

An important message from the Seigneur

A NEW DEVELOPMENT PLAN

It's been 57 years since Sark formally considered the future of island development. Then the relatively new Committee for Preservation of Natural Amenities, now better known as the Development Control Committee, commissioned a plan. The plan and its proposals were narrowly voted down. Since then, our island has drifted on without a master plan for its sympathetic development. The time has come to put this right.

I am a director of the newly formed Sark Property Company, a Guernsey-based entity set up to facilitate potential significant investments in Sark. This aims to include the purchase of property, investments in infrastructure and facilities for residents including affordable housing, and financially supporting the introduction of a mortgage programme. As part of the process the company, in collaboration with key stakeholders, would like to see an independent, objective assessment of what the island needs and what aspirations the community has.

The one organisation I felt has both the expertise and the natural affinity to deliver this objective assessment is The Prince's Foundation, one of the legacy foundations created by King Charles III before he ascended to the throne. It has decades of experience in urban planning in the British Isles and elsewhere. Their stated practice is *"working with communities and partners around the country and the world, The Prince's Foundation practices and champions a sustainable approach to how we live our lives and build our communities. From heritage-led regeneration through to new-build projects, we do this through assisting, advising and taking the lead."* You can find out more at www.princes-foundation.org.

We value their expertise and proven track record highly: *"The work of The Prince's Foundation is inspired by The Prince of Wales's philosophy of harmony: that by understanding the balance, the order and the relationships between ourselves and the natural world we can create a more sustainable future."*

His Majesty oversees the activity of The Prince's Foundation and there seems to be a natural synergy between our organisation and the charity that will allow Sark to become more sustainable and resilient.

Watch out for news of public workshops and drop-in consultations. Within the next weeks, The Prince's Foundation will visit us for a few days. They want to start the process by hearing your views and understanding the lay of the land. From this they will develop a full programme of engagement which, if circumstances are right, will be carried out later in the year.

If you have questions, please stop me and ask. I'll be only too happy to answer any questions you may have and chat about why this matters to you and your family and how it will benefit you.

If you are interested in becoming part of the initial focus group, please let me know: seigneur@sarkgov.co.uk or 07781 151 575.