



The Government of Sark

POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

A COMMITTEE OF THE CHIEF PLEAS OF SARK

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The Medical & Emergency Committee wish to reassure residents that, in the case of a disconnection of supply, the contingency plan, including generators and cabling to provide an electricity supply, which were put on hold in September will be fully implemented on Wednesday, 7th October 2020.

The preparation work will be carried out Tuesday, 6th October; unfortunately, there will be some inevitable interruption to supply, however this will be minimal, and we will endeavour to re-connect affected residents as soon as possible.

This dispute between a landowner and the electricity provider started in June, when Mr Moerman of La Tour requested that Mr Jackson of Sark Electricity Limited remove equipment owned by Sark Electricity from his land.

Throughout the summer Mr Jackson has failed to provide Mr Moerman with a date for the removal of the equipment, leading to a legal demand to remove the equipment.

In August, Mr Moerman offered an alternative solution, which would allow the cabling to remain on his land and the transformer to be relocated, however it is disappointing that this practical solution is not being pursued by Sark Electricity.

In September, after a site meeting with the Douzaine Committee, Mr Jackson received permission to excavate Le Fort road to lay new cabling, and to re-site the transformer serving the nineteen properties. This permission did not and could not include the granting of wayleaves as these are under the control of landowners.

To date, Mr Jackson has not taken advantage of that permission, and is instead demanding wayleave rights over the entire grid, whether vested in the Seigneur, private landowners or corporate landowners. Wayleaves must be agreed between the electricity company and individual landowners, but Mr Jackson and his lawyers do not appear to be pursuing the matter of wayleaves with landowners.

On the 3rd September Mr Jackson informed the affected households that he would be sourcing generators to supply all affected properties. He has not done so and has said that he expects Chief Pleas to provide a supply to the disconnected properties. The contingency plan provides for continuity of supply thereby ensuring that no-one is without power for any substantial time.