

The St Helena Ambassador

... An Extraordinary Place on a Path to Prosperity

Issue: 13 November 2013

St Helena Airport Project 2 Years On

The 2nd anniversary since the signing of the airport contract between St Helena Government and Basil Read took place on Sunday, 3 November 2013.

To celebrate the tremendous progress of the airport project since the signing of the contract, special tours of the airport site were organised for youth groups and tour operators on the Island.

Speaking with Basil Read's Community Liaison Officer, Julie George, she commented that these tours - like others before - were very well received by attendees who were greatly impressed with the amount and extent of work currently taking place at the airport site.

Some of the comments made on the day were:

"I am so impressed with the amount of work that has happened here, especially with the Dry Gut Fill. So much work has been done considering the short time period and the hurdles that had to be overcome."

"I hope it all goes well with this project. I would love to be on the first flight in".

"The way everything is so well thought out and planned, everything and everyone has a function, it's impressive".

Two years on and the progress on the project is

self-evident in the remarkable amount of work that has taken place both at the airport site and in Rupert's Valley.

The Public Relations Office visited the airport site and met with Island Director, Deon de Jager and

Human Resources Officer, Charles Schwarz.

Deon reported that some major milestones have been achieved over the last few months and the project is slightly ahead of schedule.

The Painters are now on Island and will soon start painting the BFI

Tanks in Rupert's.

Also in Rupert's the teams are busy setting up the pre-cast yard for the permanent wharf and getting ready for construction.

The final layering works are also taking place on the Access Road



Ongoing Works on the Combined Buildings at Prosperous Bay Plain



towards Prosperous Bay Plain.

The 4 million cubic metre rockfill point, marking the half way point for the fill in Dry Gut is very close.

Deon said:

"We only started in January of this year with the bulk fill operations and now we're nearing the

Continued over page →

4 million cubic metre mark - it's quite an achievement by the guys."

Other works taking place include the building works on the Combined Building where the columns have been poured up to first floor level. The foundation of the terminal building has also started.

On the human resources side, Charles reported that the biggest challenge is sourcing the manpower for the wharf construction. These works are subject to development permission being granted in December.

At this stage, Basil Read are looking to employ in the region of 75 people for the building work, as well as for the wharf. Charles explained they have exhausted all resources on the Island at the moment and are looking at the Thai option, the reason being that they can get here in quick time, which should be in Feb/Mar 2014.

The project currently employs 483 people, of

which 318 are Saints. The numbers should increase to well over 500 in the next month or two because of the inclusion of the wharf and the various buildings.

Overall, programme and targets are being met and Basil Read is well on its way to completing works within the project timescale.



(Long and Winding) Access Road, Prosperous Bay Plain

Joint Ministerial Conference, London

Departing the Island on Thursday 7 November was Councillor Lawson Henry and Assistant Financial Secretary, Dax Richards, to attend the annual Joint Ministerial Conference (JMC) in London from 25-28 November 2013. The annual Overseas Territories (OTs) JMC brings together political leaders from the OT and UK Ministers. This year it will be hosted by FCO Minister for the Overseas Territories Mark Simmonds MP. The JMC is the principle forum for reviewing and implementing the shared strategy for promoting the security and good governance of the Territories and their sustainable economic and social development. A campaign launched on 8 November,

two weeks prior to the JMC, will highlight how the Overseas Territories form part of the "Wider UK family." The campaign is titled "What you didn't know about the UK OT family" and will feature a different Overseas Territory each day. The Falkland Islands begins on 8 November followed by St Helena on 12 November. Topics covered throughout the day - displayed through articles, pictures and videos - include readers sharing their stories of St Helena, St Helena's Airport, due to open in 2016, the story of 100 St Helenians recruited to work in the UK, Simon Henry, St Helena's internationally successful marksman, and the future generation of Saints benefitting from educational links with the UK.



OT Flags flying in Parliament Square, London © Crown.



St Helena Gold Medallist, Simon Henry, arrives on 6 November for a well earned holiday



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Visit of Lands Registry Team

Four representatives from HM Land Registry for England and Wales were on-Island from 17 October for two weeks, assisting St Helena Government in the modernisation of its current land registration process and records. The team comprised Julie Barry, Head of Global Engagement, Dr Andrew Trigg, Chief Geographic Information Officer, Len Craig, Senior Software Designer, and Tracey Salvin, Deputy Product Manager. This was a rather unusual assignment for the team as most of the projects undertaken by them have been in countries which are fragile in some way or where there has been a war or natural disaster that has wiped out all the land records or destroyed all the housing. In other words, where everything needs to be resurveyed and rebuilt. In comparison, St Helena is very stable, a known size with a known number of properties.

