

Press Statement - Lezayre Parish Commissioners – Proposed Ramsey Town Boundary Extension

Lezayre Parish Commissioner's primary concern is to retain and maintain Lezayre Local Authority to the existing greenbelt with Ramsey Town Local Authority. Greenbelts were established for a purpose, to maintain a natural boundary between town and countryside.

As present Lezayre Parish Commissioners are a viable local authority. They provide a good practical service to their parishioners. They are solvent, with some reserves and manage the business of Lezayre Parish within their means. Their rates are among the lowest in the Isle of Man.

The proposed Ramsey Town Boundary extension is an enormous territorial expansion which would more than double the land area of Ramsey Town.

There are significant flaws in the six criteria mentioned in the Ramsey Town Commissioners proposal.

Ramsey Town Commissioners suggest their proposal will future proof the needs of the Town for the next 30 years. Yet in submitting their application they pay no regard to the development requirements which will be detailed in the Area Plan for the North and West, no regard to the development requirements which will be detailed in the All Island Area Plan, and no regard to future legislation which has already been drafted and which significantly promotes the development of brownfield rather than greenfield sites.

Ramsey Town Commission is an urban authority and as such it's Commissioners should concentrate their efforts on the development of the town itself and the brownfield sites within it. So much of the land being claimed is agricultural fields and prime quarter land which sustain dairy herds and the Manx agricultural industry and most of it simply cannot be developed. It does not make sense that this land should be part of an urban area rather than remain within a rural authority.

When this extension was first mooted, the possibility of gaining a substantial number of new ratepayers from the proposed Dandara development on land at Lower Milntown (181 new properties, subsequently reduced to 138 due to potential flooding issues) and approximately 90 existing ratepayers from Glen Auldyn was undoubtedly a very significant reason for the proposal. It may actually be the only reason, and a cynical person may wonder if perhaps everything else is simply to muddy the waters.

As the Dandara application was refused on appeal it would make sense for Ramsey Town Commissioners to withdraw their proposal, even at this late stage, rather than waste a significant amount of both taxpayers and ratepayers money.

The financial impact of the expansion would be significant, not just to general ratepayers in Lezayre, but also to those in other Parishes in the North as the cost of refuse rates will increase for all.

Now that the consultation into the Ramsey Town Boundary extension has gone live, the Lezayre Commissioners seek the support of all their Parishioners to halt the process. If you are against the expansion of Ramsey, please complete the online consultation form objecting to this scheme.

Please visit the Lezayre Parish Commissioners office in Sulby and look at our display, which includes maps, Ramsey's submission document and Lezayre's response document. We will be holding an open afternoon/evening at our offices/hall on Wednesday 19th July, from 12 noon until 7pm. Come and have a look and chat with the Commissioners about the boundary extension.

Visit our website news page <http://www.lezayreparish.org/news.htm>

We need your support!