



Chief Pleas
THE DOUZAINE

Public information report

Projects in hand and earmarked for the near future.

LA COUPÉE.

Thorough tests were undertaken earlier this year by an expert in this particular field to discover the possible problems with the road. A report was submitted to the Douzaine with remedial recommendations to be implemented before major problems occur.

A firm of specialists was engaged from Guernsey to carry out the first stage of the work which has been undertaken during the autumn of this year. Tenders were requested from local firms to assist the specialists. One was engaged from the tenders received and it provided all local workmen and non-specialist equipment.

All residents of Little Sark were notified of the date for commencement of work along with all other carters/ carriers who may have needed to deliver to Little Sark. Procedures were put in place in case of emergencies.

ROADS.

Important work envisaged for the 2013/2014 winter season will be as follows:

The whole of the bottom of the harbour hill between the harbours and just beyond the water tanks will be re-surfaced with Bituchem. If all plans in place move forward as anticipated then local stone will be used thus making a considerable saving on buying stone from Guernsey.

The use of Bituchem on the surface of the harbour hill section of roadway has proved itself over many years. It binds the surface thus avoiding major rain storm wash-away of the road. No other areas of Island maintained roads will be resurfaced using this product.

Due to the large cost of Bituchem and ancillary materials for this section of roadwork, the Mericrusher will not be hired this season. The use of the Mericrusher has highlighted the fact that there is a lack of stone on many of the roads, with sections consisting of just compacted earth and fine stone dust.

New guttering will be built from the top of the hill by the NatWest Bank running down past La Peigneurie to the corner of Mon Abri.

When suitable material is available, annual pothole filling will commence, along with any other jobs deemed necessary.

SEWAGE WORKS.

The facility at Les Laches continues to be used heavily especially during the summer season with 1592 loads of effluent passing through the system from 1 November 2012 to 31 October 2013.

ENSOL 5000 continues to be used to treat the raw sewage and has proved most successful in eliminating smell and breaking down the waste. This product is non-hazardous and 100% biodegradable. ENSOL 5000 contains NO biocides, poisons, or enzymes, and contains a very high level of oxygen and nutrients, it does not kill the good bacteria but adds huge amounts of oxygen to these good bacteria to enable them to get on with their designated job of eating the organic waste.

Test results on the out-fall were taken in 2011 with extremely good recordings. More test will be taken within the next three months and results will be published on the Chief Pleas web-site.

The sewage works is a vital part of the well running of this aspect of the Island, and every effort will be made to use it to the best potential possible. Usual maintenance of the plant and any improvements are on-going and occur as and when necessary.

INCINERATOR.

The disposing of burnable waste continues to be a problem, and to this end, considerable thought has been given to the purchase of an additional incinerator. It is obvious that the existing incinerator is unable to cope with the volume of burnable waste generated, especially during the summer season. Open burning of plastics, etc. is becoming unacceptable when other options are available.

The Chairman of Public Works has been in discussions with the managing director of "Todaysure" Incinerators and it is hoped that he will be coming down to Sark in the near future to give a presentation to Chief Pleas members on the best incinerator alternatives. Public Works have also discussed with the relevant departments in Guernsey options on testing air quality in and around the quarry area.

This is an extremely complex issue with many difficulties to overcome. However it must be remembered that there have been significant improvements in burning practices. It is not so many years ago that open burning on the plateau of the Island was rife, especially in the summer season when, as soon as the last boat left for the day, all

catering establishments lit their individual burning areas. Some evenings the Avenue area was covered in dense smoke with the ever present stink of smouldering half burned plastics.

RECYCLING.

There has been some progress recently with the ongoing programme of sending cans, newspapers/magazines and scrap metal to Guernsey. The disposal of these items incurs a cost.

Copper pipe, electric cable, and tractor/boat batteries are stored at the harbour quarry until sufficient quantities are available for economical transfer to Guernsey. These items generate a small income to Public Works, thus helping with the overall cost of recycling.

Households on Sark are expected to help by recycling at source with separate bins for glass, tins, burning, etc. Discussions are taking place to see if this can be improved further.

Glass crushers are being discussed with the intention of selling the end product as aggregate to builders.

Ash continues to be a problem, but discussions on the possibility of a new incinerator indicate that the amount of ash produced could be reduced significantly.

One possible alternative to sending the ash to landfill would be to use it to add to the manufacture of concrete blocks.

David Melling and Paul Williams continue discussions with “Guernsey Recycling” to assess possible new streams of revenue.

GREEN WASTE/SOIL/RUBBLE FACILITY LES LACHES.

This facility will be closed for use by the general public from 1st December 2013 until further notice.

The reason for this is that the whole area has become very untidy as a result of un-controlled dumping, costing Public Works valuable resources in relocating materials.

A thorough tidy up and making of specific areas for all materials will be undertaken as soon as possible. Once done the facility may be re-opened with stricter procedures in place. A member of the Douzaine will be made responsible for the day-to-day running. Requests will have to be made to use the site with a time to suit both parties. A log will be kept of all loads and a small, reasonable charge will be made to help cover the costs.

ISLAND WORK.

There is only a finite amount of work available to anyone seeking employment. It has become obvious that it may not always be possible to have full time work for the existing Island workmen. The Douzaine and Public Works will always try their utmost to use additional, local labour whenever possible. A few jobs have been already earmarked to facilitate this.

DOG WASTE.

This subject does continue to generate a fair amount of comment. There have been many discussions within Chief Pleas over recent years with suggestions of laws put in place. The problem with this would be the practicalities of policing a law.

It has always been believed that the best policy was for dog owners to be co-operative and use the bins provided. Up to date this has worked extremely well with most owners being very considerate.

However, there will always be a few people who care little about such things. It is hoped that any concerned member of the public would complain directly to the individual owners when the identity of the culprits is obvious.

During the coming months Public Works will be locating additional bins around the Island.

DISCUSSIONS.

Members of the Douzaine and Public Works are willing to discuss with residents any matters of concern. We may not be able to answer all your questions but every sensible comment will be listened to.

Douzaine members: E Baker* (Chairman), D Baker, D Cocksedge, E Dewe*, R Dewe, H Fry, M Mann*, D Melling*, C Nightingale, A Prevel, P Williams*

* - members of Public Works Sub-Group