

ISLAND OF SARK

CHRISTMAS MEETING of the CHIEF PLEAS to be held on the 20th JANUARY 2021

At 5.00 PM in the ASSEMBLY ROOM

AGENDA

1. MATTERS ARISING from the Extraordinary Meeting held on Thursday the 19th November 2020.
2. QUESTIONS Not Related to the Business of the Day.
3. To CONSIDER a Report with Proposition from THE POLICY and FINANCE COMMITTEE entitled "**Further Election of Conseillers**" and to APPROVE the Ordinance entitled "**The Reform (Election of Conseillers) (Further Election) (Sark) Ordinance, 2020**" (copies enclosed).
4. To CONSIDER a Report with Proposition from the POLICY and FINANCE COMMITTEE entitled "**The Live – Link Evidence in Civil Proceedings (Amendment) (Sark) Ordinance, 2020**" and to APPROVE the Ordinance entitled "**The Live - Link Evidence in Civil Proceeding (Amendment) (Sark) Ordinance, 2020**" (copies enclosed).
5. To CONSIDER a Report with Proposition from the POLICY and FINANCE COMMITTEE entitled "**The Real Property (Transfer Tax, Charging and Related Provisions) (Sark) Law, 2007 (Commencement) Ordinance, 2020**" And to APPROVE the Ordinance entitled "**The Real Property (Transfer Tax, Charging and Related Provisions) (Sark) Law, 2007 (Commencement) Ordinance, 2020**" (copies enclosed).
6. To CONSIDER a Report with Propositions from the TOURISM (INCLUDES PUBLIC HEALTH) COMMITTEE entitled "**Proposed Changes to Permit Charges**" (copy enclosed).
7. To CONSIDER an Information Report from the AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT and SEA FISHERIES COMMITTEE entitled "**Annual Sea Fisheries Information Report**" (copy enclosed).
8. To CONSIDER an Information Report from the AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT and SEA FISHERIES COMMITTEE entitled "**Asian Hornet Report**" (copy enclosed).
9. To CONSIDER an Information Report from the TOURISM (INCLUDES PUBLIC HEALTH) COMMITTEE entitled "**Sark Tourism Annual Report**" (copy enclosed).

10. To CONSIDER an Information Report from the DOUZAINÉ entitled “**Seasonal Regulation No. 2**” (copy enclosed).
11. To CONSIDER an Information Report from the DOUZAINÉ entitled “**Seasonal Regulation No. 4 - 2021**” (copy enclosed).
12. To CONSIDER an Information Report from the AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT and SEA FISHERIES COMMITTEE entitled “**New Abattoir Information Report**” (copy enclosed).
13. COMMITTEE and PANEL ELECTIONS: To Elect Non-Chief Pleas Members and Panel Members to Committees and Panels, as required:

Lt Col RJ Guille MBE
Speaker of Chief Pleas

15th December 2020

Anyone wishing to see any of the Reports and Supporting Papers may do so at the Committee Offices, Monday to Friday, 11 am to 3 pm; copies may be obtained from the Committee Office. The Agenda, Reports and Supporting Papers may also be seen on the Sark Government Website at www.sarkgov.co.uk

POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Report with Proposition to Christmas Chief Pleas, 20TH January 2021

FURTHER ELECTION OF CONSEILLERS

This report covers the requirement for a further election to fill the three vacant Conseiller seats created following the General Election held on 16th December 2020 whereby six nominations were received for nine positions and the Conseillers were elected unopposed. Section 25 (3) of The Reform Law provides for a further election to be held as soon as possible to fill the vacant seats.

The vacancies created by the uncontested General Election held on 16th December 2020, triggers the mechanism required for a further election to take place. Following discussions with the Returning Officer as to a suitable date, the Committee comes to this meeting with an Ordinance already prepared and is attached to this report.

3rd March 2021 has been selected as the date of the further election and the Returning Officer's timetable is attached to this report.

Proposition –

That Chief Pleas approves “The Reform (Election of Conseillers) (Further Election) (Sark) Ordinance, 2021”.

Conseiller Peter La Trobe-Bateman

Chairman, Policy & Finance Committee

The Reform (Election of Conseillers) (Further Election)

(Sark) Ordinance, 2021

WHEREAS, under the Reform (General Election) (Sark) Ordinance, 2020^a, the Chief Pleas appointed 16th December, 2020 as the date for a general election of Conseillers,

WHEREAS, after the time fixed for the making of nominations had expired, there was an insufficient number of candidates to fill the number of vacancies, and three vacancies remain,

WHEREAS therefore a further election is required pursuant to section 25(3) of the Reform (Sark) Law, 2008^b.

NOW THEREFORE THE CHIEF PLEAS OF SARK, in exercise of the powers conferred on them by sections 25(3), 25(5) and 29(6) of the Reform (Sark) Law, 2008, and all other powers enabling them in that behalf, hereby order:-

Date of further election.

1. (1) An election shall be held on 3rd March 2021 for the purpose of electing three Conseillers.

(2) The date for a further election if required in the event of an equality of votes shall be 31st March, 2021.

^a Ordinance No. VI of 2020.

^b Order in Council No. V of 2008; amended by Nos. VI and XXVII of 2008; No. XIV of 2010; No. XII of 2011; No. XI of 2014; No. IX of 2016; No. II of 2018; Sark Ordinances Nos. II and VI of 2015; No. XI of 2017.

Date of closure of register.

2. The Register of Electors shall close on 5th February, 2021.

Tenure of office.

3. Conseillers elected at the election held pursuant to section 1(1), or at any further election held pursuant to section 1(2), shall take up office immediately (subject to having taken the oaths of allegiance and of office pursuant to section 30 of the Reform (Sark) Law, 2008 or having made a solemn affirmation pursuant to section 3 of the said Law) and shall continue in office until 16th January, 2025.

Citation.

4. This Ordinance may be cited as the Reform (Election of Conseillers) (Further Election) (Sark) Ordinance, 2021.

TIMETABLE FOR FURTHER ELECTION OF CONSEILLERS – 3rd MARCH 2021

Fri 29 Jan 21 Notice in Sark Gazette Officielle and St. Peter's Church Notice Box of forthcoming election. Notice gives date and time when final nominations are to be received etc.

Nomination forms will be available for collection from the Speaker's Office, prior to nominations opening during published office hours. When completed, but not before 1 pm on Monday 8 Feb, the forms are to be delivered by one of the persons named on the form to the Speaker of Chief Pleas (Returning Officer) between 1 pm and 3 pm Mon - Fri, ending on Fri 19 Feb between 10 am and 12 noon.

Fri 5 Feb 21 Electoral Register closes and remains closed until election process is complete.

Mon 8 Feb 21 Nominations open at 1 pm.

A daily list of nominations received will be posted in Sark Gazette Officielle and St Peter's Church Notice Box; nominations will be listed in the order received.

Fri 19 Feb 21 Nominations to close at 12 noon. [Thereafter the Returning Officer will post Official Notices asking for volunteers from Island Residents to man the Polling Station and to conduct the Count after the poll closes; application for these functions to close at 3pm on Fri 26 Feb.]

Fri 19 Feb 21 Notice in Sark Gazette Officielle and St Peter's Church Notice Box of Candidates with Proposers and Seconders.

Notice sent to the printers with the List of Candidates for the printing of Voting Papers.

Wed 3 Mar 21 Further Election polling from 10am until 6.00pm – Polling Station in Toplis Room, Island Hall - Count in Main Hall Room. (The Count is to begin as soon after polls close as possible.)

Thur 4 Mar 21 Notice in Sark Gazette Officielle and St. Peter's Church Notice Box of Result.

