of epic proportions. Portelet will fade into insignificance in comparison of the scale of the resulting permanent destruction and loss of this potentially beautiful, coastal, landscape.

Furthermore, the present members of the States should be reminded that it was agreed in Proposition P/112/2006 that “it would be in the public interest for the headland at Plémont to be preserved as open space for the enjoyment of the public of the Island.” So what could be more fitting and timely than the site should be acquired by the States, supported and possibly matched, pound for pound, by the public fund-raising efforts of the National Trust as a fitting legacy to mark the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee.

Is it too much now to expect the present States Assembly to be more decisive and enter into negotiations with the owners to acquire the site? The owners have repeatedly expressed a willingness to sell.

Apart from upholding the very purpose of our Planning Law, which is to protect places that have a special importance or value to the Island, and to ensure that the coast is kept in its natural state, the States would be meeting the wishes of the significant number of ‘Line in the Sand’ demonstrating Islanders by enabling The National Trust for Jersey to jointly purchase this priceless and beautiful coastal headland and thereafter safeguard it as a fitting, wonderful and truly permanent Island legacy that marks the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee.

Yours sincerely,

John Mesch

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