Planning Officer John Young bowed out of his role with the States of Alderney last week - marking the self-confessed workaholic's fifth official retirement. The former Jersey States Deputy served the States for two years and four months, commuting back to his home and family in Jersey almost every weekend. At a States gathering to say goodbye. Mr Young told his colleagues that he was departing - leaving planning Assistant Sam Osborne at the helm - with a sense of fulfilment. "l feel I have achieved what was asked of me, having worked, with BDCC to produce the Land Use plan, seen four changes to the law approved and a raft of improvements to the planning system. Now the planning inquiry is done is the time for me to hand over. I will be visiting Alderney over the next couple of months to see the new Plan through the States by the end of the year. My wife Jean says I am a workaholic. “I am already planning my next role!"

Mr Young said he would miss Alderney and especially his team of colleagues.'1 fell in love with the island in 2004 and working here for nearly two and half years has reinforced my feelings. The values of a small community: people supporting each other. living and working within limited resources and being adaptable are all lessons I have learned from my time here. Where planning is concerned there are often strongly divided views: in Alderney they are a bit more personal. But it goes with the territory. "l want to thank everybody, in Alderney, who has made my task so enjoyable. Hopefully you will see me around in the future.

**BDCC chairman Matt Birmingham said Mr Young's knowledge, experience and good humour has been essential in the adoption of the recommendations of the ARUP review, and greatly valued by the members of the BDCC. "l wish John well in his desire to stand for the States of Jersey. The electorate of our sister island would be wise to vote for a man of such genuine passion. commitment and ability to represent them,**