



Chief Pleas

THE DOUZAINE

The Committee Office, La Chasse Murette, Sark, GY10 1SF

Press Statement

Current Waste Management Difficulties (Les Lâches)

13th October 2023

Firstly the Douzaine is grateful to all members of the community who have expressed their concerns over the way waste management is presently being dealt with at the island-owned Les Lâches site. In general terms the waste disposal processes that Sark employs are no different to those undertaken by our neighbours in Guernsey, Alderney United Kingdom and worldwide but acknowledge that the current comments & concerns are, quite rightly, focused on the local level and at Sark's current difficulties.

Unfortunately very recently we experienced mechanical failure of essential equipment to process waste on the island. Whilst we are looking to replace this equipment at the earliest possible time, the only site available for us to process resident waste, which continues to be produced and collected under normal schedules, is at Les Lâches. These pits that you all have seen images of are very much a temporary but necessary measure until we can replace vital equipment to resume waste disposal in the usual manner at the incinerator harbour site. We are confident that this will happen quickly albeit at significant cost.

As an issue waste production and its disposal is of paramount importance to all Sark Conseillers as there is nothing more important than the environment where we live. We appeal for patience while we tackle this issue alongside many long-standing difficult infrastructure challenges that the island faces.

In a broader sense, the failings here are largely due to aged equipment, maintenance issues and insufficient replacement programmes. The present Douzaine is constituted with newly elected Conseillers who are doing their best to deal with a legacy of past poor planning and practice which dates back decades.

Every citizen has the responsibility to reduce their carbon footprint which includes taking responsibility in minimising waste and costs both in financial terms but in and on the environment. Simply we should all be taking steps to produce less waste and the Douzaine thanks Sark's residents in advance for doing their very best to minimise waste in whatever form.

End Press statement