

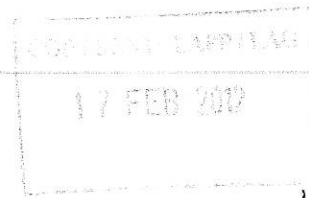
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Alice Tostevin

From: Mel Davison [REDACTED]  
 Sent: 13 February 2012 11:57  
 To: Alice Tostevin  
 Subject: Development of Plémont Village site.

Attachments: JEP LetterPlemont.doc; ATT00001.htm

Good Morning Miss Tostevin,



P/2011/1673

PPI/1302 2012 / DAVISON

Thank you for your prompt reply to my telephone message this morning.

I attach a copy of my letter to the Jersey Evening Post and which was published, in that Newspaper, just over two weeks ago.

The letter's content reflects all my worries, and concerns, relating to the proposals to develop, and build on, the Plémont Village Site.

While I would not challenge every proposal for development, in certain locations, I am unable to support this project on the basis of:

- the ecological sensitivity of the location;
- the apparent desire of developers to even countenance building houses on a site which should not have been developed in the first instance and was, in the view of many people, a mistake from the out set but has been tolerated for several generations;
- I would appreciate having an explanation why it is, always, assumed that it is acceptable to reuse cleared land; can we not learn from past mistakes? it would be interesting to hear the developers explanation of what they value against the overriding desire for profit at any cost.
- perhaps, if they were seen to make a sacrifice, in the interests of protecting the environment, and receive an appropriate level of publicity, it may go some way to help their cause and enhance their altruistic intentions;
- it is all about values, "desire over restraint" and the notion of a shared inheritance.

I hope this is helpful and, if desirable, I shall be willing to respond to any further enquiries.

Best wishes,  
 Mel Davison.

To the Editor of The Jersey Evening Post.

Dear Sir,

I understand that the, relentless, developers have rendered a renewed application, using "*snatches of old tunes*", to erect dwellings on the Plemont Village Site.

It is reckless to deny that these proposals are any other than an irrevocable threat to the fragility, and unique ethos, of Plemont. The matter is all about trusteeship and, in particular, the **values** of a community. The wealthier the nation, where there is overpopulation, a burgeoning middle class eager to fulfill their desires, and dispassionate about establishing an environmental, and ecological, balance with economic growth, it is not surprising that conflict is inevitable. Roger Scruton calls this "*desire over restraint*". We must be ever conscious of the good husbandry of our forebears and to exercise restraint, in the name of future generations, and learn the principle of a shared inheritance.

I have, always, been mystified why there is a compulsion to rebuild on all land which has been cleared. It is understandable that this may be necessary, and expedient, in some locations but, in others, any action must be measured against the **values** of the community and the sensitivity of the domain; particularly, through the introduction of a criteria of assessment, which eclipses the re-use of the realty while emphasizing its importance to nature conservation. It is important to note that, when the Plemont site was developed, planning regulations were more relaxed with the ecology being under less pressure. The Plemont issue reveals many parallels, and evokes many resonances, regarding our **values**, in the sad tale of the Portelet development. Regardless of whether any mistakes were made, in the initial negotiations, would we, as a community/Island, have been willing to meet the cost of any penalty clauses, regardless of their magnitude, if it had been decided to renege on the initial agreement? If there was such a desire then Portelet may have been returned to the arms of mother nature.

Finally, we must, clearly, define our **values** and ensure that a balance, and dialogue, is maintained between those who wish to protect aspects of our most vulnerable, and precious, environment and those who wish to profit from its frailty. Paul Brooks, in *The Pursuit of Wilderness*, says it best, and sounds a word of caution: "*In America to-day you can murder land for profit. You can leave the corpse for all to see, and nobody calls the cops*"

Mel Davison,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Grouville,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]