Governor Laura Clarke, council and community meeting

The Governor welcomed everyone and advised she was looking forward to the visit to Pitcairn. The itinerary for the visit hasn’t been set yet, but the definite purpose this time is to get to know the islanders, have a clear vision of the island and establish a direct line of communication with the people.

Governor Clarke updated the community on her visit to New Caledonia as Governor of Pitcairn. The organisers were really pleased that the Governor had gone, and that Pitcairn was represented at Governor level. Governor Clarke informed the community that she had used her intervention to highlight what you / we are doing on biodiversity and conservation in Pitcairn and also to talk about the UK’s commitment to these issues more generally.

Governor Clarke also went to see EU colleagues – Tomas Mateo Goyet, Head of the Delegation in Noumea, and Julian Wilson, EU Ambassador from Suva – and said how glad she was that EDF 11 was going ahead. Tomas is keen to visit Pitcairn at some point, to see the impact of EU funds, but as yet has no firm plans (or sign off). They both appreciated their engagement with Pitcairn, and with Leslie in particular.

Governor Clarke had also had a meeting and discussion with French President Macron. This was helpful regarding France’s intentions for New Caledonia regarding the forthcoming referendum there on independence. Macron had reiterated France’s wish for New Caledonia to remain part of France.
The Governor added that one topic to discuss during her visit was the future of Pitcairn, which has been a topic worked on by Council and the Community. Mayor Christian spoke briefly on this and will be able to advise more on this tomorrow after council. He also thanked the community and Administrator Hebb for all their hard work on this matter.

The Governor then invited the community to ask questions or make comments.

The Mayor spoke briefly updating Governor Clarke on progress with EDF 10 and EDF 11 projects. All was going to plan and the Mayor felt that the EDF projects should be wrapped up by the 2020 deadline.

Councillor Jaques thanked the Governor for her engagement at the conference at Noumea as it was another boost for the island.

Carol Warren apologised for missing the last skype meeting, but wanted to say she was looking forward to meeting Governor Clarke upon her visit.

The island nurse and Councillor Darralyn Griffiths gave advice to the Governor regarding sea sickness medication – and gave a hearty wish for good luck on her journey via the Claymore II - to the hilarity of the community.

The Governor closed the meeting and looked forward to a further meeting with Council on the 9th of May.