

Public Questions 15th April 2015

Subject: States Members & Meetings	
Question from: Rees Bryant	Response by: Neil Harvey
<p>1 Which States Members support increasing public involvement in the way the States operates? Which of the following points would they support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Alderney should have a clear Forward plan for at least the next two years, which is revised and re-issued every year. Such a plan should indicate the major activities, the key dates, the person/s responsible, how the public will be involved, and be kept informed of progress on a monthly basis. ii. States Committee Meetings should be open to the Public. Private/Personal items could be dealt with before, or after, the public attendance. 	<p>All States Members have supported greater public involvement and communication. It is very clear that Alderney, with its two part Peoples Meetings including written questions and answers, and 'ad hoc' consultations is doing much more than governments in the UK and Guernsey to ensure people are kept informed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The Economic Plan addresses the needs in part 1. ii. The issue of public attendance at States Committee Meetings is likely to be on the agenda for the next P&F meeting, but there are serious issues for and against to be discussed.
<p>2 Would States Members support the following changes to Peoples meetings?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. All States Members should attend, or provide apologies for absence. ii. The meeting should close with an 'open' question and answer session, so that items raised during the meeting itself, or too late for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. States Members are elected by the people of Alderney and are encouraged to attend Peoples Meetings. Most do but there can be no compulsion. ii. Time permitting, there is no reason why open questions cannot be posed and answered after written questions have

the Q&A session can be debated.

been addressed.

3 Why do so few members of the public attend Peoples meetings? Do States Members think that more should? Would the above changes improve attendance?

Attendance varies with the subject matter of the Billet. There is evidence that some people are put off from attending when they see questions dominated by a small 'clique' of regular attenders.

4 Why is there no register of those members of the public who would be prepared to help the States, and make their skills and knowledge freely available?

Such a register was attempted about 3 years ago, but the response was very limited. It is still held on file.

5 Why is Steve Roberts the only States Member to make a formal offer to the public to try and help them with States related problems? Should others follow his example or do they have other ideas such as surgeries?

All States Members contact details are freely available, including on the States website, and it is clear many of the public avail themselves of the opportunity to question or seek help from States Members.

Subject: Licensing Law

Question from: Michael O’Gorman

Response by: Convenor

6 In view of the recent Policy and Finance Committee decision to change the law and grant a license to sell alcohol from a frozen food outlet at Braye Harbour, without consultation with Landlords and Licensees of the trade affected by the decision, will the Policy and Finance Committee rescind its decision and reconsider its position after proper consultation with Landlords, Landladies and owners of the establishments affected?

The Policy and Finance Committee discussed this matter at its meeting of 23rd March. Legal advice from the Law Officers is being sought on this issue.