In the event of a 'tie' between two candidates, when the addition of one more vote would have caused a person to be elected, a second election is to be held. (New Voting Papers are to be produced for the tied candidates and Notices of the second election are to be published in Sark Gazette Officielle and St. Peter's Church Notice Box venues, as for Wed 3 Mar 21.)

Wed 31 Mar 21 Further Election re-run, only for candidates tied on 3 Mar 21. (No other nominations allowed.)

Thur 1 Apr 21 Notice in Sark Gazette Officielle and St. Peter's Church Notice Box of second election Result.

Returning Officer

POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Report with proposition to Extraordinary Chief Pleas, December 2020

**THE LIVE – LINK EVIDENCE IN CIVIL PROCEEDINGS
(AMENDMENT) (SARK) ORDINANCE, 2020**

At the extraordinary meeting of Chief Pleas held on 19th November, 2020, the Ordinance entitled The Live – Link Evidence in Civil Proceedings (Sark) Ordinance, 2020 was brought before Chief Pleas. It has subsequently been discovered that an error was made in the commencement section of the Live-Link Ordinance which mistakenly refers to the Evidence in Civil Proceedings (Sark) Law 2020 rather than its correct date of 2019. This strictly interpreted means that it is certainly arguable that the Ordinance is not in force. Therefore, the Policy and Finance Committee bring an amendment Ordinance which will alter the commencement provision to the date of the meeting at which the Ordinance will be approved. Importantly, the powers in the Ordinance will not be able to be exercised until this amendment is effective.

Proposition : –

That Chief Pleas approves the Ordinance entitled The Live Link Evidence in Civil Proceedings (Amendment) (Sark) Ordinance, 2020.

**Peter La Trobe-Bateman
Chairman, Policy & Finance Committee**

The Live-Link Evidence in Civil Proceedings (Amendment) (Sark) Ordinance, 2021

THE CHIEF PLEAS OF SARK, in exercise of the powers conferred on them by section 22 of the Evidence in Civil Proceedings (Sark) Law, 2019^a, and all other powers enabling them in that behalf, hereby order:-

Amendment of Ordinance.

1. For section 6 of the Live-Link Evidence in Civil Proceedings (Sark) Ordinance, 2020^b, substitute –

"Commencement.

6. This Ordinance shall come into force on the 21st January, 2021."

Citation.

2. This Ordinance may be cited as the Live-Link Evidence in Civil Proceedings (Amendment) (Sark) Ordinance, 2021.

^a Order in Council No. XII of 2020.

^b Ordinance No. VIII of 2020.

POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Report with proposition to Extraordinary Chief Pleas, December 2020

**THE REAL PROPERTY (TRANSFER TAX, CHARGING AND
RELATED PROVISIONS) (SARK) LAW 2007
(COMMENCEMENT) ORDINANCE 2020**

It appears that section 11 of the Property Tax Law has never been brought into force and therefore it needs its own commencement provision. Therefore, the Policy and Finance Committee place before Chief Pleas a short commencement Ordinance which will bring it into force, as amended by the 2019 Law which is also being brought into force, on 1st February.

Proposition:-

That Chief Pleas approves the Ordinance entitled, 'The Real Property (Transfer Tax, Charging and Related Provisions) (Sark) Law, 2007 (Commencement) Ordinance, 2020.

**Conseiller Peter La Trobe-Bateman
Chairman, Policy & Finance Committee**

The Real Property (Transfer Tax, Charging and Related Provisions) (Sark) Law, 2007 (Commencement) Ordinance, 2021

THE CHIEF PLEAS OF SARK, in exercise of the powers conferred on them by section 20(1) of the Real Property (Transfer Tax, Charging and Related Provisions) (Sark) Law, 2007^a, and all other powers enabling them in that behalf, hereby order:-

Commencement of section 11 of the Law.

1. Section 11 of the Real Property (Transfer Tax, Charging and Related Provisions) (Sark) Law, 2007 shall come into force on 1st February, 2021.

Citation.

2. This Ordinance may be cited as the Real Property (Transfer Tax, Charging and Related Provisions) (Sark) Law, 2007 (Commencement) Ordinance, 2021.

^a Order in Council No. VI of 2008; amended by No. XXIII of 2010; No. VI of 2020.

ITEM 06

TOURISM (INCLUDES PUBLIC HEALTH) COMMITTEE **Report with propositions to Christmas Chief Pleas, 20th January 2021**

PROPOSED CHANGES TO PERMIT CHARGES

As may be seen in the 'Sark Tourism Annual Report' later in the agenda for this meeting, the Committee sets out the case to increase the various catering and accommodation permits for the 2022 season.

In order that the appropriate fees may be increased, Chief Pleas needs to approve the propositions for the following:

1. Under the **Catering (Sark) Law, 1988**, the prescribed fee accompanying the application for a catering certificate may be increased by a resolution of Chief Pleas. The proposed fee for a catering certificate is to be £60.00.
2. Under the same Law the prescribed fee accompanying the application for a temporary catering certificate may be increased by a resolution of Chief Pleas. The proposed fee for a temporary catering certificate is to be £40.00
3. Under the **Tourism (Sark) Law, 1982**, to increase the prescribed fee accompanying the application for an accommodation certificate requires the drafting of an Ordinance to replace the **Tourism (Accommodation Permits) (Fees) (Sark) (No.2) Ordinance, 2008**. The proposed fees, per person, for each category of accommodation is as follows:

Hotel	£10.00
Guest house	£9.00
Self-catering	£8.00
Camp sites	£5.00

4. In order to bring the licence fee relating to hawkers in line with that for temporary catering permits, the Ordinance dated 25th September 1939 relating to Itinerant Hawkers needs to be repealed and replaced. The proposed fee to accompany the application for a hawker's certificate is to be £40.00. Such fee shall be subject to review from time to time and increased by resolution of Chief Pleas.

Proposition 1 -

That Chief Pleas approves the proposed fee for a catering certificate to be £60.00.

Proposition 2 -

That Chief Pleas approves the proposed fee for a temporary catering certificate to be £40.00.

Proposition 3 -

That Chief Pleas directs the Committee to request that the Law Officers of the Crown to commence drafting an Ordinance to replace Tourism (Accommodation Permits) (Fees) (Sark) (No.2) Ordinance, 2008.

Proposition 4 -

That Chief Pleas directs the Committee to request that the Law Officers of the Crown to commence drafting an Ordinance to replace the Ordinance dated 25th September 1939 relating to Itinerant Hawkers.

**Conseiller Sandra Williams
Chairman, Tourism (includes Public Health) Committee**

AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT & SEA FISHERIES COMMITTEE
Information Report to Christmas Chief Pleas, 20th January 2021

ANNUAL SEA FISHERIES INFORMATION REPORT

2020 has been a difficult year for most people, including fishermen. They have not known if they could land the bulk of their catch in Diellette and whether businesses would be open to take their catches.

On top of this, Brexit talks are still ongoing at the time of writing this report, but by the time this report is released, final decisions should have been made. Members of the Committee along with the Chief Secretary have sat in on many video conferences with Defra, Guernsey and Alderney to press Sark's stand that Diellette is a very important port to export our catches. It is close to Sark, providing a safe and cheaper entry into France. In the bigger scheme of things, people might think Sark's fishing industry is too minor to worry about, but it is part of Sark's heritage, and the fishermen's products are a boost to encourage tourists to spend time in the island.

