

NEWS



from the top

by Chamber President **Mark Trenchard**

'Little Venice' –

Fact or Fiction, Dream or Reality?

I have recently attended a presentation by Charles Billson of the LongPort Group where he outlined the ideas that they have for the Eastern SeaBoard. They are bold and challenging.

As part of the presentation I listened to many questions and concerns that were aired. All were very valid and added to the understanding of what is being proposed.

Let us be very clear here. This is a massive opportunity. It could assist Guernsey with the enormous problem of Waste disposal and Sewage Treatment. It could provide substantial commercial and domestic property opportunities. It could have a massive impact on tourism, solve all our parking problems and still provide a long term income for the Island. Is this just a dream and what is the cost?

At this stage and I am sure that LongPort would agree with me on this. All we can do is support the idea that this area does indeed offer Guernsey a real opportunity. What?, how? or when?...is the next stage.

But what it will require is two things. Firstly it will need the silent majority to stand up and be counted. And secondly it will take brave, joined-up Government. It will need different departments, ministers and civil servants to sit

around a table and work out a solution that works for Guernsey in the long term. It will then take Deputies, despite the clock ticking towards the next elections, that are prepared to stand up and be counted.

This is real, I believe it does offer a fabulously exciting opportunity and all I ask at this stage is that we are brave enough to take the next step

comparison to what you see today with Castle Cornet really sitting on its own. The New Jetty was built. Do we lament those decisions? No, of course we don't.

We have a magnificent seagoing heritage and I can see this potentially being enhanced by 'Little Venice'!

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which will enable more detailed plans and ideas to be put forward. It isn't all or nothing, it is a real a la carte menu.

Many years ago, Guernsey was split into two. It took brave decisions to change that. Many years ago, St Peter Port Harbour was tiny in