

# Public Questions 15 October 2014

Subject AHA	
Question from: <b>Graham McKinley</b>	Response from: <b>John Weir (AHA)</b>
<p>The report by the Cambridge Centre for Housing and Planning recommends that the States should increase the number of Social Housing by 50 to 60. We have serious financial problems in Alderney, and this is an expensive recommendation. How many people qualify to live in States housing?</p> <p>How many States houses do we have at present?</p> <p>What is the shortfall / waiting list?</p> <p>What is the annual cost of maintaining States Housing?</p> <p>What are the States able to recover from those in States housing</p>	<p>The Alderney Housing Association has no plans to build any more properties beyond those agreed with the States of Alderney and published in our business plan that is available in Summary form for all to see on our web site. Although the Cambridge report recommends a potential doubling of Alderneys Social Housing this is not in our business plan.</p> <p>With regard to the number of people qualifying for Social Housing this is limited by various criteria including having been resident in Alderney for 10 out of the last 15 years not having owned a house and meeting certain financial criteria.</p> <p>AHA currently has 51 houses which with planned new building and disposal of sub-standard properties that are beyond economic repair will mean a net increase in 4 properties over the next 5 years.</p> <p>AHA will also offer a new form of tenure for families struggling to get on the housing Ladder namely partial ownership which we hope will fill a gap in the Alderney Market.</p> <p>The current annual cost of maintaining the social housing stock is about £3,500 per property this cost will reduce as the stock is modernised and refurbished</p> <p>Since the Housing Association has been set up 16 properties have been re-let. 13 families have been rehoused from the waiting list and 3 families have downsized to smaller accommodation. Over 60 suppliers have been used by AHA with almost all being local contractors.</p> <p>Further information is available from the AHA website <a href="http://aha.org.gg">aha.org.gg</a> or direct from the AHA manager John Weir at their QEII street office</p>
Question from: <b>Carole Neill</b>	Response from: <b>John Weir (AHA)</b>
<p>How much interest have the Alderney Housing Association had from possible purchasers for the newly built houses at the Grand Site?</p>	<p>The grand site when complete in Spring next year will enable the AHA to achieve 3 goals</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To rehouse tenants from sub-standard accommodation that is beyond economic repair</li> <li>2. To rehouse families from the waiting list and</li> <li>3. To provide a new form of tenure on Alderney</li> </ol>

<p>Do our States members agree that the Housing Association need to build 50-60 new homes over the next 10 years?</p>	<p>namely Partial Ownership AHA have not yet commenced their promotion of Partial ownership so this question is premature. AHA intends to provide more information to potential partial ownership families over the next few months, when the Grand scheme is at a more advanced stage. Anyone interested in finding out more about Partial Ownership should contact the AHA direct.</p> <p>The States of Alderney will be working with the AHA to develop a strategic plan for housing, following on from the Arup review of planning. This will include finalising the need for and number of any new build houses. Such a plan must take account of existing levels of housing provision, the nature of the housing stock, demand for housing, plans for economic development, demographic trends etc. This will also be subject to public consultation. Through the development of this plan States members will be able to take an informed view on the need or otherwise for further housing development.</p>
<b>Subject: Transport Services</b>	
<b>Question from: Graham McKinley</b>	<b>Response from: Neil Harvey</b>
<p>I heard a Guernsey States Member speaking on a recent Sunday 'Phone In' admit that they may have missed an opportunity for Condor ferries to serve Alderney by failing to discuss the possibility with the company. In reality, is this a possible option? Would the Condor ferry be able to moor in the harbour? And, if so, does anyone intend to raise the possibility with the ferry company?</p>	<p>Earlier this year Condor, along with other operators in the English Channel were asked if they would like to provide ferry services to Alderney, and if so what subsidy they would require (Public Service Obligation document). They were not interested. Earlier direct approaches to them also were not successful. It is our understanding that the proposed new larger ferry could not in any case be accommodated within our harbour</p>
<b>Question from: Tony Haywood</b>	<b>Response from: Victor Brownlees</b>
<p>At the last People's Meeting I submitted a question regarding the status of tripartite discussions on the need for subsidised fares to help Alderney's communication problems. Neil Harvey responded that discussions were under way in order to establish a Public Service Obligation.(PSO) It was also my interpretation of what was said that there were other related matters for discussion with Guernsey. In the latest "Journal" we are told of a broader based Inquiry into the Bailiwick's lifeline links and whether they are sustainable in the longer term. Is this what Mr Harvey was alluding to and if so are the States of Alderney not concerned that this broader discussion puts Alderney's "urgent needs" alongside Guernsey's "want list" and as a result may by implication denigrate our needs as well as delaying even further a decision on the PSO.</p>	<p>No, this is not what Neil Harvey was referring to.</p> <p>There is ongoing dialogue between the States of Alderney and the States of Guernsey at Ministerial level about securing agreed levels of service, for example through a "PSO" or other similar means. Separately the States of Guernsey Scrutiny Committee has launched a review into securing "strategic air routes". The States of Alderney see this as a further opportunity to put the case that our air links are both an essential public service as well as a significant contributor to the Islands economic performance.</p>
<b>Subject: St John's Ambulance</b>	
<b>Question from: Graham McKinley</b>	<b>Response from: Victor Brownlees</b>
<p>Following discussions about St. John's Ambulance at the last People's Meeting, I believe that Guernsey has had some financial problems regarding their ambulance service, and</p>	<p>We understand that the States of Guernsey has decided to renew its contract for ambulance services with St Johns. In its on-going discussions with St Johns here the</p>

that Guernsey States has had to provide emergency funding. Is there a chance of the same happening here?	States of Alderney is considering all possibilities in ensuring the on-going provision of services, including the approach followed on Guernsey.
<b>Subject: Electoral Process</b>	
<b>Question from: Tony Haywood</b>	<b>Response from: Victor Brownlees</b>
I should be grateful if you would further clarify the Law with regard to the electoral register following the exchange between Tony Llewellyn and Sue Price any my comments published in consecutive issues of the Alderney Press.	The procedural change to a 'rolling' system of voter registration with no need for those already on the register to re-register every year meets all legal requirements and was introduced with relevant advice from Law Officers Chambers.