Although it was a slow start, permission was given to export to France under strict C19 virus rules. In 2019 5808 kg of lobster was landed, this year it was 4581kg. Bubbling with Guernsey meant that business opened and took catches from the fishermen. Thanks to the Alderney, Guernsey people, Hotels, Restaurants, Shops and Pips Pickers who showcase the fine quality Sark produce. It is hoped to have a mark promoting original fresh caught fish from Sark on menus. There is space to increase the supply of scallops and wet fish. It would be nice to see some new faces down the harbour.

Attached are scallop returns and angling club competition results. The Committee is continuing to monitor the Crayfish situation with consultation with all parties with the view to opening up sometime in future.

The angling tourism has increased this year with anglers coming over for long weekend breaks. This can be further improved by increased advertising in respect to this pastime.

In regard to seaweed farming on Sark, Mr George Clacy informed the Committee that the project would not be progressing further, owing to bureaucratic requirements in Guernsey. Gone are the days when seaweed was hauled off the beach to put on the land for fertilizer. Now it is manufactured and imported.

Hopefully 2021 will be back to normal and new avenues for businesses will open.

Conseiller Helen Plummer
Chairman, Agriculture, Environment & Sea Fisheries Committee

June 2020 - May 2021	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total
Ballan Wrasse	7	2	1			1							11
Bass													0
Bream (Black)		2	1	8	10	1							22
Bream (Couch)	1												1
Bream (Red)													0
Conger													0
Corkwing Wrasse													0
Cuchoo Wrasse													0
Dogfish													0
Garfish						6							6
Gobie													0
Gold sinny													0
Mackerel		4											4
Mackerel Atlantic Chub													0
Mullet (Gold Grey)													0
Mullet (Grey)			4	1									5
Mullet (red)													0
Plaice													0
Pollack		1											1
Pout													0
Rockling													0
Scad													0
Scorpion													0
Spur Dog													0
Tadpole													0
Tompot Blenny													0
Trigger													0
Tub Gurnard													0
	8	9	6	9	10	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	50

* = Catch & release

SARK SCALLOP RETURNS

SCALLOP RETURNS - 2013 - 2020																		
YEAR	MAR	Days/ Dives (from 2013)	APR	Days/ Dives (from 2013)	MAY	Days/ Dives (from 2013)	JUNE	Days/ Dives (from 2013)	JULY	Days/ Dives (from 2013)	AUG	Days/ Dives (from 2013)	SEPT	Days/ Dives (from 2013)	OCT	Days/ Dives (from 2013)	TOTAL FOR YEAR	TOTAL No of Days/Dives (from 2013)
2013	0	0	180	2	1571	10	7870	33	10285	45	784	3	0	0	0	0	20690	98
	0lbs		18lbs		135lbs		817.5lbs		858lbs		59.5lbs		0lbs				1888lbs	
2014	0	0	69	1	368	4	1538	10	623	8	1147	19	190	4	0	0	3935	46
	0lbs		6lbs		31lbs		142.50lbs		59lbs		100lbs		17.50lbs		0lbs		356lbs	
2015	0	0	0	0	150	2	0	0	188	2	543	8	150	3	0	0	1031	15
	0lbs		0lbs		15lbs		0lbs		18.5lbs		51.75lbs		13lbs		0lbs		98.25lbs	
2016	0	0	556	8	1930	33	2057	37	1841	37	1616	39	1091	22	217	5	9308	181
	0lbs		49.5lbs		171lbs		167lbs		143lbs		128lbs		91lbs		16.5lbs		766lbs	
2017	525	10	1885	43	1056	36	1506	38	1914	47	1285	39	1040	32	603	18	9814	263
	41.5lbs		176.5lbs		108lbs		141lbs		183.5lbs		106lbs		89lbs		50.5lbs		896lbs	
2018	94	4	0	0	1267	34	721	22	1112	34	675	19	90	2	200	3	4159	118
	8lbs		Poor visibiity		110lbs		65lbs		102.5lbs		64lbs		8lbs		18lbs		375.5	
2019	0	0	0	0	300	4	471	5	2023	27	1299	18	1030	15	0	0	5123	69
					28lb		42lb		168.5lb		109lb		78.5lb				426	
2020	0	0	0	0	0	0	584	8	2433	30	2541	32	1100	15	0	0	6658	85
	0lbs		0lbs		0lbs		52lbs		215lbs		230lb		97lbs		0lbs		594	

Fish Caught In Competition								
	Apr-Mar12/13	Apr-Mar13/14	Apr-Mar14/15	Apr-Mar15/16	Apr-Mar16/17	Apr-Mar17/18	Apr-Mar18/19	Apr-Mar19/20
Bass	0			3 9lb 03oz				
Blenny	0		1 1oz		1 02oz			
Bream (Black)	51 59lb 12oz	32 33lb 11oz	7 8lb 15oz	46 53lb 10oz	30 37lb 12oz	32 37lb 13oz	9 8lb 11oz	
Conger	0							
Couch Bream	0	1 1lb 05oz				5 4lb	6 4lb 10oz	
Dogfish	10 16lb 00oz	2 2lb 10oz	27 40lb 02oz	13 18lb 13oz	12 16lb 04oz	10 13lb 11oz	21 31lb 13oz	
Garfish	18 11lb 08oz	14 8lb 14oz	23 17lb 10oz	15 9lb 10oz	36 19lb 00oz	32 20lb 15oz	8 4lb 06oz	
Gobie	0			1 01oz				
Gold Grey Mullet	0							
Grey Mullet	36 100lb 13oz	3 9lb 01oz	3 9lb 07oz	1 3lb 04oz	6 18lb 13oz	1 2lb 06oz	1 4lb 03oz	
Mackerel	15 9lb 11oz	3 1lb 11oz	36 19lb 07oz	24 20lb 13oz	13 9lb 05oz	3 1lb 15oz	123 74lb 04oz	
Mackerel Atlantic Chub	0						4 4lb 07oz	
Plaice				2 1lb 05oz				
Pollack	27 27lb 00oz	6 6lb 09oz	2 2lb 04oz	17 18lb 05oz	14 16lb 04oz	1 1lb	15 31lb 05oz	
Pout	1 12oz				1 09oz			
Red Bream	0							
Red Mullet	0				2 1lb 07oz			
Rockling	1 02oz			1 03oz				
Scad	21 14lb 08oz	5 3lb 14oz	17 10lb 11oz	14 9lb 09oz	11 6lb 07oz	2 14oz		
Scorpion	1 01oz							
Shanny	0							
Spur Dog	0							
Trigger Fish	0							
Tub Gurnard	0	1 1lb 10oz						
Wrasse Ballan	45 97lb 05oz	30 64lb 10oz	17 45lb 07oz	21 50lb 02oz	21 47lb 00oz	26 51lb 11oz	12 23lb 03oz	
Wrasse Corkwing	0	1 02oz	1 2oz					
Wrasse Cuckoo	2 1lb 09oz	3 1lb 12oz	1 5oz	2 1lb 10oz				
Wrasse Gold Sinny	0							
Total	229 319lb 04oz	101 135lb 13oz	135 154lb 07oz	160 196lb 08oz	147 172lb 15oz	112 134lb 05oz	199 151lb 06oz	

