

# PRESS RELEASE

## from a Committee of Sark Chief Pleas

Positive news from Sark as the Development Control Committee approves the expansion and development of two more established hotels.

Chairman of the Development Control Committee, Antony Dunks, admitted that the processing of the applications had not been easy as there had been safeguards to resolve and a significant amount of public comment to take into account.

The original application for the Dixcart Hotel brought a storm of protest from Sark residents concerned at the impact the separate accommodation blocks would have on the beautiful Dixcart Valley and the footpath approaches to the cliff top views above Dixcart Bay. The scheme approved today sits on the footprint of the old annexe building alongside the main hotel; with 10 bedroom suites, a new reception area and an upgrade to the restaurant, the overall impression is acceptable and sympathetic to the surrounding area.

At La Moinerie Hotel, an earlier application to place cottage style units on the remains of old farm buildings also received significant comment from Islanders concerned that the 10 units might be used as individual houses rather than accommodating tourists staying at the hotel. The applicant scaled down the size of each unit and has agreed to conditions being placed on the use of the buildings.

One pre-requisite of any planning application is the approval by the Public Health Committee of waste-water disposal arrangements. *“Details of the applicant’s intentions on either scheme were not received until mid-September”*, said Public Health Committee Chairman, David Melling, *“but the committee met with the applicants on each site and resolved the location of the plant and clarified details of the large digester systems to be installed”*.

The consent of the owners of the hotels, Sir David and Sir Frederick Barclay, was forthcoming in a letter received in October, supporting and confirming they were fully aware of what was being proposed. With all those safeguards cleared, the Development Control Committee was able to judge each development on its merits and the impact it was likely to have on its surroundings and gave its qualified approval at this week’s meeting.

Sandra Williams, a member of that Committee but also Chairman of the Tourism Committee said *“these two hotel developments, alongside the refurbishment and development of the nearby Stocks Hotel, already progressing following the end of the summer season, will provide enhanced facilities and give staying visitors much improved accommodation. This can only be to the advantage of Sark Tourism and the businesses that support it and is most welcome”*.

**END**

see over for contact details and more information

**Notes for Editors:**

This statement is sent out on the afternoon of 12<sup>th</sup> November following the monthly meeting of the Development Control Committee, with an embargo on publication until Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2009.

Contact should be routed through the Committee Secretary at –

[commsec@gov.sark.gg](mailto:commsec@gov.sark.gg)

Telephone: 01481 832 118

Core Office Hours – Monday to Thursday 1030-1230 and 1430-1700

Fridays through mobile: 07781 418 546

The Development Control Committee is a Committee of Sark's Chief Pleas.

Details of the Committees and Chief Pleas can be found on the government website

[www.gov.sark.gg](http://www.gov.sark.gg)

Reference: Press Release DCC 121109

**12<sup>th</sup> November 2009**