

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS 15TH JANUARY

THE GOOD

The people – cheerful and generally friendly - respect and trust
 Stubborn resilient 'Donkeys'
 The laid back pace of life - peaceful
 Liberal, holistic community that cares for each other and for the environment – 'small is beautiful'
 High standard of living, quality of life - lack of absolute poverty
 The States of Guernsey and the Deputies
 Low tax
 Strong independent economy
 Freedom of speech
 Media penetration and diversity – but not total depth
 Proximity to France & UK
 Mild climate and seasons
 The size (physical) - compact
 Fairly clean beaches and mostly clean air - Abundant water
 The scenery - Coastal and sea views and beaches - Cliff paths and cliff top views
 Herm, Jethou, Sark and Alderney
 Patois
 Unique local character/identity
 Variety of landscape
 Traditional/natural countryside – easy access to lots of countryside
 Wildlife – variety of habitats
 Cows
 Hedgerows and flowers in lanes
 Parks
 Heritage (if it was looked after) - archaeology
 Vernacular architecture and Town Harbour and town centre with character and history
 Local villages
 Not heavily built-up – development contained to the north
 Local produce – milk products, bean jar, tomatoes
 Seafood – ormers
 Family friendly - great place for kids
 Relative lack of crime – safe for kids
 Good education and healthcare
 Nearly full employment - quality of work
 Business links to London
 Local businesses – knowing producers, service providers etc.,
 Potential for cultural arts development
 Everything is in reasonably close proximity – short travel distances
 Free parking (including 1 hour at airport)
 Cheap and popular bus service
 Filter in turn
 Wide variety of things to do
 Fantastic performing arts scene
 Opportunities to enjoy natural resources - water sports and access to water – fishing, boating
 Quality of facilities/ public spaces
 Great sporting opportunities
 Priaulx Library
 No smoking policy
 High recycling rates

THE BAD

Small – lack of space
 Location and isolation
 Cold east wind in conjunction with low cloud for days on end
 Travel difficulties on/off island
 Cost of living – travel –shipping - raw materials - price of housing for first time buyers – over valued property for rent or buy
 Over reliant on other countries - follow UK etc., - stronger governments that can affect us adversely
 Consumerism and materialism
 Greed, lethargy, lack of self discipline
 Large amount of power concentrated in small amount of individuals – too much power for business
 Social division – gap between haves and have nots
 Over reliant on the finance industry
 The 'small town' mentality – outmoded, parochial and insular attitudes and laws
 Alienation of young people
 Influence of computer games and violent entertainment
 Too many people – maybe diminishing community spirit
 Destruction of habitats
 Too many fields mown as lawns
 Over development – results of overcrowding – urban sprawl, especially ribbon development – heavily built-up areas – suburbanisation – waterfront development
 Existing buildings that look nice but are difficult to maintain
 Unsympathetic large buildings for wrong purpose
 Regrettable developments – Admiral's Park, Frossard House etc.,
 Use of the markets buildings
 Growing monopoly of large supermarkets
 Location of airport – should be by the coast so traffic noise out to sea
 Traffic - car culture – school run mentality - too many 4x4s
 Inconsiderate, discourteous drivers
 Limited space for bikes and walkers – difficulty of accommodating cyclists on cliff paths – width of roads in relation to cycle lanes
 Limitation of space for modern development
 Limited entertainment
 Not enough disabled facilities
 Not enough arts

THE UGLY

States indecision / inaction – lack of cohesion – infighting – lack of positive government – lack of consultation – secrecy - bureaucracy
 Media opinions that stir-up anger and prevent co-operation – monopolistic
 Lack of environmental awareness
 Lack of international consciousness
 Lack of free primary healthcare service
 Lack of leadership on climate change/ energy use
 Unsustainable population balance / support ratio
 Cars and traffic pollution - lack of MOT - noisy exhausts and motorbikes - poor traffic management – need more car pooling - parking on piers - driving and parking on pavements
 Over-sized vehicles – buses and trucks
 Buses finish too early
 Lack of pavements / safe walking and cycling paths & bike parking – cyclists should be given more priority
 Lack of pedestrianised spaces in town - pedestrian harbour access – lack of investment in public spaces
 Lack of provision for disabled facilities
 Lack of public art
 Litter, vandalism and anti-social behaviour, binge drinking – too soft policing – too many prisoners and criminals – lack of consideration for young people – loss of respect for older people
 Over reliance on external fuel sources - no utilisation of the renewable energy resource (tidal and wind)
 Too little support for green living (energy efficiency)
 Need to increase local food production
 Destruction of countryside - no protection and poor management for wildlife - not enough spent on conserving wildlife or heritage
 Unnecessary tidying
 Derelict sites and greenhouses
 Lack of support for entrepreneurship – new green business ideas or tourism – obstructive for small businesses
 Airport expansion
 Too much building - too many large buildings – badly thought out development – green field developments - replacement of garden areas in homes e.g. paved drives
 Not enough green areas in Town
 Retail and office sectors over provided for
 Homogeny of High Street - Lack of vibrancy in Town – food supermarkets
 Sewage pollution in the sea - poor sewage treatment/infrastructure - odour
 General waste – over packaging – responsibility for disposal – Chouet Quarry - Refuse collection (open to seagulls etc.,) - kerbside recycling removed
 Lack of attractions for tourists and disproportionately expensive