

THE REVEREND ANTHONY W PUDNER

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Friday 18th October 2019

The Planning Officer
The Council of the Isles of Scilly
The Town Hall
St Mary's
Isles of Scilly
TR21 0LW

Dear Sir,

Enclosed with this letter is a paper in support of the Planning Applications relating to the Vineyard on St Martin's and I would be most grateful if it could be considered when the applications are up for review.

I write out of my abiding love of the Islands and concern for their future and have carried on a similar argument to my own Church over the maintenance of its ministry there to the end that the present cooperation between the island churches may continue and grow for the benefit of unique community that you are.

With every good wish

Yours sincerely



Anthony W Pudner

Enc: Support letter P//19/059 & P/19/060

The Planning Officer
Council of the Isles of Scilly
Town Hall, St Mary's,
TR21 0LW

Ref: Planning Applications P/19/059 & P/19/060

Dear Sir,

My interest in the life of the Islands began when I was appointed as the Methodist Minister to the Isles of Scilly Circuit in September 1960. Newly married my wife and I lived in rented accommodation in Old Town for three years but in my fourth and final year we moved to Hugh Town and lived in what is now referred to as the Manse in Church Street. In the previous year I was tasked with overseeing the building of what was initially called a "Church House" as most of the cost of acquiring the land the build was funded by the Rank Trust. The rest of the costing came from Cornish Methodist Churches and efforts in the local community.

I wish to support these planning applications as I have known of St Martin's Vineyard from its beginning and can claim some sense of involvement in the production of its first crop. The Island grapes were shipped to Penzance, my son and I collected them from Penzance and they were processed in a Helston Vineyard belonging to a golfing friend of mine at Pemboa. Since then I have followed the growth and development on St Martin's with great admiration for the work of Mr & Mrs Thomas. Not only have they done much research and put so much effort into the vineyard, but they have provided local employment and developed a great visitor attraction and I note that their produce is offered for sale on the other islands and is available in hotels and restaurants.

Since leaving the Islands in 1964 our love of them has never lessened – our daughter born in the Island Hospital is called Mary, our son born on the mainland is a Martin. On two occasions I have briefly returned to fill in for ministers who have been on Sabbatical leave. More to the point for the last twenty-nine years we have holidayed on St Martin's, occasionally twice a year and are all too aware of the changes that have taken place over the years. Nothing illustrates the changes better than to remember that in the 1960s an evening service on St Martin's was lit by oil lamps! Those were the days when in the flower season the RMV Scillonian sailed to the demands of the flower industry throughout the winter, but now the present vessel sails mainly to meet the demands of the visitor trade which I assume to be the Islands main source of income.

That the present owners wish to retire is completely understandable and it is surely important that the vineyard continues and that some form of accommodation becomes available to any prospective buyer who may also need to supplement any income from the holiday industry.

It is with my background knowledge of the Islands and my concern for the future that I lend my support to these applications. The thought that such a venture would fail to continue at the present owners' retirement is unthinkable. That new folk wish to take the vineyard on is surely for the good of the islands and equally understandable that they should wish to

combine the work in it with the visitor industry which has become an essential part of island life. As a final thought – before I left St Mary's in 1964 there was a small cottage for sale on The Strand – the asking price at the time £900.00 – but as a Minister of the Church I had no interest in owning property. Hindsight is a luxury!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Anthony W Pudner". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

The Reverend Anthony W Pudner

Brook House

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Helston TR13 0LY