

National Park for Jersey Consultation: Outputs

June 2009

Introduction

A public consultation on the proposal for a National Park for Jersey was publicised and conducted during March 2009. The process included a questionnaire that was sent to 800 addresses within the St Ouen's Bay area and that was accessible to all on-line (see appendix 1) and two stakeholder workshops where specific individuals or organisations were identified and targeted, one held during the day at the Societe on the 10th March and one in the evening at St Ouen's parish hall on the 11th March.

Discussion

A combination of questionnaire and workshops was chosen to ensure that a) the process was as democratic as possible –i.e. open to all and b) that qualitative data relating to perceptions and specific concerns of key stakeholders could be gathered.

Headline questionnaire outputs

The key headlines from the questionnaire are that there is support for the concept with 84% either agreeing or strongly agreeing that the creation of a National Park would bring benefits. In relation to the scale of the proposed National Park, 84% either agreed or strongly agreed that the boundary should extend beyond St Ouen's Bay and of those, 83% either agreed or strongly agreed that the boundary should be extended to include the South-West coast from Noir Mont to Le Petit Port.

Workshops

Both workshops were well attended by 56 people in total (see appendix 2) and were facilitated by external consultants Dialogue Matters and Environment Department employees who were specially trained in facilitation skills. Feedback from the workshops showed that the process design was well received (see appendix 3). The workshops were designed to encourage a structured discussion (see appendix 4) to explore the idea of a National Park. The discussion was recorded on flip charts or 'post-it' notes. Following the workshops these outputs were typed word for word and then sorted into common themes - like with like - to aid understanding.

Levels of support for a National Park

At the end of each workshop, attendees were asked to describe their level of support for the idea of a National Park. The outputs are summarised in the following table:

	I oppose the idea	I have reservations	I can live with the idea	I support the idea	I strongly support the idea
Day Workshop	✓✓	✓✓✓✓✓✓	✓	✓✓✓✓✓✓	✓✓✓✓✓✓
Evening Workshop	✓✓✓✓✓✓	✓✓✓✓✓✓ ✓✓✓✓✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓
No.	8	19	2	10	10
%	16.3	38.8	4.1	20.4	20.4

The above response shows that more people support or can live with the idea than oppose it. However, a significant number of participants were open to the idea, but had reservations and questioned what difference it would actually make and whether it is worth the effort. Comments from those ‘floating voters’ who had reservations focused on very similar points:

- Whether or not a decision will be sustained and adequately resourced over time.
- The need for clarity of purpose.
- Given existing policy and restrictions are more needed – perhaps the existing ones need to be better implemented?
- Scale of the park to be worthwhile but also affordable.
- Clarity about the implications – what will be affected, in what way and to what extent?
- The need for more consultation and involvement as the idea develops.
- The need for transparency and honesty.

Special qualities and benefits of a National Park

The qualities that people perceived and value about both St Ouens Bay and the other areas considered as ‘special’ showed a lot of consistency both within and between workshops and could be broadly grouped into open, wild, beautiful landscape, wildlife, access, recreation, historic environment, socio-economic considerations. Shared perceptions about what is valued are useful to the debate around a National Park as it is much easier to move forward in this situation than when people value very divergent qualities.

Uncertainty

Unsurprisingly there were a lot of comments about the concept and what it would actually mean in reality in the absence of a clear definition of what a National Park

for Jersey would do. The States were faced with a common conundrum around when to involve stakeholders, deciding to involve stakeholders early in the process whilst options are open, so stakeholders could have a greater influence, and greater 'buy in' to the outcome. However this early involvement has meant that everyone is working together in a context of high levels of uncertainty about what the change will mean for them and the interests they represent. The risk is that in the face of uncertainty people tactically assume the worst-case scenario and oppose the change. If participation is done late, when many decisions have already been made, there is more certainty for stakeholders but also much less opportunity for them to influence what happens, or to maximise mutual benefit and minimise negative effects. It means decisions are less well rounded and informed and there is much greater chance of high levels of conflict that becomes entrenched.

Early involvement has worked well so far, but for it to continue to work well, because people are working with uncertainty around what change means and what will happen, they need to have some certainty and trust about the context in which it is happening. As such, if the National Park concept does go forward, it will be important in all communication to continue to convey respect for the differing perspectives identified by the workshops and to communicate that the department is of good intent and genuinely wants to work with people to maximise benefit and overcome dis-benefits.

Conclusions

- There is significant support for a National Park.
- Most organisations and individuals who contributed to the consultation saw benefits to themselves and/or to the Island.
- There is consistency about what special qualities should be considered within a National Park.
- There is no clear consensus around the boundary of the National Park.
- There is a need to better define what the purposes a National Park for Jersey would be and to address uncertainty, conflicted areas and the reservations of the undecided.
- There is likely to be a need for more information to be gathered to address the above.

Daniel Houseago

Assistant Director, Environmental Management and Rural Economy

June 2009

APPENDIX 1

A National Park for Jersey

The St. Ouen's Bay Area

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

St. Ouen's Bay is a particularly special area of Jersey.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
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If you agree or strongly agree with the statement above please answer the following:

What do you value about St Ouen's Bay?

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If there was one thing I would want to change about the area it is.....

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Over the last 10 years the look and feel of the area has changed for the better.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
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The National Park Idea

National Parks are places where the particular qualities of an area are recognised and protected.

I think making the St. Ouen's Bay area a National Park would bring worthwhile benefits to the area.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
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If you agree or strongly agree with the statement above, please give (up to) three reasons why it would be worthwhile.

