The Prince's Foundation to carry out Visioning Exercise for Sark

A team from <u>The Prince's Foundation</u>, a charity set up by King Charles III to support people to create communities, will be in Sark later this month to run a number of workshops about the island's future. Their visit is based on the "Community Capital Assessment and Visioning Exercise" format that the Foundation has successfully applied in many other locations to arrive at an objective assessment.

Four members of the Foundation's staff will be in the island from Monday 24 to Wednesday 26 April to speak to the community, listen to their views and assess the feasibility of producing, at a later stage, a long-term plan for the future of Sark.

The Prince's Foundation has helped communities all over the UK and around the world, and King Charles III has remained the organisation's president since his ascension to the throne.

One of the Foundation's most notable projects is <u>Poundbury</u> in Dorset. It is regarded as a model case for successful town planning and puts sustainable credentials at the heart of its architecture and design. *The Times* called Poundbury "<u>One of the best places to live 2023</u>" in a feature article on 24 March 2023.

Visiting Sark will be: Kim Hitch, Director of Projects in Heritage and Architecture, who is on the Foundation's board; Ben Bolgar, Executive Director for Projects, who is responsible for leading new building and community regenerations and has worked on more than 50 projects in the UK and globally.

Savini Rajapakse is an architectural and urban designer who is project managing the visit, and Chris Mason is one of the Foundation's landscaping experts.

The team will host a large public event on the evening of Monday 24 April. There will also be smaller, more focused workshops on subjects including Sark heritage, social services, land ownership, and infrastructure. An open drop-in session will give anyone the opportunity to share their views.

The visit has been organised by Sark Property Company, of which Seigneur Christopher Beaumont is a director.

Christopher said: "I firmly believe that Sark desperately needs a long-term plan that keeps Sark special, but also makes provision for its future and enables investment. We've been speaking to The Prince's Foundation for more than two years, so confirming their visit is a significant step forward."

The company's second director, Swen Lorenz, explained: "We are paying for the cost of this exercise, and the resulting report will be made available to the public. Our company is in a position to facilitate significant investment in Sark, but we first want an independent assessor to gauge the community's appetite for long-term planning, and work out what is most important to them."

Christopher added: "This is a great opportunity to express views on the future of Sark, so we hope as many residents as possible can attend."

The workshop will be held from 6pm on 24 April 2023 at the Island Hall in Sark. Food and drink will be provided.

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For more information on Sark Property Company: <u>http://sarkpropertycompany.com</u>