A FRESH VOICE FOR ALDERNEY

HEATHER SYER



States of alderney election 21st November 2026

ABOUT ME

Born in Bromley, London, my family moved to the island in 2007, when I was just two years old. As many of you will know, my father, Steven Syer, took on The Harbour Lights Hotel. Whilst I may not be Alderney born, I am certainly Alderney raised. I grew up with the island's close-knit community, our way of life and it's natural beauty that makes Alderney so unique.

I attended St Anne's School before going on to study Health and Social Care at The Guernsey Institute. My working life has been rooted in the hospitality and retail sector and I currently work at The Campania. I continue to be a part of the everyday life and community I wish to represent.

WHY VOTE FOR ME?

At 21 years old I believe I can bring **a fresh perspective** to the States of Alderney and, importantly, give the younger generation a stronger voice in decisions that will shape their future.

I have always had a keen interest in politics, as well as a genuine passion for helping others. I believe in standing up for what is right and speaking out for those who feel they are not being heard. Having grown up on Alderney, I have experienced first-hand the real-world challenges our island faces, and I want to play an active role in addressing them.

Working in hospitality has allowed me the privilege of meeting and engaging with people from all walks of life. It has taught me the importance of listening, communication and teamwork. Furthermore, I am approachable, receptive and willing to learn from others. These are essential skills I shall bring to The States of Alderney if elected.

I aim to encourage more residents to engage with politics. **It is so easy to feel disconnected when we believe our opinions are not being heard or valued**. I want to help to change that by speaking up for our community and help build an Alderney in which every generation feels represented.

PRIORITIES FOR REFORM

HOUSING

Housing is a critical priority for Alderney. The **limited availability of rental properties** has made it increasingly difficult to retain people on the island, for families to put down roots and for workers to find somewhere to live. The lack of suitable starter homes also creates barriers for those hoping to take their first steps onto the property ladder.

The housing crisis we are facing is one of the biggest contributors to Alderney's ageing demographic. It disproportionately impacts the younger generation and lower-income earners, unfortunately forcing many off island.

I will advocate for practical, sustainable housing solutions. These include making better use of existing properties, for instance Le Val and the Old Connaught, as well as supporting the development of **affordable homes** and **assisted living**. I will also push for legislation to ensure rental properties meet a certain standard, providing tenants with safe and suitable accommodation. Alderney should be a place where people can build a future, not being driven out because they cannot find a home.

CONNECTIVITY

Connectivity remains Alderney's fundamental weakness. Unreliable transport links, continuing delays to the runway extension and lack of investment in critical infrastructure are presenting significant challenges to our island.

We all recognise and understand that reliable connectivity impacts all aspects of island life, from access to healthcare and education, to supporting tourism, local businesses and economic growth.

If elected, I will work with The States, who are continuing to push for more reliable, affordable and accessible air and sea links, which are vital for securing Alderney's long-term future.

COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Community wellbeing is at the heart of a thriving Alderney, and it is something I feel particularly passionate about. **A good quality of life encourages people to stay, contribute and build their futures in Alderney**. By improving access to support, creating more opportunities and investing in our community, we can make Alderney a place where people of all ages feel included and empowered.

Care and sports and leisure facilities have the greatest potential to make positive differences to community wellbeing. **Alderney's biggest strength is its community**. By investing in the facilities and services that support it, our community can prosper further.

SPORTS AND LEISURE

An issue I regularly hear about, and recognise myself as a young person, is that there is simply **"nothing to do"**. We need more opportunities, schemes and activities for residents, as well as better ways to involve them in shaping Alderney's future.

Our Junior Nomads team and darts club have been revitalised thanks to our fantastic community. I would be interested in exploring the resurgence of the boxing club alongside the development of junior cricket.

Investing in community facilities, including the Butes, and improving sports and leisure facilities would help create more places for people to meet, connect and take part in activities.

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Currently, opportunities for education and further qualifications for post-16s are limited. This means many young people have to leave the island or rely on training and education overseas. This can be a challenging and expensive experience for young people and their families.

My aim is to create more opportunities for young people to learn, gain qualifications and build successful careers in Alderney and the wider world. This is achievable through **apprenticeship schemes, entry-level employment opportunities, sponsorships and greater access to further education/skills training.** By working with the school, employers and relevant organisations, we can identify what is possible as well as what young people want and need.

Creating opportunities for our young people also requires investment in the people who educate them. **Recruiting teachers is one thing, however, retaining them is another**. Housing availability, affordability and connectivity are big issues for teachers considering moving here or making a long-term commitment to our community. I want to better understand these barriers and explore practical solutions that make Alderney an attractive place for teachers to live and work.

CARE

I want to improve access to healthcare and address the lack of mental health and social support. In Alderney, we can sometimes find it difficult to talk openly about our feelings and ask for help. By campaigning to encourage open conversations around mental health and wellbeing, we can help to remove stigma, promote earlier intervention and prevention, and ensure people have clear guidance on how to access vital services. We should all feel supported and know where to turn if we need a helping hand.

Access to support in Alderney is extremely inadequate, with residents often having to travel off-island to receive the care they need. I would like to see greater use of **social prescribing, self-help groups, and permanent adult and youth social workers** based on the island. Developing local support would make services more accessible, strengthen continuity of care, and reduce the need to rely on off-island provision wherever possible.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank **Nicky Burland** and **Beth Chapman** for nominating me for this election. Their support and confidence in me has been absolutely invaluable.

I would also like to thank you, for taking the time to read my manifesto and for considering my candidacy. **I hope you will vote for me on November 21st.**

Have any questions?

heathersyer@hotmail.com

Heather Syer