Atlantic Chub Mackerel New Species

Club runs from April to March

Fish Caught In Competition

	Apr-Mar 19/20	Jun-Nov 20					
Bass							
Blenny							
Bream (Black)	27 28lb 14oz	22 24lb 04oz					
Bream Gilthead	8 15lb 14oz						
Couch Bream	7 5lb 02oz	1 15oz					
Dogfish	7 7lb 02oz						
Garfish	8 4lb 14oz	6 3lb 09oz					
Gobie							
Gold Grey Mullet							
Grey Mullet		5 14lb 00oz					
Mackerel		4 2lb 00oz					
Mackerel Atlantic Chub							
Plaice							
Pollack	2 3lb 11oz	1 1lb 15oz					
Pout							
Red Bream							
Red Mullet							
Rockling	1 02oz						
Scad							
Scorpion							
Shanny							
Spur Dog							
Trigger Fish							
Tub Gurnard							
Wrasse Ballan	35 66lb 07oz	11 22lb 13oz					
Wrasse Corkwing							
Wrasse Cuckoo	1 04oz						
Wrasse Gold Sinny							
Total	96 132lb 06oz	50 69lb 08oz					

Due to Corona Virus 19, The club had to change the annual start date. We are now running from June to May. (was April to March)

AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT & SEA FISHERIES COMMITTEE
Information Report to Christmas Chief Pleas, 20th January 2021

ASIAN HORNET REPORT

The expansion of Asian hornets into the Channel Islands from the Continent is widely regarded to be recurrent each spring (and possibly autumn) by natural dispersal of fertile queens flying over from the French coast. Clearly, the threats from this major invasive pest remain ever present. Information from the Cotentin peninsular gives a nest density there of as many as 6 nests per square km – that equates to about 50 nests in Sark.

Across the Bailiwick in 2020 spring-trapping was implemented for the second year running resulting in 20 queens being caught: 3 in Guernsey, 4 in Sark, 0 in Herm and 13 in Alderney. All 4 queens trapped here were on the east of Sark and followed some days of easterly wind. No nests were detected in Guernsey, Sark or Herm and the single nest in Alderney was destroyed.

It is felt that the spring queen trapping programme is having a positive effect though the annual fluctuations in number of emergent queens arriving on our island is not fully understood and a combination of biological and environmental factors are involved.

It is thought likely that Asian hornets are generally under-reported and it is clear that maintaining the vigilance and cooperation by the general public in noting and reporting potential sightings is arguably the most vital aspect of our Asian hornet control effort.

We have budgeted for a similar spring queen trapping programme in Sark next year and we have the traps and a quantity of bait here. We will also be relying on our volunteers again and would like to thank them for all their efforts this year which have resulted in a lower incidence of Asian hornets. We would also like to thank Francis Russell of the Guernsey Asian Hornet Strategy Team for the inclusion of Sark in the Bailiwick programme and the helpful sharing of information which clearly benefits us all.

Conseiller Helen Plummer
Chairman, Agriculture, Environment & Sea Fisheries Committee

TOURISM (INCLUDES PUBLIC HEALTH) COMMITTEE
Information Report to Christmas Chief Pleas, 20th January 2021

SARK TOURISM ANNUAL REPORT

Tourism & Public Health Budget

Budget Request 2021

Requested from Chief Pleas (CP)	£95,250
Income to be generated by Visitor Centre (VC)	£22,580

Budget 2020

Required from Chief Pleas (CP)	£89,285
Income to be generated by Visitor Centre (VC)	£32,665

Budget 2019

Received from CP	£88,098
Income to be generated by VC	£32,000

Budget 2018

Received from CP	£90,935
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Budget 2017

Received from CP	£93,674
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The reason the request for funds from Chief Pleas is higher in 2021 is due to the assurances we gave to assist tourism related businesses during the Coronavirus lockdown because such assurances have reduced the amount of income which can be generated by the Visitor Centre. During the lockdown in spring, we stated that we would not charge people to advertise on the Tourism website in 2020 nor for the advertisements on the map 2020 (as we had not billed for this annual charge at that stage). Neither would we seek payment in respect of those who had advertised in the brochure in 2020 to place their same advertisement in the 2021 brochure. At that time we had thought to negate the payment for the permits for 2021 also.

Since that time, things have changed. Phase 4 came into effect at the end of May and the Bailiwick bubble came into effect 20th June and residents of the Bailiwick holidayed here on Sark and we are so grateful that they did. The new and newly renovated accommodation did particularly well, as did our campsites. Restaurants, cafes and pubs also fared well, especially considering what the prospects looked like following the outbreak of the pandemic. Nevertheless, we recognised that there

were some accommodation providers in the middle bracket that had lower occupancy rates compared to previous years.

The Tourism Committee was asked to revisit the promises made during the bleakest moments. It was decided that we would retain all initial gestures to reduce payments except for the charge for all permits going forward. The permit charges are small and manageable but the cost to advertise in the 2021 brochure is more expensive and would affect many of those middle range businesses most affected by the pandemic. As we do not know what will happen in 2021 we will print less paper brochures and change as little of the content as feasible, bringing down the production and printing cost, and upload the 2021 brochure on the website with live links as last year. In the event that the virus figures in UK and Europe are high and there are lockdowns with no widespread vaccination programme available in the first part of the year, we may release the new brochure online only.

At the outset of the virus, when the number of infected people started to increase and spread across Europe we put a staged plan in place in relation to advertising. We did not commit ourselves to any further advertising initially in order to save costs where possible. When it became known that travel would in due course become permitted within the Bailiwick, we advertised on radio, social media platforms and in print within the Bailiwick. As a result we have 65% of the advertising budget remaining.

We calculated what it costs us to test people's water as the charge had not been reviewed for a long time. On doing so we realised that we have been undercharging and the charge currently made does not meet the costs and we are operating the tests at a loss. Therefore, the charge for a water test in relation to permits for 2021 will increase to £32 per test.

The same costing exercise was also carried out in relation to the administrative process involved with the accommodation and catering permits and those too will be set to increase from 2022.

Digital Platforms

With more people at home during the lockdown, we saw larger volumes of traffic on social media, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages. However, around April - May, the website was infected with a virus file called 'Coronavirus'. The virus affected every page which made the website unusable for a period while the code behind every web page had to be examined, amended and re-written where necessary. All social media platforms have more followers at the end of October 2020 than previous years. Across all platforms, we are aware that the most popular posts and pages relate to images and videos of Sark itself. The most popular feature of Sark is undoubtedly, year on year, its natural beauty and wildlife.

