



**Guernsey Adolescent Smokefree Project**  
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For immediate Release

**Alderney should be different and special for the right reasons and that doesn't include allowing smoking in public places says Guernsey Adolescent Smokefree project (GASP)**

The chairperson of GASP has written to all Alderney Deputies prior to the States meeting on Wednesday to explain why they should introduce smokefree legislation in Alderney.

Chairperson Alun Williams explains:

*Alderney is a very special and unique island. You know that as soon as you get off the plane, set foot on Braye beach, wander down the high street or go to St Anne's School. It is special for all the right reasons such as its beautiful environment, close community and sense of uniqueness.*

*If it votes against the proposed smokefree legislation it runs the risk of being special for all the wrong reasons.*

*The smoking ban was one of the greatest advancements of the last decade. Over 100 countries have introduced smoking bans in public places. They did so in the face of the worries that have been expressed recently by a few opponents to the smokefree legislation. But not one country has overturned the legislation which demonstrates that, once introduced, the ban does not have a negative impact in fact far from it. It is the major influence on turning young people away from the perils of smoking*

Alun Williams goes on to explain that the smoking ban has to be introduced to protect young people in Alderney:

*GASP has had the pleasure of working with 100's of young Alderney students . They are great fun, enquiring and what strikes us most at GASP is that they are no different from young people anywhere. That means that they have as much right to be protected from the dangers of smoking as anyone.*

*The Alderney deputies have to remember that half of all teenagers who are currently smoking will die from diseases caused by tobacco if they continue to smoke. If they fail to introduce a smoking ban then Alderney youngsters will see smoking as a normal activity and they run the risk of having increased numbers of smokers in the future*

*We fully appreciate that Alderney has to reach its own conclusion about smokefree legislation but States members need to consider what kind of message will be heard by young people if Alderney becomes the only place in the British Isles where smoking is permitted in enclosed public places.*

*We hope and expect that Alderney's politicians will be as bold and courageous as their counterparts in Guernsey.*

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