

Proposed creation of the St Helier Youth & Community Trust

**For consideration by the Parish Assembly
on 25th November 2015 at 7.00pm**

PARISH OF ST HELIER

P.05/2015



PROPOSITION

The Parishioners are asked to take in to consideration and if deemed advisable;

1. To replace the St Helier Youth Committee with the St Helier Youth & Community Trust, a registered charity whose aims will be to benefit the residents of the Parish, particularly the youth, the elderly and those in most need.
 2. The current funding of the St Helier Youth Committee provided by the Parish of St Helier will be available to the Trust which shall honour the Committee's existing commitments to youth work and projects.
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Report

Currently there is no central generic vehicle for charitable giving within the Parish. The Trust would seek to raise funds and commit them to community based projects both large and small.

The aims of the Trust would be: -

To act as a channel for charitable giving for social projects in the Parish of St Helier that are not otherwise provided by the municipality.

The proposed projects should be for the benefit of all parishioners but particularly the young and the elderly and to provide grants to finance youth and community work.

Any projects should be tangible and provide a lasting legacy to benefactors and the Parish.

To continue the good work currently undertaken by the Youth Committee

Proposed Structure

This would comprise of 7 trustees consisting, ex officio, of the Constable, the 2 Procureurs du Bien Public and 4 Parish Deputies, members of the existing Youth Committee, all of whom shall hold office only during their otherwise elected office for the Parish. The Constable of St Helier will be ex-officio President and the 2 Procureurs du Bien Public shall be ex-officio Joint Vice Presidents of the Committee. The Officers of the Committee will be: President, Vice Presidents, Chairman, Secretary, & Treasurer. The executive committee will be the Trustees together with no less than 3 and no more than 7 members that shall be elected each year at a Parish Assembly in July, following which they shall select from amongst themselves and the trustees a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer to serve for the ensuing year.

It would be properly constituted as a 'Trust' with deeds and supporting documentation and registered as a charity.

Sub groups could be formed at any time to work on specific projects, however such groups should always have at least one trustee in its number.

Opportunity

By placing such a body at arms length of the Parish, the Trust's status would enable the trustees to act in the best interest of the beneficiaries (the parishioners of St Helier) unencumbered by other municipal interests.

The Trust would be able to make legitimate application to other charitable foundations and trusts for funding for specific projects. It would be able to fund raise in its own right and also attract fiscally attractive covenanted giving whereby both the donor and the Trust will benefit from tax credits. It could also be used as a vehicle for legacy giving - all local law practices active in the preparation of wills etc would be informed of the existence of the Trust and its aims and objectives.

By virtue of office the trustees would be bound by the normal fiduciary responsibilities that would ensure that members took their commitment and obligations very seriously to the benefit of the whole community.

If desired and approved by a Parish Assembly, it would be possible to transfer the current entity known as the St Helier Youth Committee into the Trust. In doing so it would benefit from additional funds generated by the Trust and from a formal legal structure that would in-turn ensure that services to the community especially the needs of the youth of St Helier are met in accordance with a published annual action plan. Current associated funding for the Youth Committee, subject to approval by Parish Assembly, would also be transferred into the guardianship of the Trust.

Financial and manpower implications.

As requested in the proposition the current agreed funding for the youth of the Parish would be transferred to the Trust, subject to annual Parish budget assemblies that this funding should be maintained at this level for up to three years. It should also be noted that Parish funding for other social initiatives currently directly funded by the Parish could also be funded by the Trust in future years. All trustees would provide their services voluntarily without remuneration.

Financial oversight will be provided by the Parish's Director of Finance and an annual audit will be required by appointed auditors.