



Your February update



WE'RE RECRUITING!

We are looking for individuals to join our Management Team. Any persons with an interest in the environment and the sustainable development of Bermuda should contact Kim Smith, Executive Director, at the BEST office by telephone: 292-3782 or email office@best.org.bm.

OUR TOP PRIORITY - 2018 BERMUDA PLAN

- The next Bermuda Plan is to be released in April or May of 2018
- The Department of Planning have reviewed 202 Requests for Rezoning asking for consideration for proposed changes to zoning of Development and/or Conversation land areas; BEST also reviewed the Requests and made objections where appropriate or necessary.
- BEST is also in communication with Department of Planning regarding proposed changes to the accompanying Planning Statements.
- BEST is drafting a piece for the media in an effort to raise awareness regarding the issues at stake

MORGAN'S POINT

BEST was not successful in its appeal to prevent an access road being built through agriculturally zoned land from Middle Road, Southampton onto the Caroline Bay property at Morgan's Point. However, one positive that has resulted from the challenge is the Chief Justice's drafting of legislation to tighten the Rules associated with Appeals of a Ministerial decision to the Supreme Court.

ACTIVE CAMPAIGNS

ATV Proposal to run tours along the Railway Trail & Parks in Sandys

Objections to plans to allow ATV tours on the railway trail and in the Parks in Sandys have escalated as we await a final decision by Minister Burch. BEST has voiced concerns over the way the proposal was originally approved without all of the requisite permissions. The timing (after approval was given by a former Minister) and the quality of the public consultation also give cause for concern.

Beach/Parks Development

Waiting for the appointment of the new Parks Commission.

Cell Towers

BEST needs to respond to the Regulatory Authority to understand the number of cell towers and antennae in Bermuda and to address concerns regarding over-intensification.

Cross Island

A Planning application has been lodged for a 3 year temporary permit for a broad-range of events to be held on Cross Island, including corporate functions, themed parties, live music concerts, skating rinks, and team resorts. The application is not for the construction of any permanent structures.

St. George's/St. Regis Hotel

Work on the roads system is continuing at the site in St. George's.

Rosewood Tuckers Point

Waiting for word that the amended Tuckers Point SDO has been accepted.

POTENTIAL FUTURE CAMPAIGNS

Marsh Folly

BEST is interested in exploring the potential of the Pembroke marsh area for the benefit of the community and the surrounding areas. Running trails and public spaces with small concessions (eg. coffee shops or other artisanal outlets) are ideas we would like to include in discussions with the area residents and other interested persons.

One-use Plastics

The team is passionate about ending the availability of one-use plastics (straws/bags/cutlery) that are prevalent on island. Potential ideas include banning those products in favour of biodegradable options or taxing importation at source.

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