

Ex-civil servant John Young says he was expecting a contested election

No challenge means former Deputy returns to St Brellade

By Ian Heath

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POPULATION control, electoral reform and ensuring the new Les Quennevais School is built as soon as possible are among the priorities of the newly elected Deputy for St Brellade No 1.

Former civil servant John Young was elected unopposed in the district he represented between 2011 and 2014 and he replaces outgoing Deputy Murray Norton, who did not stand for re-election.

During his 'victory' speech, however, the Deputy-elect said that he had 'mixed feelings' about returning to the States via an uncontested election.

'I was expecting an election and was prepared for it. So I have mixed feelings. I'm absolutely delighted that parishioners have put their full faith in me to deliver for them,' he said.

But then there's the other side of also thinking "What about our electoral system?" I have been a crit-

ic of it. There are a large number of Members who are elected unopposed and that's a problem.

'I think the root of that is that we have three classes of Member and I have long wanted a reform of that structure. The States have failed in several attempts to change this and I think this is an issue that has left people disappointed.'

The Deputy-elect said that he also wanted to address the matter of Jersey's high population growth in recent years, which he believes is unsustainable.

'My number-one concern is keeping Jersey the very special place which it is. I am very concerned about the unsustainable population growth we have had for the last ten years that has put enormous strain on our hospital and education service,' he said.

'The Island can't cope with that financially, so I think we have got to address that. It's all about the big strategic issues and the States have failed to achieve that.'



■ John Young will once again represent St Brellade No 1. Picture: IAN HEATH (21173256)

In terms of parish mat-velopment of the local sec-ondary school would also be a priority for him. 'There's an issue with

Les Quennevais School – the land acquisition is held up. I am going to speak to the Infrastructure Minister to ask him what can be done so the building of the school is not delayed,' he said. 'That's the sort of thing I will be doing.'

He added that he believed that his experience as both a politician and a civil servant would help him to 'hit the ground running' in the Assembly.

Deputy-elect Young was elected to the States as Deputy for St Brellade No 1 in 2011, but exited the Assembly after coming 11th in the 2014 Senatorial race.

He was the Planning Department's chief officer for 13 years before moving to the financial and legal sector, where he became a director at law firm Viberts.

During his previous stint as a States Member he chaired the Environment Scrutiny Panel, was a member of the Privileges and Procedures Committee and sat on the Chief Minister's Access to Justice group.