

# An important message from the Seigneur

## SARK'S NEXT SENESCHAL

With great sadness I have accepted the resignation of Ms Bethan Owen as Seneschal of Sark. This means the process of finding a replacement needs to run again. The position of Seneschal is a vital part of our continued independence and has always been a key part of Sark's history. I believe the position to be the most important and prestigious to which you can aspire on Sark.

You need no qualifications; however, you must be over 18 and ordinarily resident in Sark. The Seneschal cannot be a Conseiller or an officer of the island but anyone holding one of those positions can still apply on the understanding they would resign from their position upon appointment as Seneschal. In short anyone can apply. The Sark Reform Law, Part II gives guidance on the composition of the Court. It is a remunerated position.

The description of the role of Seneschal is on the reverse side of this letter.

Whilst you need no qualifications you will need to be a person of good character with the following personal qualities:

- experience,
- intellectual capacity,
- integrity,
- independence,
- objectivity,
- authority,
- communication skills,
- efficiency,
- and the ability to understand and deal fairly with all persons and communities served by the court.

The application process is simple, please complete a nomination form which can be found on the Court website and provide a covering letter setting out how you fulfil the personal qualities above and explaining your motivations for applying for the role of Seneschal.

The closing date for applications will be Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

Please post your application to me at La Seigneurie or email it to [seigneur@sarkgov.co.uk](mailto:seigneur@sarkgov.co.uk)

Interviews will be held on island before the end of May.

## The Seneschal of Sark - Job Description

### General

- The Court of the Seneschal is the sole court of justice on the Island of Sark and is presided over by the Seneschal, sitting alone.
- All Civil matters, including litigation, registrations and licensing, may be heard by the Seneschal – criminal jurisdiction is more circumscribed.
- All the functions of the Court may also be conducted by the Deputy Seneschal and Lieutenant Seneschals.
- Appointment procedure is contained within the *Reform (Sark) Law 2008*, as amended, at Part II, Sections 5A and 6.

### The Seneschal

- Shall be of full age and ordinarily resident on Sark.
- Shall not be a Conseiller or the holder of any of the offices of the Island listed in Sections 49 to 55 of the 2008 Law.
- Will have to retire upon attaining the age of 65 (although re-appointment beyond that age may be sought).
- Shall be of unimpeachable character.
- Need not be legally trained but should have an awareness of Bailiwick legal matters and the workings of the Law in general.
- Shall maintain confidentiality where appropriate and refrain from involvement in Island politics and controversies.

### The Role

- Conduct court proceedings, both civil and criminal, in an orderly manner and according to the dictates of his or her conscience.
- Read documents in relation to individual cases and more general issues of law.
- Sentence defendants in criminal cases that are within the Court's powers.
- Deal fairly and impartially with civil litigants and ensure "equality of arms".
- Write judgments in plain language and with reasons.
- Possess basic computing and word processing skills including maintaining data protection compliance.
- Manage the office and co-operate with the other Court officials (Greffier, Prévôt).
- Establish a working relationship with the Law Officers and Bailiff's Office in Guernsey.
- Represent the Court and the Island to other jurisdictions.
- Function as Coroner for the Island.
- Notarise documents. (Aside from any resident Notary Public, the Seneschal and Deputy Seneschal are the only persons on Sark authorised to do this.)