



The Government of Sark

POLICY AND PERFORMANCE AND FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEES

PRESS RELEASE

VISIT OF SIGNATORIES OF THE OPEN LETTER TO SARK

Members of Sark's Chief Pleas will be welcoming some of the 22 signatories of the Open Letter, as published in the Guernsey Press, to the Island on Friday, 26th February 2016. Those taking part in the visit are Rupert Dorey, Frank Walker, Mark Thompson, Luke Wheadon, Wayne Bulpitt, Adrian Heyworth and Dame Mary Perkins.

Charles Maitland, Chairman of the Policy and Performance Committee, commented that he is looking forward to the visit as it will enable Conseillers to give a comprehensive picture of their Island, with its thriving community preparing for yet another busy tourist season. Through the winter the Sark Business Forum www.forum.sark.gg has met regularly to discuss economic development and business initiatives and has shared the good news that Isle of Sark Shipping has 'bucked the trend in 2015' by increasing its profit despite poor weather (Guernsey Press).

Recent research has shown that the population of Sark is stable at 558 – having fallen by one in the past year – and the number of empty properties has fallen in the same period from 86 to 62. There has been a great increase in the number of quality bed and breakfast and self-catering properties that are now available for rent which continue to fill the gap left by the closure of four hotels. More information is available on the Sark Tourism website www.sark.co.uk.

He also commented that there are two major building projects under way which has offered opportunities for builders during the winter – The Sanctuary Project for the Methodist Chapel and a large self-catering project a Le Clos a Jaon.

END

19.2.16