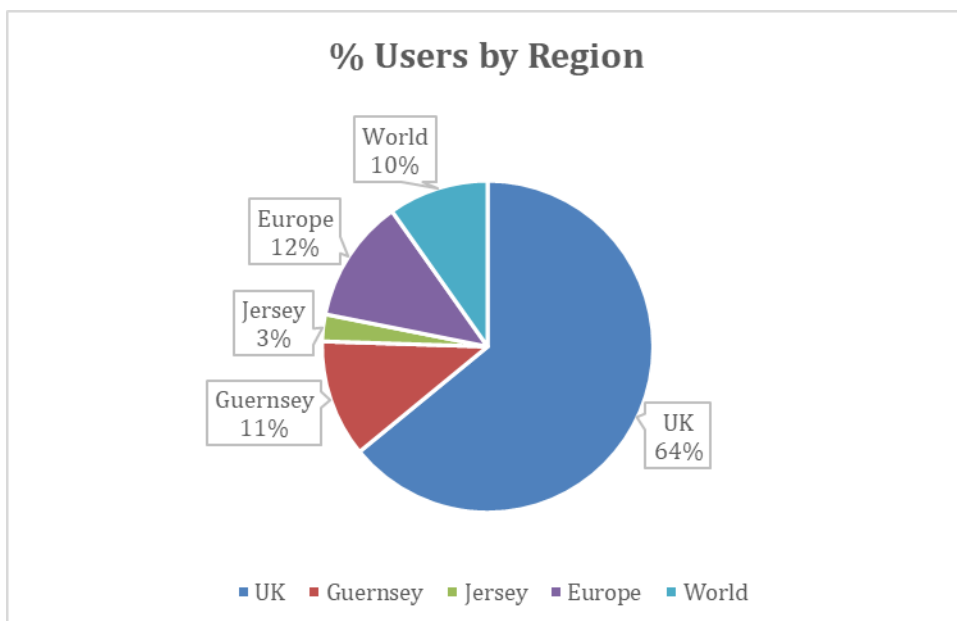
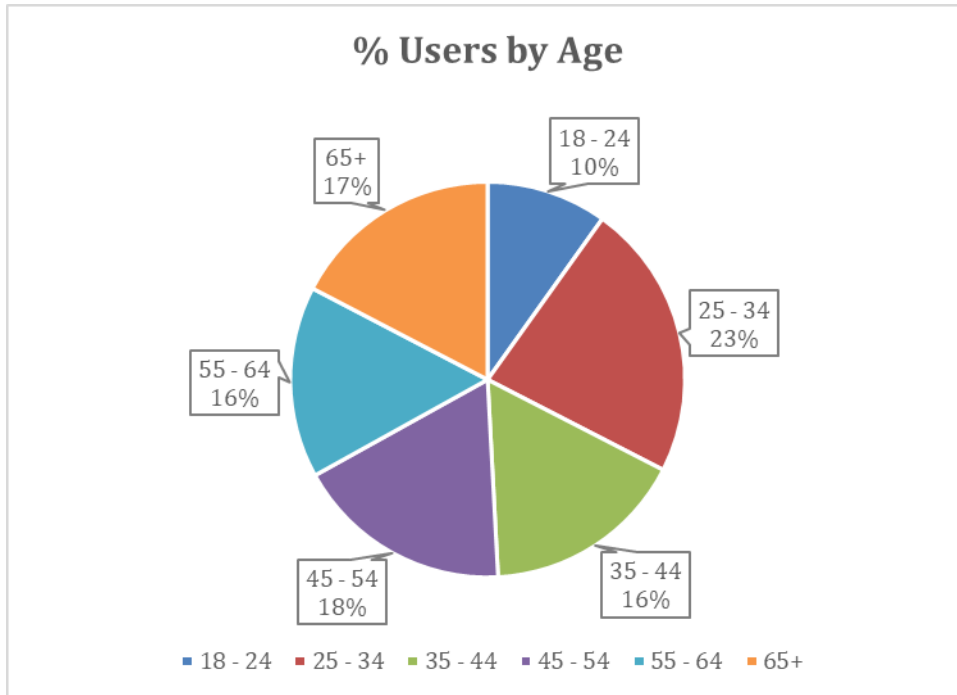
Website

The number of website users have decreased by 8.25% compared to last year. The numbers of users dipped between February and May (inclusive) which is synonymous with the first wave of the Coronavirus in the UK and Europe and the infection of the website. The number of users significantly increased to very high monthly numbers between June and August (inclusive). The total number of users between January 2020 and October 2020 (inclusive) amounted to 106,886.

The number of sessions between the same period (January to October), in other words the number of times the website has been viewed, was down by only 3.62% overall compared to the previous year. The total number of sessions amounted to 132,703. The website was visited mainly during the period June to August (inclusive).

The most popular pages viewed are the Homepage and Where to Stay, followed by How to Get There and the interactive Sark Map.

The breakdown of users according to location and age are represented in the charts below.



Social Media

The number of followers for each social media platform:

	October 2016	October 2017	October 2018	October 2019	October 2020
Facebook	7,577	11,626	12,200	13,269	14,579
Instagram			1,745	2,932	3,850
Twitter					4984

Visitor Numbers

Visitor numbers have been greatly affected overall due to the lack of day trippers and cruise ship visitors as can be seen from the table in *Appendix 1*. The Bailiwick bubble did not open until 20th June and so the figures were 80% down compared to June of the previous year. Whilst the figures for July are also down (by 52% compared to the same month in 2019), after the schools broke up the numbers began to increase and the overall passenger volume for August, including day return passengers, was only down by 28% compared to the number of passengers travelling with Sark shipping in August 2019.

On a positive note, the annual number of stayers (period returns) are on a par with previous years. In fact the average number of annual stayers as indicated by the number of period return tickets sold between October 2012 and September 2019 is equal to 21,780 and the number of period returns sold between 1st October 2019 and 30th September 2020 (IoSS' financial year) was 22,069. The staying visitor generates more money in the local economy compared to day visitors as they stay to spend money on accommodation, in eateries and shops etc.

The Manche-Iles did not run at all due to the pandemic travel restrictions. Over the last 5 years the Manche-Iles has brought on average 8,140 visitors to Sark annually, most of which are day visitors.

Harbour & Airport Figures

Normally we compare the Guernsey Harbour statistics for Sark and Herm but this year we have considered the harbour and airport statistics for Alderney also, see *Appendix 2*. We have done this as we are all in the same Bailiwick bubble and are attracting the same pool of visitors. Unfortunately we only have the statistics for 2019 and 2020 in respect of Alderney. The period compared by us differs from IoSS' financial year above and is between January and end of September (because traditionally we prepare the Tourism Report for Chief Pleas in October and our historic figures cover this period for each year).

Alderney's passenger figures are 26% down on the same period the previous year, whereas Herm are 48% down and Sark 62% down.

Alderney's passenger numbers by boat and air from Guernsey between January and October 2020 amounts to 20,603, broken down so that 4,218 travelled by ferry and 16,385 travelled by air. The passenger numbers for Herm during this period amounted to 35,385 but it is unknown how these figures are broken down into day

return and period return visitors. Sark's passenger numbers are down by 62% but, as explained above, we know that the decrease predominantly relates to the decline in the number of day visitors as opposed to the staying visitors.

As to how travel will look in 2021, at the time of writing the report (end November 2020) it is unknown what will happen as this is largely dependant upon a vaccine being highly successful with majority of population being inoculated. If there is a *Bailiwick* bubble we can expect more of the same next year as this year, 2020. If we were to form a *Channel Island* bubble (including Jersey depending upon the successful control of the virus) with air bridges to other safe destinations then we may lose some of the benefits gained this year from the significant number of Guernsey visitors, some of which visited us on a number of occasions throughout the season. If that were to be the case, we would need to advertise in Jersey and have in place effective transport links. If however the borders are opened, it is anticipated that confidence in long distance travel will be diminished and people will not wish to travel long distances in enclosed spaces. This would present an advertising opportunity and advantage in what is already our main market, the UK.

Permit Charges & Water Tests – Price Increases

Water - The cost of a water test has not been increased for a significant number of years. When carrying out a cost analysis of the water test it was found that we were under charging and that £25 was not sufficient to cover the costs incurred. The water test has been increased to £32 per test to cover the associated costs incurred. This price will have to be reviewed regularly to ensure that island funds are not being used to subsidise the individual water tests.

Permits - Likewise, the fee for catering and accommodation permits have not been increased in some time and in order to cover administration costs, the Tourism & Public Health Committee would like to increase the fees for the 2022 permits. The Committee have prepared a proposal to present to Chief Pleas requesting that they resolve to increase the permit fees as below.

The current charges are:

Catering	£40.00
Temporary Catering	£20.00 per certificate
Hotel	£8.00pp (based on max. that can be accommodated on the premises at any one time)
Guest house	£7.00pp
Self-catering	£6.00pp
Camp sites	£3.50pp

Suggested new charge:

Catering	£60.00
Temporary Catering	£40.00
Hotel	£10.00pp
Guest house	£9.00pp
Self-catering	£8.00pp
Camp sites	£5.00pp

Projects Undertaken by the Visitor Centre

During 2020:

We are now part of the Liberation Route Europe with the rest of the Channel Islands. The vectors have not yet arrived to mark the sites which depict the route taken by the Allied Forces when arriving to liberate Sark but we are featured on their website <https://liberationroute.com/great-britain/pois/c/creux-harbour> and it is hoped that this will bring specialised guided tours and establish holiday packages to the island in the coming years in order to retrace the footsteps of the liberating forces.

