

To The Planning Officer

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

From time immemorial both leaders and inhabitants of our islands have wrestled with the tricky balance of preserving the history, heritage and longer term interests of the islands whilst simultaneously allowing residents to eke out the means of earning a living.

By and large this seems to have been successful, however, without doubt tourism has become the dominant source of income for most. Interestingly, over time there have been some really innovative and enterprising approaches which has enhanced opportunities for income alongside that of providing specific areas of interest for visitors: the vineyard on St.Martin's being a prime example.

There is little doubt that the vineyard has been a great asset to St.Martin's as a whole, being enjoyed by residents and holiday makers alike. Hence the opportunity to allow this enterprise to continue will have an impact far beyond the owners themselves.

Graham and Valerie Thomas have toiled long and hard to create this resource, but it is now time for them to hand over the baton to others who have the skills, energy and interest to develop it further.

In the spirit of moving with the times the applicants will require the opportunity to supplement their income from the vineyard in order to survive and the blend of self-catering facilities alongside the vineyard seems the obvious solution.

Their on-going commitment shown by their steadfast interest and energy in the project and their sensitive planning application, in harmony with both the rhythm and community spirit of the island, demonstrates their willingness to work within current conventions whilst optimising the potential to develop the vineyard further.

I would commend the planning application to you and support it both fully and without reservation.

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