Julie commented:

"The Land Registry system here is very well embedded as well as the mapping surveys, systems and processes. We have been looking at these systems and processes and advising on the sustainability of them, the security of the data and

how St Helena can make better use of IT – at the moment land registration here is all paper-based."

Dr Trigg added:

"We've all been really encouraged by what we've found and there's actually quite a few examples of best practice here that we could learn from back in the UK – there is obviously different circumstances and a different scale but some of the practices and processes are probably better than ours. There is nothing we can see with any fundamental flaws or issues but there are a few areas where we think things could be done more slickly and efficiently. Particularly in mapping, there are processes that can happen which would make life easier for everyone and allow people to do things in a rapid way, getting through a higher volume of work more quickly."

The team left the Island on 1 November and will now make their recommendations to the Registrar of Lands - to allow land registration on St Helena to move forward and become more secure and stable.

Land registration by nature is very complex as it is based on the law of the land – the challenge being that everything done by HM Land Registry has to conform to that law (otherwise there is a risk of changing the law).

Julie explained:

"Fortunately the law on St Helena has been drafted in a way that is far sighted and allows electronic registration to take place without changing the law. There are quite a few things we need to be mindful of because it's not an easy subject to tackle. However we come from an organisation that is 150 years old with around 24 million registered titles and plenty of experts."

"One of the best things about this mission has been to actually come here and spend time talking to people. Without having these interviews with key people involved in land registration, we would not have been

able to fully understand the systems and processes as we would if we had worked from the UK. People have been very open in telling us things that have been implemented in the past which have not worked, so hopefully we can build on these processes and make them successful."

The Lands team have documented



L to R: Len Craig, Julie Barry, Tracey Salvin and Dr Andrew Trigg

all of the processes taking place within land registration on the Island and which they have now inputted into their report. This will be submitted to St Helena Government with all other documentation, evidence, opinions and recommendations.

The next steps will be for Government to decide whether or not they want to proceed with the recommendations.

Julie summarised:

"What we have recommended is all based on the key principles of best practice to ensure that everything is justified and justifiable. Sustainability is also very important but because the land registry team here is very small and the GIS system is very small, we haven't come up with grand schemes that they simply don't have time to implement. Instead, we are recommending something tailored to meet the needs of the Island - ensuring that we build a system that works for the future."

Len added:

"The people here are very knowledgeable and we want to give the people the tools to enable them to carry out their jobs."

Contract Signed for Redevelopment of Horse Point Landfill Site

The contract for the redevelopment of the Horse Point Landfill Site was signed between St Helena Government and Basil Read on 1 November 2013.

Signing on behalf of Basil Read was Island Director, Deon de Jager, and on behalf of St Helena Government, Acting Attorney General, Frank Wastell - witnessed by Acting Head of the Environmental Management Division, Isabel Peters. Also present were Project Manager for the Solid Waste Management Project, Mike Durnford, Project Manager (Construction Phase) Bill Scanes and Senior Environmental Health Officer, Georgina Young.

The redevelopment of the Horse Point Landfill Site is an important component of the airport project and will reduce the bird strike risk to aircraft by preventing the exposure of organic waste, which is a current food source for birds. The redevelopment will benefit households and also extend the life of the site.

The redevelopment of the Site, under the solid waste management strategy,

includes a waste reception building, the excavation of waste cells, the installation of specialist bird netting to cover the active waste cell, a civic amenity re-cycling facility, methods of preventing groundwater contamination, means for monitoring landfill gas, surface water drainage systems, and improvements to the internal roads to ensure all weather access. In addition, Basil Read are able to use spoil from their construction sites to restore the areas of the landfill site that are currently used for waste disposal, as well as areas that are blighted by surface litter.



Two Well Known Figures Complete their Services to St Helena



After completing admirable work on St Helena, Chief of Police, Peter Coll and Chief Executive for Economic Development (CEED), Julian Morris, departed the Island on Thursday 7 November 2013. Peter Coll has overseen the running of the Police, Prison, Fire, Sea Rescue and Immigration services for the past four years ensuring they have maintained high standards of service. Julian has



been doing work for St Helena for more than five years - for the last two as the CEED - assembling and motivating a new team to form Enterprise St Helena and working hard towards achieving the goals of the St Helena Economic Development Plan. Governor Capes recognised their sterling work on St Helena by hosting a reception for each at Plantation House.



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