STATES OF ALDERNEY BY-ELECTION - 8th MARCH 2025

To the Residents of Alderney,
I am writing to ask for your support as I present my candidacy for a States Member position in the upcoming by-election and before I share my thoughts about our issues and opportunities it's only polite to tell you a little about myself for those of you that may not know me.

Whenever you meet people in Alderney, they always ask the question 'How did you find yourself in Alderney?'
I first came to Alderney in 2006 with my then partner Ian, who had been coming here on holiday with his parents since he was a child. I had a fear of flying, so a few drinks were called for before I was persuaded to board the plane at Southampton, but I was so glad I did because the promise of a beautiful island at the other end did not disappoint. Despite the rain and wind all weekend, I fell in love with Braye Beach, Alderney and (of course) my partner, who I went on to marry.
We returned many times over the years and eventually bought our house in 2018 and moved here permanently in 2021. We've never looked back. Our children and grandchildren love it here too and visit often.

I won't make false promises but if elected I will work hard to solve our problems and I commit to being open with the residents of Alderney that I may be privileged to serve.

I guess the next question you may ask is why I think I might be qualified to make a good states member?
I can only offer you this short summary of my qualifications and experience. I have a background in Human Resources and am a Qualified Member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD). I've been an Employment Policy Specialist, Head of HR and HR Director within businesses with headcounts of between 1,000 and over 10,000 employees. I was fortunate during my career. People gave me great opportunities to learn and grow. I have worked for large and small businesses including large retail plc's, private equity backed businesses within hospitality and owner/entrepreneur businesses. I want to pay back those opportunities by doing what I can to create opportunities for others.
For anyone interested in knowing more about my experience, I'm happy to chat to you and have provided my contact and 'linkedin' details.

It does feel like an interview for a job!

Alderney is a very special place! And because of this**,** I want to do what I can to help us create a sustainable and prosperous future for our island. We are experiencing some difficult challenges and there is work to do. I know that many people are working hard behind the scenes to address those challenges. I'd like to help if I can.

I have read the March 2022 Island Plan and I'm aware there has been some progress and a recent review. We need to refocus on the plan, determine what is viable, and re-prioritise urgent tasks. I've listed below my thoughts about some of the issues and opportunities.

ACCESSIBILITY AND CONNECTIVITY
There has been a **lack of essential investment in our transport infrastructure (air and sea).** The challenge is bigger than just the runway, but I think everyone is agreed that **the runway is a fundamental enabler** and is a priority. It is important to maintain a consistent message about this issue and ensure it remains a priority in Guernsey, so that work can begin promptly.
Our **air service is unaffordable for many and is unreliable**. **I am not fixed on a view that the current Aurigny proposition is our only option**. I would be keen to look at alternatives to the current proposition.
I would also like to understand more about the **dedicated medi-vac service** operated from Jersey and explore this further.
I'm keen to support **the development of the ferry services** and I'd like to understand more about this additional source of **inter-island transport**.

ECONOMY
Local employment is currently predominantly reliant on hospitality and building services. I believe we need to focus our energies on supporting these two critical sectors. They each face several issues but with focus and determination I believe we can better support these sectors.
I believe we can grow our **finance sector.** We currently have a number of successful businesses operating here and I'd like to explore ways in which we can develop this further.
GST is in our public conversation and it's inevitable that some form of tax change is on the horizon. It is imperative that we fully understand the impact of any proposed changes to the Alderney community and that these are fully considered and understood before any decision making is finalised. I feel passionately that we should be influential in this debate.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

It is essential for our future that we maintain **a healthy demographic balance within our population**. Many issues have been raised regarding the reasons for families leaving Alderney including our connectivity issues, a lack of affordable housing, the lack of a variety of employment opportunities and limited opportunities for children and young people to develop to their full potential. It is essential that we reverse this trend. I believe the runway, affordability & reliability of our transport infrastructure and the upskilling of our working community are key levers to reversing these trends.

I would like to investigate the lack of **affordable good quality housing** on the island and in my view our community are the best source to find solutions to this problem. I'd like to find some quick wins where possible whilst considering the longer-term opportunities.

I have been privileged to get to know many of the young people on the island through my work with the Youth Club during 2023/24 and through the DoE volunteering opportunities we have created at Riduna Radio station. They often tell me there is 'nothing to do'. I'm committed to finding ways to improve and create **facilities that meet their social needs including leisure and sports facilities** that may be used in all weather. There are some obvious quick wins here and simple changes that can be made to existing facilities such as **the football pitch.** There are some projects that need some new energy and focus such as **the swimming pool**. I appreciate the swimming pool is a contentious issue but let's not shy away from it. **The Butes Centre** is well used by so many groups but does need some upgrading. We are a resourceful community, with a stoic 'make do and mend' attitude but it really wouldn't take a huge amount of investment to make improvements so that all of our existing facilities better meet the needs of the various groups that use them.

GOVERNANCE

I have a firm belief that good governance starts with good intention, integrity and trust. I am committed to **efficient and transparent governance**. **I don't think we need ten states members** but I'm willing to listen to debate and will keep an open mind about this. I am by nature consultative, and I would welcome more open consultation with our community about the important issues we face.

NATURAL AND MAN-MADE ENVIRONMENT

I don't support over-development. I think it's important to state that. I am currently reading the land use plan and if elected will work hard with fellow states members and our community groups and residents to better understand how we can **develop and grow our economy whilst maintaining our natural environment.**

This is a small island that offers a unique natural environment and a simple lifestyle and I, like many others, enjoy returning after the hustle and bustle of the UK when visiting our family. I value the fact that **we enjoy a safe and supportive community**. We are fortunate and we shouldn't underestimate how important this is. It is important to me that in whatever we do for our future that we seek to maintain this equilibrium.

ENERGY

This is not an area of strength for me, but I can see the potential to **develop solar energy**. The technology is available and has been for many years. There are ways of reducing our carbon footprint and reducing our reliance on oil! I am really interested to work with others to find ways in which we can develop our solar energy solution using existing technologies and with minimal impact on our natural environment.

I will keep an open mind about alternative energy sources and long-term solutions. I take a pragmatic approach to this area though and I believe that some new energy sources are a little harder to develop than others. I'm willing to be challenged and I'd like to know more about renewables as a potential source of investment for our future.

In conclusion it is imperative that we stay focused. We can't do everything. When everything appears to be breaking or broken and there are many exciting opportunities it is even more essential that we prioritise the urgent and important. If elected I will work hard alongside my fellow states members to determine those priorities.

I am eager to contribute my experience, knowledge, and enthusiasm to the States of Alderney and if elected I will work hard on your behalf.

I have a deep-rooted commitment to the values of service, integrity, and collaboration, and I will work hard on behalf of the people of Alderney to contribute positively to our future. I'd like to reiterate that I am consultative by nature, and I welcome views and opinions of others particularly those affected by the decisions that are made.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Jan Walker and Tess Woodnutt for their confidence in me and for their support with my nomination and I'd like to thank you for taking the time to read this letter and for considering my candidacy.

Warm regards,

Veronica Taylor

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Got Any Questions?
Come and see me in
The Members Room
The Island Hall
Tuesday 4th & Thursday 6th March
10am to 12pm