The War Years exhibition has been set up in the old Island Hall and will be there for a minimum period of 3 years. It has been open to the public since the start of July. The project is not quite finished but it is anticipated that the final panel will be completed before spring 2021.

We have also compiled and printed a commemorative booklet called *Sark – An Island Occupied*. We have an English and French version. Put together prior to lockdown to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the island's liberation from German forces. As the booklet is not date dependant, they can continue to be sold in the Visitor Centre to help generate income to more than cover the associated costs of production.

The QR trail is also in situ around the centre of the island, imparting historic information about the places or buildings where they can be found. We have been asked by visitors to create more codes to increase the size of the trail and information available. We have created 5 more codes which should be put into position by spring 2021.

We have started a Facebook page for food and drink. We are asked regularly about places to eat and drink and we have strived to keep an up to date list to hand out to visitors about who is open and when. The issue with the list is that establishments change their opening hours frequently and not always think of telling us, which we understand as they are busy running their businesses. By setting up a Facebook page just for food and drink on Sark, we thought it would give eateries the opportunity not only to post their contemporaneous opening times but also promote their menus and any special offers or special events they may be putting on. This has not been without teething problems but can be viewed as a trial run ready for next year. We hope that directing the visitors to the Facebook page will be better for everyone. We will, needless to say, still hold a list of eateries but will promote the Facebook page for up to the minute information direct from the eateries themselves. From the feedback received in the Visitor Centre, we believe that the exhibition and the trail are small items but help to improve the Visitor experience, especially on days where the weather is not so good.

During 2021:

Through 2020, we have been working on the new direction signposts and pointer signs. This has been a time consuming project but it is hoped that the signs will be in situ prior to the end of quarter one of 2021. The new posts and pointer signs are wooden to look more natural and the rustic look helps us to keep maintenance, and hence costs, to a minimum. The signs are hardwood, resistant to rot and infestation and have a long life as a result. Hopefully this will appear more aesthetically appealing and more in-keeping with the image of Sark as a natural island.

Some road names will be erected in order to reduce the number of pointer signs on each post to a minimum. The signs are to be used in conjunction with the map to locate places, and symbols used where possible so that multiple symbols may be used on one sign preventing the need for individually worded signs.

We looked at the notation of the minutes it takes to walk to places, as noted on current signs: people walk at different paces, stop to take photographs or selfies to upload and so the timing is difficult to judge. The distance rather than the time was then considered but the island is not that big to warrant the cost and work involved in calculating the distance for each pointer sign. In any event, should it be necessary, there is a scale on the map. One person suggested a grid reference system but when we sat down and worked through that process, it was again felt to be unnecessary for the size of the island. It would need to be a system applied to the map for a long time ahead, did not look particularly attractive on the map and without a map made little sense, it also added to the overall production costs.

The comments made from visitors over the years has been for better signage, particularly in places outside of the village centre and we feel that the new pointer signs, which will be in existing and some new locations outside of the village, will satisfy this request in conjunction with the map. The map now holds more detail and we are receiving much better feedback.

We are working with Visit Guernsey to produce the Islands of Guernsey Way (IoGW). This is a walking route around the various Bailiwick islands. There will be an IoGW walking map which people can purchase, an App which can be downloaded and physical marker signs along the route. Sark's route has been written using our current coastal walking routes with pops up with snippets of interesting facts along the way plus points out selfie spots, toilets, water refill spots and eateries. The route markers will be placed on the new signposts.

We also plan to use copies of the sketches made by the late Seigneur W T Collings to make a circular piece of artwork. W T Collings sketched in black and white a 360 degree panorama of Sark. We would like to put the sketches together in sequence in a large but short cylindrical shape which will hang at eye level and will be orientated in the correct position. We have asked for a 360 degree photograph of Sark from the top of the Seigneurie to put on the reverse of the suspended WT Collings artwork and also correctly orientated so that visitors can compare what it was like in the mid-1800s to what we see today.

A Visitor's Gallery will steadily replace the standard Gallery on our website. We will be asking visitors to submit their favourite photographs of their time on Sark. We hope this will impart more feeling into the photographs and a sense of the fun to be had.

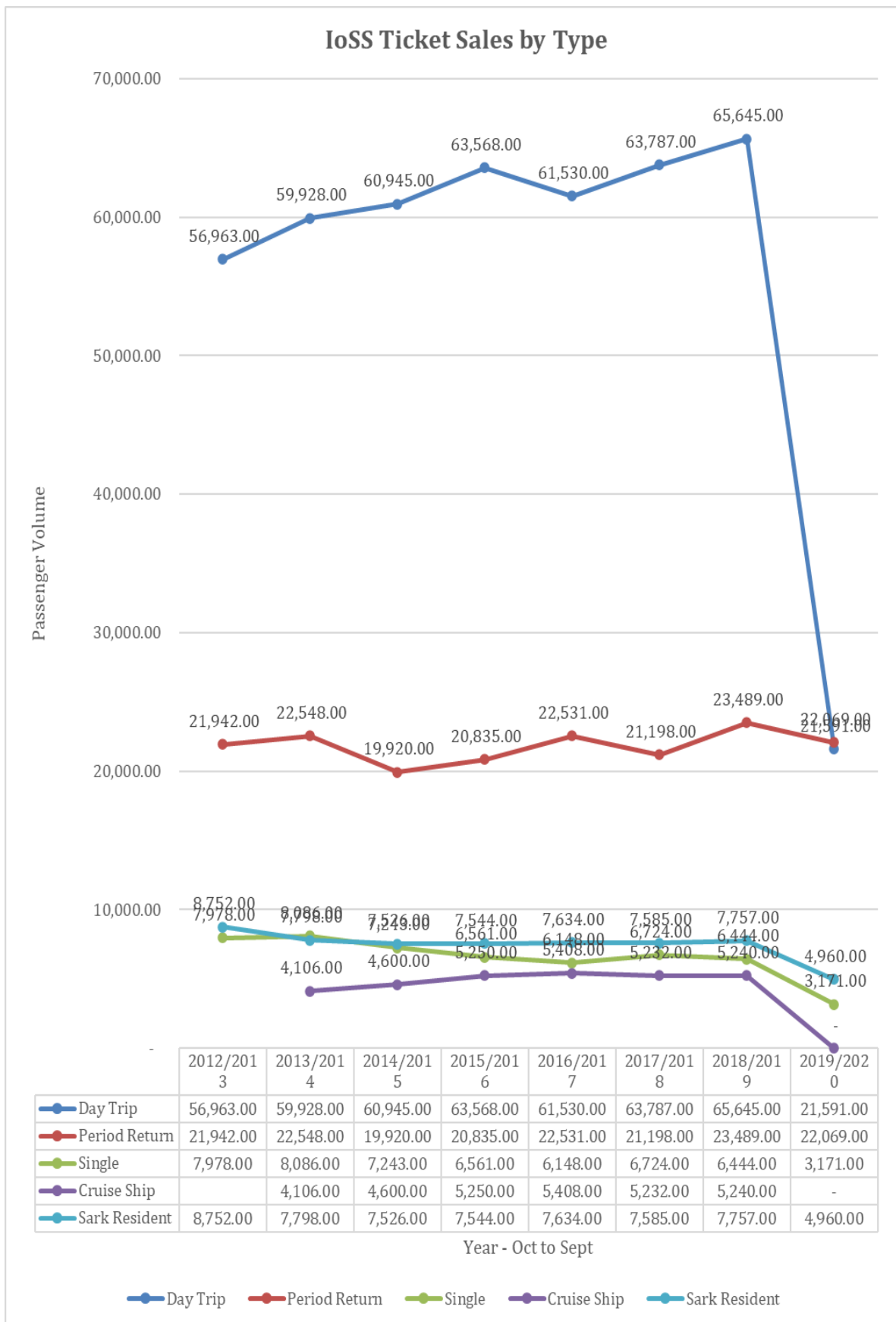
At the beginning of 2020 we spoke with the organiser in Guernsey for '30 Bays in 30 Days' and this event to be extended to include Sark in 2021.