If you do not agree, please give (up to) three reasons why it would NOT be worthwhile.

1

2

3

Do you think St. Ouen's Bay area should be made a National Park?

Yes

No

Don't know

If you answered yes, please tick all the areas which you think should be included in a National Park area at St. Ouen's

The bay and a short way inland

The sea to the mean low water mark

- Corbiere headland
- Ouaisne heathland
- Sand dunes and wetlands
- Portelet common
- Noirmont common
- Les Landes
- Plemont
- La Pulente
- L'Etacq
- Other – (please specify _____)

I think that other parts of Jersey should be linked to St Ouen's Bay area to form a larger National Park.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
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If you agree or strongly agree with the statement above, please tick all the areas which you think should also be included in a National Park.

- The North Coast, including St Catherine's Bay area
- The South-West coast from Noir Mont to Le Petit Port
- Other – (please specify _____)

10th March, Societe Jersiaise

	Name	Organisation
1.	Pete Double	Actions for Wildlife Jersey
2.	Tony Beaumont	Barn Owl Conservation Network
3.	Bob Newton	Barn Owl Conservation Network
4.	Gordon Wright	Caesarean Cycling Club
5.	Paul Masterton	Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust
6.	Glyn Young	Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust
7.	John Duquemin	Jersey Electricity Company
8.	John Le Maistre	Jersey Farmers Union
9.	Roger Hills	Jersey Heritage
10.	Derek Hairon	Jersey Kayak Adventures Ltd
11.	Lucy Jenkins	Jersey Pearl
12.	Peter Norman	Jersey Rifle Association
13.	Donna Le Marrec	Jersey Tourism/EDD
14.	Stephen Coleman	JSPCA Animal Shelter
15.	Dominic Cole	Land Use Consultants
16.	Jon Horn	National Trust
17.	Rosemary Collier	National Trust
18.	Tim Skudder	Nigel Biggar & Partners Architects
19.	Astrid Kisch	Resident
20.	Robert Kisch	Resident
21.	Iris Carre	Resident
22.	Frank Carre	Resident
23.	John Clarke	Société Jersiaise
24.	Roger Anthony	Société Jersiaise
25.	Jamie Mason	Transport & Technical Services

26.	David Seymour	Watersplash
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11th March, St. Ouen's Parish Hall

	Name	Organisation
27.	Jason Adams	Atlantic Hotel
28.	Arthur Queree	Bethesda Chapel - President
29.	Sue Morel	Bethesda Methodist Church
30.	John Refault	Constable of St Peter
31.	John Le Fondre	El Tico
32.	Olivia English	Friends of Les Mielles
33.	Francesca Fray	Friends of Les Mielles
34.	John Fox	Jersey Adventures
35.	Justin Horton	Jersey Association of Windsurfers
36.	Michael Surcouf	Jersey Association of Windsurfers
37.	Richie Langford	Jersey Kite Surfing Association
38.	Stephen Harewood	Jersey Longboard Riders Association
39.	Julie Thomson	Jersey Motorcycle & Light Car Club
40.	Ken Thomson	Jersey Motorcycle & Light Car Club
41.	Christine Wright	Jersey Motorcyle & Light Car Club
42.	Greg Menzies	Jersey Scout Association
43.	James Le Feuvre	Jersey Scout Association
44.	David Ferguson	Jersey Surfboard Club
45.	Brett Allen	La Moye Golf Club
46.	Ian Prentice	La Moye Golf Club
47.	Nigel Wray	Landowner/business interest
48.	Jason Simon	Landowner/business interest
49.	Edward Michel	Landowners Association

50.	Ken Syvret	Le Gris Ventre
51.	Jonathan Le Brun	Les Mielles Golf & Country Club
52.	Frank Carre	Resident
53.	Iris Carre	Resident
54.	Alan Dix	Roads Committee Officer
55.	Geoff Compton	Save our shoreline
56.	Margaret Holland Prior	St Brelade in Bloom, Stop the Drop!

APPENDIX 4

National Park Workshop Agenda

Morning Sessions

Getting Started

- 9:30
- Registration, coffee and tea will be available
 - Imagine it is 2030 and you are travelling around the St Ouen's Bay area delighted with what you see. What do you see? Add your thoughts to those of others.
 - At this stage, to what extent do you support the idea of a National Park?
- 10:00
- Welcome
 - Facilitators introduction Diana Pound. **dialogue matters**
 - Introduction to the National Park idea Dan Houseago. Assistant Director, Environmental Management and Rural Economy Planning and Environment.

11.00 Tea and Coffee

- 11:20 Thinking about the area - visit each of the topics below and have your say
- What do you value most now as it is?
 - What are the current trends or changes in the area?
 - What is already being done that is contributing to the beauty, wildlife and sustainable use of the area?
 - What are the current issues and challenges?
 - Where do you value most now and why?

12:30 Lunch

- 1:30 Exploring the idea of a National Park
- What do you like about the idea of a National Park - what are the potential benefits?
 - What don't you like about the idea – what are the challenges and issues?
 - What would happen to the area without a National Park?
 - If the National Park does happen, what kind of criteria would you suggest for selecting the area to be included?

2:45

Tea and Coffee

3:00

Going into more detail

- What would a National Park need to achieve for the St Ouen's Bay Area to be worthwhile?
- What suggestions do you have of where the National Park could be – sketch your ideas on maps and say why?
- What are the benefits and challenges of the idea for your interests?
- To what extent do you now support the idea of a National Park - and what would need to happen to increase your support?
- If the idea goes forward who would need to be involved?

- **What happens next**
- **Closing comments**

no later than

4:30