

OPENING OF SEIGNEURIE AMPITHEATRE - LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR'S REMARKS – SYNOPSIS

Occasion

Opening of new La Seigneurie Amphitheatre & entertainment facility.

- Designed by Seigneur personally (with aid of google maps & compass)
- All built from local materials (e.g. fountain stones from Port du Moulin) & by local builders & craftsmen xmt stonemasons from Guernsey
- Venue for outdoor performances (opera/theatre) & functions (weddings)

Drinks & canapés invitation to whole island.

Summary of Remarks

1. Thank 'new' Seigneur for the event, for the investment in the new facility (another great attraction for Sark), and for the inclusive leadership that he and his family are delivering to the community. Represents a 'new chapter' for Sark. **Quotes: 'Sark needs an energetic and engaged Seigneur and in Christopher Beaumont you have just that' & 'I hope the community is standing full square behind what you are trying to achieve, I certainly am!'**
2. The Crown has ultimate responsibility for good government in Crown Dependencies. 'Government' in Sark is approaching a pivotal moment in December's forthcoming elections. Lieutenant-Governor duty bound to bring their importance to everyone's attention. Quote **'Sark is facing some serious challenges, and it is my duty to make sure everyone understands the significance of December's elections.'**
3. Highlight failure of previous elections to deliver sufficient candidates and the commensurate reduction in the size of Chief Pleas (CP). Dec 16 election produced a shortfall of 4 (against 28 strong CP), 3 subsequent by-election attempts produced only one additional candidate. Additional resignations mean that CP now stands at 18 Conseillers. **Quotes 'This apparent democratic 'indifference' places a real question mark over Sark's long term appetite to govern itself.'** & **'This December's election will be a real litmus test of long term viability.'**
4. Not a criticism of past and present Conseillers, many of whom have worked tirelessly to deliver public services for Sark. But inevitably islanders want more and want it faster. If the election deliver an even further depleted Chief Pleas, it will simply lack capacity and energy to deliver. Not least, Sark needs a full strength government to be ready to deal with challenges of 29th Mar (BREXIT)
5. A further depletion in CP numbers will also almost inevitably lead to a reduction in Sark's autonomy and freedom of action as it is forced to rely on others to deliver its key services. Autonomy remains key to retaining the island's unique identity and preserving its unique way of life.
6. I understand the complex past divisions and atmospherics of island (as much as any outsider can!) that may have led to current situation, but not appropriate to dwell on them. Key points

are: more people to stand for election, more people to be prepared to shoulder the burden of Government, and people to work together to secure islands future. **Quotes ‘Democracy is not a spectator sport, it requires ‘full on’ audience participation’ & ‘Sark needs a full strength Chief Pleas that represents all elements of the community’.**

7. Four suggestions:
 - a. Those in government to mount a proactive campaign to engage with all factions to encourage their participation.
 - b. Those that worry about change should be prepared to adapt in order to protect those elements of Sark life that matter most. **Quote (Victor Hugo) ‘Change your leaves, keep your roots’.**
 - c. Those that have been vociferous but have not taken part in Government need to come forward and stand.
 - d. Those that commentate need to concentrate on building a narrative of contribution & collaboration, not division and personal attack.

Quote ‘End the politics of exclusion, excuses, and evasion, begin the politics of contribution, collaboration & compromise’.

8. Emphasise that there is plenty of affection and support for Sark, in the Bailiwick, in the Channel Islands more broadly, from the Crown personally and in Whitehall. Lord Keen’s forthcoming visit represents an important opportunity.
9. Final maritime quote **‘Sark has been sitting a bit low in the water recently, next 4 months and the forthcoming election represent a real opportunity to make it a lot more seaworthy for any storms ahead.’**