

# Comité des Connétables

Minutes of the meeting held on  
**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024**  
at the Town Hall, St Helier.

## **Present:**

Connétable de St Brélade - M. K. Jackson, Chairman  
Connétable de St Hélier - A. S. Crowcroft (present for items 4-14)  
Connétable de la Trinité - P. B. Le Sueur  
Connétable de St Pierre - R. P. Vibert (not present for items 4-11)  
Connétable de St Martin - Mrs K. Shenton-Stone  
Connétable de St Jean - A. N. Jehan  
Connétable de Grouville - M. Labey  
Connétable de St Ouën - R. Honeycombe  
Connétable de Ste Marie - R. D. Johnson  
Connétable de St Sauveur - K. C. Lewis

Apologies for absence were received from the Connétable de St Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian, Vice Chairman and the Connétable de St Clément - M. O'D. Troy.

## In attendance:

Mrs S. R. de Gruchy, Secretary

## **Non-exempt (public) under Freedom of Information (Jersey) Law 2011**

Minutes

1. The minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

EYECAN –  
presentation on  
shared spaces  
(vehicles and  
pedestrians)

2. The Comité welcomed the Chief Executive Officer and the Chair of the Sight Impairment Board (SIB), EYECAN, to the meeting and received a presentation outlining how EYECAN could work with the Comité to care for the sight impaired in Jersey, in particular in relation to the challenges presented by shared space initiatives between pedestrians and vehicles and the different approaches taken by parishes in the village settings.

EYECAN was formerly the Jersey Blind Society, established in 1886, which rebranded in 2015. It was Jersey's only charity focused solely on supporting Islanders with sight impairment and the vision for 2024-2026 was to work collaboratively with partners, providing inclusive quality services to improve the lives of all islanders living with sight loss. The charity provided a range of services and, through awareness sessions, was sharing messages about the importance of communication, accessible information and common misunderstandings.

The Chair of SIB stressed how important it was for sight impaired persons to have information, for example about road works, scaffolding and footpath closures. Images of footpath surfaces and street furniture in shared space initiatives were displayed to illustrate how, for those who had a sight impairment, specific materials might be affected by different weather conditions and could be confusing. In relation to public realm improvements, the Comité suggested there might be benefit in certain groups, such as the charity, being statutory consultees. The CEO welcomed this though he advised that representatives of three disability groups were already part of a consultative group but there appeared to be a lack of consistency as to when advice was sought. Other suggestions included the use of the TrafficWorx system (through which road works were managed) and an offer to host an awareness session for States members. Following discussion, the

CEO and Chair were thanked for attending to raise awareness of this subject and they then withdrew from the meeting.

Dogs (Jersey)  
Law 1961 –  
- 2024 licence  
renewals  
- Statistics  
Jersey DSA  
- Policy Centre  
Jersey -  
request

3. The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 6 of 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024, noted a further increase in the number of dog licences purchased in 2024 following reminders issued to licence holders (9,835 dogs compared with 9,166 in June 2023, with 82% purchased online). The Comité recalled that a snapshot of the number of dog licences by Parish was published annually on the Parishes websites and that, in response to Freedom of Information requests, certain other data had also been published. The Comité, having regard to the Data Protection (Jersey) Law 2018, decided to publish a summary of the dog licences per Parish, and the most popular breeds and dog names for the Island together with the information on the range of dog ages and number of dogs per owner.

The Comité, with reference to its minute no. 2 of 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024, recalled it had agreed to explore further the sharing of dog licence data with Statistics Jersey (SJ). The Comité confirmed the Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) with SJ would cover information about the registered dog owners that provided ‘evidence of residency’ in Jersey to support SJ’s work on population estimates. Statistics Jersey had also offered to produce statistics on dog ownership, but the Comité considered that information should be prepared and published by the Parishes with the annual snapshot of the number of licences.

The Comité was informed that a further request for data from dog licences had been received from the Policy Centre Jersey for inclusion in a short paper on the dog population and the dog economy. The Comité decided the statistics to be published on the Parishes websites should be provided for this purpose.

Planning and  
Building -  
General  
Development  
Order:  
proposed  
Conservation  
Areas

4. The Comité, with partial reference to its minute no. 17 of 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024, received the Head of Place and Spatial Planning and the Principal Historic Environment Officer, Government of Jersey (GoJ), who gave a presentation on the proposed introduction of conservation areas. The Comité was reminded that the concept was approved when the States Assembly adopted the draft Planning and Building (Amendment No. 8) (Jersey) Law 202- (P.76/2021) and the list of areas to be first considered for designation had also been endorsed by the Assembly (Island Plan 2022-25: Approval (P.36/2021) – thirty-ninth amendment Conservation Areas (P.36/2021 Amd.39)).

