

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND TECHNICAL SERVICES BY  
CONNÉTABLE A.S. CROWCROFT OF ST. HELIER**

**ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 6th JUNE 2006**

**Question**

Would the Minister inform members –

- (a) whether he is considering the potential for the ‘greening’ of the multi-storey car parks at Sand Street, Minden Place, Green Street and Fort Regent and, if so, what action, if any, he intends taking; and,
- (b) whether he would be prepared to allow the growing of appropriate species of plants on some or all of these facilities to provide a form of attractive visual screening of the car parks at the same time as contributing to biodiversity?

**Answer**

- (a) The matter of ‘greening’ the multi-storey car parks has, at various times in the past, been considered mostly for aesthetic reasons. It has, so far, not been progressed for a variety of reasons:
  - (i) the costs involved, both at the outset and for ongoing maintenance;
  - (ii) concern over whether the roots or climbers/clingers would damage the structure of the buildings;
  - (iii) some health and safety concerns over the possibility of reduced ventilation and light inside the car parks; and,
  - (iv) the issue of accessibility to the structural elements for maintenance.

However, every case should be, and will be, considered on its own merits and I certainly would not dismiss this idea, especially at a time when the St. Helier Regeneration Project, which will be examining ways of enhancing the town in all senses of the word, is just beginning.

- (b) As intimated in my answer to (a) above, I would be prepared to consider this form of screening as and where it is appropriate taking into account the issues already mentioned. I will take advice from the departmental officers both in respect of the kind of species of plants which may be appropriate and as to which structure, or part of a structure, would most lend itself to this form of screening.