

THE STATES OF DELIBERATION
of the
ISLAND OF GUERNSEY

29th March, 2023

Proposition No. P.2022/100

Development & Planning Authority

Proposals for Provisions to Address Land Which is Affecting the Amenity of an Area

AMENDMENT

Proposed by: Deputy N R Inder

Seconded by: Deputy A Gabriel

In Proposition 1 immediately after “other than in relation to”, insert “land forming part of a dwellinghouse or its domestic curtilage and”.

Rule 4(1) Information

- a) The amendment contributes to the States’ objectives within the Government Work Plan by assisting regeneration of commercial aspects of the Island and supporting environmental enhancement which in turn will assist the Island’s economy.
- b) In amending the proposition consultation has been undertaken with the Development & Planning Authority.
- c) The amendment has been submitted to His Majesty’s Procureur for advice on any legal or constitutional implications.
- d) There are no financial implications to the States of carrying the proposal into effect.

Explanatory note

Signatories to this Amendment do not feel it is the business of government, its Authorities or elected representatives to interfere in the private lives of owner(s) or

occupier(s) of private dwellings. It is a fundamental right to of everyone in the Island to live how they please on their own property.

The Policy Letter has some merit in areas where derelict commercial property may hamper or hinder the development of certain areas of St Peter Port and the Bridge. However, the inclusion of residential property in the Policy Letter serves no purpose for useful debate on economic grounds.

There is a distinct difference between a commercial premises that may have been derelict for a number of years and whose effect has brought a retail area down, along with the surrounding 'amenity' value; to interfering in the life of an individual where the neighbours may dislike the 'look of a property', or take a dim view on an individual's life-style and encouraging Islanders to report them to the Authority.

In matters of owner occupier properties, the 'amenity' element is contentious and entirely subjective. The signatories do not want government to create a 'snoopers charter' where Douzaines and Islanders are encouraged to seek out errant house holders on an ill-defined 'amenity' argument.

The power of social media in small jurisdictions cannot be ignored; it's not impossible that Islanders with alternative lifestyles, disabilities or simply limited funds become the targets of social media.