The establishment of the subsequent legal framework for conservation areas had been in development over the last couple of years, and there had been a number of consultations on both the principles for their operation and the detail including the most recent consultation on proposed changes to the planning rules that would operate within them (the General Development Order: Conservation Areas consultation). Specific briefings had been provided for all States Members in relation to this work and the States Assembly approved part of the new legal framework in 2023 when it adopted the draft Planning and Building (Conservation Areas) (Jersey) Regulations 202- (P.83/2023).

The Comité was informed that an appraisal of a proposed conservation area took into account research on its history, special interest, character or area and also engagement with the local community. The GDO (general development order) framework set out what would require planning permission and this was currently the subject of consultation. A variety of changes were proposed to the GDO including amendments to existing controls (e.g. where work would be if visible to the public from the road or foreshore), and additions or extensions to existing provisions e.g. the illumination of buildings in conservation areas (this was an increasing trend). The Minister was considering designating St Aubin as the first conservation area and, for each area, maps would delineate the boundary and also the areas visible from the public road or foreshore. The States had approved Regulations which would enable financial assistance to be given to property owners to make improvements, similar to that which existed for listed buildings, though there were no funds at present for such a scheme.

The Comité discussed with the officers the implications for Parishes of the proposed conservation areas. The GoJ officers confirmed that there would be greater regulatory control within conservation areas so owners would need to apply for more changes than at present, but the proposals were about working with people for a beneficial outcome. Discussions were taking place with Highway Authorities, the Ports of Jersey and the utility companies to understand their aspirations for an area. By having such conversations, and with all parties working together based on a management plan, positive change could be delivered to protect existing road surfaces or work to enhance the area so improvements were made. The GoJ officers were unsure whether this would result in additional financial obligations though the Connétables pointed out that the cost of cobbling a street was more expensive than tarmac. The Comité agreed that the Parishes' Roads Committees should be made aware of the implications of the proposed conservation areas. It also informed the GoJ officers that, having had a presentation from EYECAN (minute no. 2 of this meeting refers), it was mindful that certain street furniture and road surfaces could be a significant problem for sight impaired persons and consideration should be given to making the charity a statutory consultee.

The Comité asked whether Christmas decorations would be considered as illuminations for the purposes of the GDO but the GoJ officers advised the intention was to control inappropriate levels of illumination and Christmas lights were only temporary. The controls would not apply retrospectively, only for new illuminations, though when existing illuminations were renewed there would be a conversation with the owner about the public impact, changes in technology and understanding the business's wishes so as to achieve an acceptable impact on the public environment.

In reply to questions, the GoJ officers confirmed that the Minister for the Environment had certain powers in other legislation in relation to dangerous buildings/structures though the conservation area proposals would not provide any legal compunction to maintain a building or roadside wall. The development pressures were greater within the town area where there were areas with historic buildings and the Minister would be reviewing the listing process for trees (the proposals for tree protection having been repealed by the adoption of the draft Planning and Building (Amendment No. 8) (Repeal) (Jersey) Law 202- (P.90/2023)).

Following further discussion, the GoJ officers were thanked for attending and then withdrew from the meeting.

Liberation Day  
2024 and 2025

5. The Comité noted that a notice had been published regarding tickets for a service and re-enactment to mark the 79<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Liberation of Jersey to be held in Liberation Square, St Helier, on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

Arising from this, the Comité asked the Chairman to write to the Bailiff enquiring as to the proposals to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Liberation of Jersey in 2025 as Connétables wished to ensure that arrangements for parochial celebrations took into account the Island events.

Cyber Security  
Law  
consultation

6. The Comité noted the consultation on Cyber Security Law which would close on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024. The consultation focussed on obtaining feedback from Operators of Essential Services. Under the draft Cyber Security (Jersey) Law 202-, which had been published as part of the consultation, the definition of "public administration" included "a parish of Jersey" and "a body having functions under an enactment". The definition of "relevant law enforcement authorities" included "the Honorary Police". The Operator of an Essential Service (OES) was defined as any service which was essential for the infrastructure of Jersey or the maintenance of critical societal or economic activities in Jersey. It would include the public administration sector being Government services (this included "a parish of Jersey") and Emergency services (though this did not reference the Honorary Police).

In relation to the Commissioner for Cyber Security, there was provision in the draft law for the Commissioner to consult and co-operate, as considered appropriate, with relevant law enforcement authorities and for information sharing in specified circumstances including by a relevant law enforcement authority and a public administration. As the Honorary Police were part of each individual Parish and did not exist as a separate entity, the Comité considered it should query the proposed definitions under, and provisions in relation to, “public administration” and “relevant law enforcement authorities”.

Elections  
(Jersey) Law  
2002 – 3-year  
letters

7. The Comité, with partial reference to its minute no. 6 of 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023, approved the form of letter to be sent in accordance with Article 8(4) of the Elections (Jersey) Law 2002 to those who were currently registered as an elector but who had not, in the last 3 years, returned an Annual Statement to confirm that they remained resident at the address and eligible as an elector.

Next meeting

8. The Connétable of St Helier was thanked for his hospitality and the Comité noted the next meeting would be on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024.

Chairman ..... Date .....