Summary

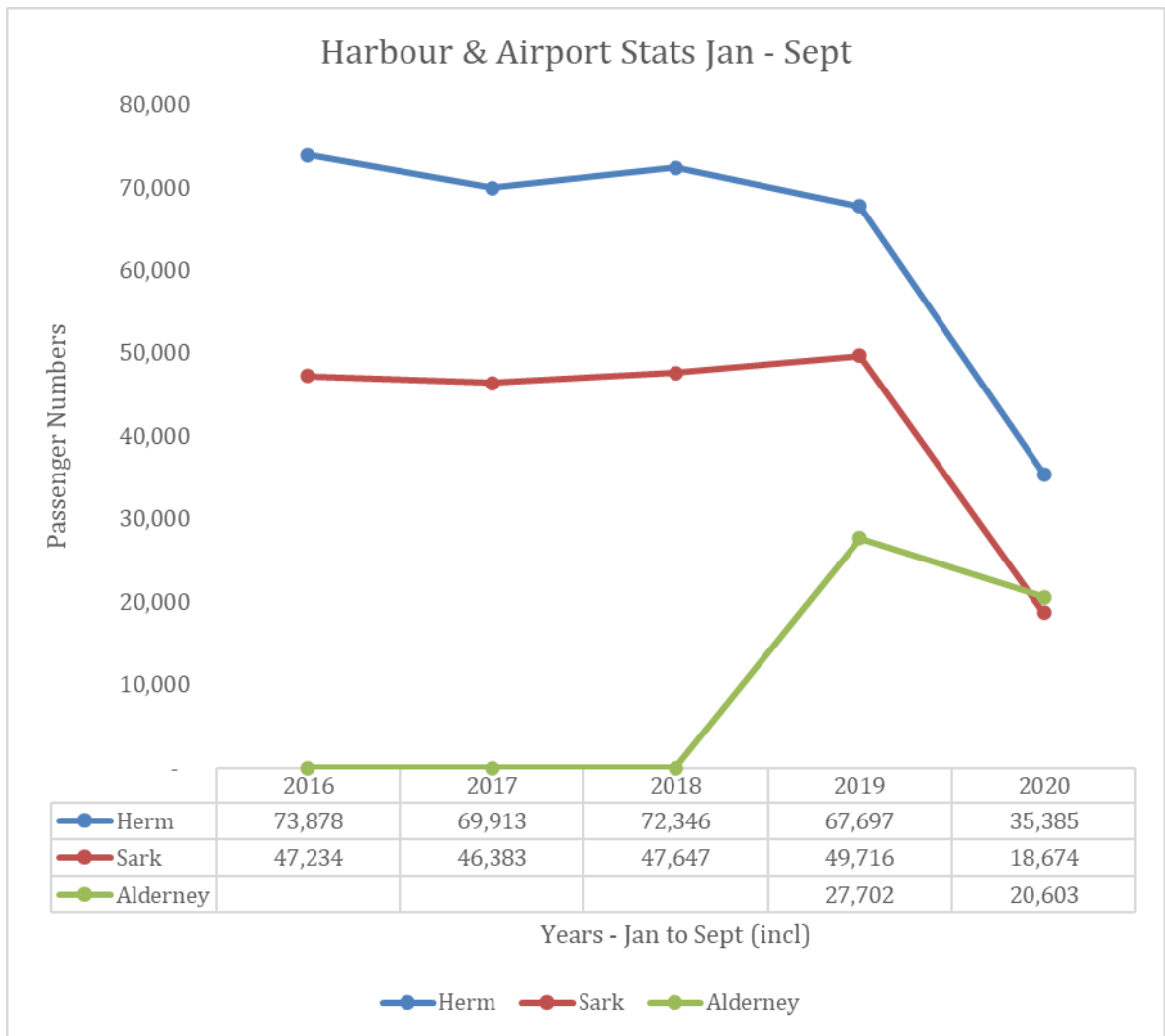
It is difficult to look forward to next year with certainty but we believe we must concentrate on both advertising and improving the visitor experience on island.

Conseiller Sandra Williams
Chairman, Tourism (includes Public Health) Committee

Appendix 1



Appendix 2



DOUZAINÉ

Information Report to Christmas Chief Pleas, 20th January 2021

SEASONAL REGULATION N° 2

The Seasonal Traffic Regulation N° 2 was presented to the Easter Meeting of Chief Pleas 10th April 2013 and was accepted without comment; as a consequence it has been applied each year and will be applied in 2021 starting on 1st April.

Attached to this report, and for information purposes, is a copy of the 'The Seasonal Regulation N° 2'.

**Conseiller Alan Blythe
Chairman, Douzainé**



The Government of Sark
ROAD TRAFFIC COMMITTEE
(part of the Douzaine)
SEASONAL REGULATION N° 2

The Road Traffic Offences (Motor Vehicles and Bicycles) (Sark) Law, 2013 (as amended) allows the Road Traffic Committee to make Regulations.

1. Section 15(2) of the above Law provides as follows:

*"It is an offence to drive or attempt to drive a ******motor vehicle on or along such of the public roads or any part thereof as may, from time to time, be specified by the Committee by regulations otherwise than:-*

- (a) in such direction, and*
- (b) during such hours on any day, as may be specified therein."*

******The Road Traffic Committee, specifically excludes **invalid carriages** [as defined in Section 44 of The Motor Vehicles (Sark) Law, 2013] from the following regulations -

2. From the **1st April** until further notice, or failing such notice until (and including) the **30th September**, The Avenue and the direct road from the Post Office to St. Peters Church will be closed to tractors between **11.00 am and 5.00 pm**.

[For the purposes of this Regulation, The Avenue is defined as being that stretch of road from La Collinette to the junction outside the Post Office].

3. The only exceptions to the above restriction are that –

- (a) a person may access his or her home by tractor,
- (b) a person may access premises by tractor for the purpose of making commercial deliveries, and
- (c) a person may access premises by tractor for the purpose of making purchases from the Gallery Stores, the transport of which necessitates the use of a tractor.

[When a person accesses premises on The Avenue by tractor for any of these purposes, he or she must travel in an **East to West direction only**].

4. From the **1st April** until further notice, or failing such notice until (and including) the **30th September**, parking is not allowed between:

- (a) the Power Station and the Visitor's Centre or the Church along the line of The Avenue,
- (b) La Collinette Crossroads and the Pomme de Chien campsite lane, and
- (c) La Collinette Crossroads and Rue Hotton ("Mermaid Lane")

between 11.00 am and 5.00 pm.

