

Constituency Meeting Notes – Ruperts

Date: 5 August 2026

Chair: Hon. Dr Corinda Essex

4 Attendees



1. DISCUSSION WITH ROYAL ST HELENA POLICE FORCE

Inspector J Thomas stated that Police resources are stretched, with recruitment to key positions proving difficult. The Chief Inspector's role has been dropped, and no substantive Chief of Police had yet been appointed.

The Inspector said that the key priorities are keeping the island safe, and that the Police are focussing on neighbourhood policing and inter-agency work.

Constituents raised queries regarding the Police role regarding school attendance and the introduction of Fixed Penalty Notices. It was stated that the latter should be launched in September for environmental issues.

2. ISSUES RAISED BY CONSTITUENTS

Residents expressed concern about deterioration of the side roads and bridges leading from the main road across the run. They were informed that the Roads Section had previously stated that SHG will not repair/maintain these roads as they are not adopted. Cllr Essex stated that she would raise this matter again as the properties were built before SHG built the run.

Concern was expressed regarding the overgrowth in the upper portion of the valley. It was noted that prisoners undertake some clearance/beautification projects. Cllr Essex said she would raise this. It was also stated that the old crane at the Shears is an eyesore. It was pointed out that this is privately owned.

3. FEEDBACK FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The details of what will be funded under the EDIP programme should be finalised by the end of August and made known to the public soon after this. FCDO is becoming more involved in management of the EDIP programme.

A constituent inquired whether funding for the sewerage projects for Jamestown and Half Tree Hollow was now approved. Cllr Essex replied that this would be known when the forward programme is issued.

Councillors had met with the Acting Chief of Police to express concerns about the perceived heavy hand approach by the Police. It was noted that their attitude has improved recently.

Cllr Essex informed constituents that she had held a detailed discussion with Connect regarding connections to the sewerage system. Those wishing to connect should pay Connect for the connection and then make their own arrangements for the line to be laid from their property.

Connect should be informed when the connection has been made. It was noted that it will be necessary to dig down quite deep in some places to make the connection.

It was stated that one property is now connected, and others are anticipating doing so.

With regard to fishing, constituents were told that the Situational Analysis is nearing completion, and public consultation on options will then be held.

Cllr Essex stated that she had raised constituents' concerns about road closures with the relevant officers. The importance of providing adequate notice except in emergency situations was emphasised as well as the need to ensure that announcements are clear and sufficiently detailed.

Work has commenced on the BFI, and a clear way forward has been established for delivery of this project.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Constituents requested an update regarding the airport fire tenders and associated closure. Cllr Essex stated that replacement vehicles were being shipped and that an independent consultant was on island to investigate the situation.

The need for beach improvement was raised, particularly with regard to provision of steps, and the possibility of installing a coin meter for electricity, as well as pre-shower facilities.

Concern was raised regarding the likely impacts of global oil prices on local fuel costs. Cllr Essex stated that this is likely to seriously affect the next order of fuel, and SHG needs to plan how to address this.