5. This Regulation shall not apply to emergency services personnel responding to an emergency.

6. Any person who breaches the terms of this Regulation commits a criminal offence under the terms of the Ordinance.

Conseiller Alan Blythe, Chairman, Road Traffic Committee

DOUZAINE

Information Report to Christmas Chief Pleas, 20th January 2021

SEASONAL REGULATION N^o 4 - 2021

Section 16A of the Road Traffic (Horse-Drawn Vehicles) (Sark) Ordinance, 1968 (*as amended*) permits the Road Traffic Committee to 'make regulations concerning the driving, use and parking on the public roads of horse-drawn vehicles'.

Attached to this report, and for information purposes, is a copy of the 'The Seasonal Regulation N^o 4 – 2021'.

**Conseiller Alan Blythe
Chairman, Douzaine**



ROAD TRAFFIC COMMITTEE
(part of the Douzaine)
SEASONAL REGULATION No 4 - 2021

**REGULATIONS MADE PURSUANT TO SECTION 16A OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(HORSE-DRAWN VEHICLES)(SARK) ORDINANCE, 1968 (AS AMENDED)**

The Road Traffic Committee, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 16A of the Road Traffic (Horse-Drawn Vehicles) (Sark) Ordinance, 1968 (as amended)^a, hereby makes the following Regulations.

1. In these Regulations, "**carriage driver**" means a person in charge of a horse-drawn vehicle, and "**drive**" and related expressions shall be construed accordingly. The Interpretation (Guernsey) Law, 1948^b shall apply to these Regulations.
2. **From the 1st April 2021** until further notice, or failing such notice until (and including) the **30th September 2021**, between 11am and 5pm it is an offence for a carriage driver to -
 - (a) drive along The Avenue in an east to west direction,
 - (b) park on The Avenue,
 - (c) stop for the purpose of procuring, boarding or disembarking passengers on The Avenue,and, for the purposes of this Regulation only, "**The Avenue**" means the stretch of road from the junction outside the Post Office to La Collinette Junction.
3. Because of the danger of overturning created by the camber of the road, it is an offence for a carriage driver driving on the direct road between the Church and the Visitors' Centre to turn left outside the Visitors' Centre back towards The Avenue.
4. **Unless traffic conditions require otherwise**, it is an offence for a carriage driver to drive faster than walking pace -
 - (a) on La Coupee, from the top of the hill, down to the flat concrete surface,
 - (b) from St. Peter's Church to La Collinette, via The Avenue,
 - (c) when navigating the following crossroads: La Collinette, Le Carrefour, Clos à Jaôn, and La Vauroque,
 - (d) when navigating the following blind corners: from Maison Pommier to La Grand Fort turning area, and from the top of Rosebud Hill to La Collinette in either west to east or east to west direction.

^a As amended by the Road Traffic (Horse-Drawn Vehicles) (Amendment) (Sark) Ordinance, 2012; there are other amendments not relevant to these Regulations.

^b Ordres en Conseil Vol. XIII, p. 355.

5. Subject to clause 6 of this regulation, a carriage driver in charge of a parked horse-drawn vehicle must -
 - (a) sit on the vehicle holding the horse's reins, or
 - (b) stand within arm's reach of the horse's head.
6. A carriage driver in charge of a parked horse-drawn vehicle may leave that vehicle unattended for a period of no more than ten minutes only if during that period the horse is under the control of an adult who is able to control it, and who is not in charge of any other horse.
7. It is an offence for a carriage driver who holds a provisional horse-drawn carriage driving licence to drive on a public road unless accompanied by a person who -
 - a) has held a full horse-drawn carriage driving licence for 12 months or more, and
 - b) has driven a horse-drawn carriage on at least 5 days during the previous 12 months.
8. It is an offence for a carriage driver to park at La Collinette **prior to 9.00am** unless he is fulfilling a previously-made agreement to collect from there a specific passenger at a specific time.
9. Save in a case where special dispensation has been obtained in advance from the Constable, **from the 1st April 2021** until further notice, or failing such notice **until (and including) the 30th September 2021**, it is an offence for a carriage driver to -
 - (a) park between the Power Station and La Collinette lay-by, other than for the purpose of collecting passengers from The Aval du Creux Hotel,
 - (b) park or procure or board passengers other than in La Collinette lay-by, or, if there is no space in La Collinette lay-by, on the roadway opposite the NatWest Bank, and
 - (c) park on the roadway opposite the NatWest Bank leaving the carriage facing any direction other than north.
10. It is an offence for a person in charge of a dog to allow it to run free while he is driving a horse-drawn vehicle.
11. A person who breaches clauses 5 or 6 of this Regulation commits a criminal offence under the terms of the Ordinance.

Conseiller Alan Blythe
Chairman, The Douzaine

AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT & SEA FISHERIES COMMITTEE

Information Report to Christmas Chief Pleas, 20th January 2021

NEW ABBATOIR INFORMATION REPORT

NEW ABBATOIR.

Construction of the new abattoir was completed on time and within budget at the end of September. The facility was officially opened by HE the Lt. Governor.

Items for re-use were taken from the old slaughterhouse and transferred to the new abattoir during October (e.g. hoist, pig scalding, various tools, butchers' tables etc.). As meat stocks had been built up prior to the end of September no slaughtering was carried out in October.

An advertisement was put out for a new abattoir manager in line with the business plan for the new abattoir. However, the two candidates both withdrew so the Committee has co-opted a Transition Manager (Philip Long) who is overseeing the updates to the procedures and documentation needed to comply with the latest Food and Feed and other regulations as well as settling in the operation of the new abattoir and the administration procedures. We are receiving considerable advice and help from the Guernsey authorities and abattoir manager which is appreciated.

It is noted that a driving reason for investing in the new abattoir was the requirement to meet modern food production standards both in terms of the facility and also in terms of the procedures to be followed to process meat and maintain adequate records and standards. The introduction of the new abattoir also marks the point where the operation of the facility and the employment of slaughtering staff has moved from a mixed Government/private enterprise to being wholly owned and operated by the Government. Butchery remains in private hands with butchers using the new facilities. The Committee is in the process of reviewing charges and costs in line with the business case now that we have moved to the new facility.

Slaughtering commenced on the 2nd November in the new facility with 17 animals being processed on that day. A further slaughter run was done on the 16th November involving all 3 species (i.e. beef, lamb and pig) in the presence of the States Veterinary Officer David Chamberlain (who is our supervising vet). He has subsequently issued a formal report which was generally complimentary of the facility and the processes used but highlighted a few improvements that he wants to see. None of these are significant in terms of the design and construction of the abattoir and he felt that we had got off to a significantly better start than when the new Guernsey abattoir was commissioned. We are attending to the issues with a number already dealt with by change in procedures etc. There remain a few snagging issues which are being dealt with.

The move to the new abattoir has also enabled us to move to a more efficient and hygienic system of dealing with the solid waste from slaughtering so that waste is now transferred in closed Parabags direct to the incinerator using mechanical handling.

HARBOUR HILL BOREHOLE SUPPLY TO LES LACHES.

A new water pipe has been laid between the borehole at the bottom of Harbour Hill and the new abattoir but the pump etc. which will be needed to pressurise the water up the hill to Les Laches and automatically feed the abattoir have not yet committed to. The system proposed will be such that the new supply to Les Laches will not drain the existing supply to the harbour outlets or vice versa. A small new pump enclosure will be needed by the borehole as there is not space to accommodate it in the existing building. We have advised the DCC of the proposal and await their feedback. We are finalising the cost for this work to determine the best means of funding it. The proposal has the backing of the States Environmental Health Officer who prefers this method of feeding water to the abattoir rather than the bowser system currently in use. We note that an extension pipe has been laid from the abattoir to the top of Les Laches.

Conseiller Helen Plummer

Chairman, Agriculture, Environment & Sea Fisheries Committee