

2.14 Deputy K.C. Lewis of St. Saviour of the Minister for Treasury and Resources regarding the acquisition of Le Mont de la Ville, South Hill Battery, St. Helier for development:

Would the Minister advise Members whether he has any plans to acquire Le Mont de la Ville, South Hill Battery, St. Helier, the annex to Fort Regent and an important heritage site for development by the States as luxury flats?

Senator T.A. Le Sueur (The Minister for Treasury and Resources):

No, Sir, I have no plans to acquire this site for development by the State as luxury flats. The site is owned by the Parish of St. Helier, but I cannot speak for the Parish. While I am exploring opportunities to redevelop the publicly-owned South Hill site and, in particular, that part of the site at lower level adjacent to existing States' offices, this land is currently shown as an H4 site in the Island Plan and is currently zoned for Category A housing. The Battery site, which is at a higher level, does not form part of that plan.

2.14.1 Deputy K.C. Lewis:

I am heartened and delighted to hear that reply, Sir. As this is an important Fort, forming as it does a part of Fort Regent and part of Jersey's heritage once holding over 20 cannons overlooking the St. Helier Harbour, this wonderful Fort and park area must be preserved for future generations, does the Minister not agree? **[Laughter]**

Senator T.A. Le Sueur:

That, Sir, is a matter for the Planning Minister and a matter for this House to debate within the Island Plan, Sir. I share the Deputy's sentiments, but that is not for me to decide.

2.14.2 The Connétable of St. Helier:

I share the questioner's pleasure in the Minister's reply. Could the Minister confirm that if any proposal were to be brought forward that would affect the Parish land in the vicinity it would have to go to a Parish Assembly?

Senator T.A. Le Sueur:

I cannot confirm, Sir, what goes to Parish Assembly: that is for the Connétable to decide, but certainly I would happily talk to the Connétable about any developments which might have a common benefit or common difficulties.

2.14.3 Deputy G.W.J. de Faye:

I wonder whether the Minister is of the view of this particular site - so accurately described by Deputy Lewis with its spacious German bunkers and enormous Napoleonic fortifications - might perhaps fit into our extremely successful historic fortification's holiday lettings project. **[Members: Oh!]**

Senator T.A. Le Sueur:

That may well be good use of the site, and I suggest that the Minister consults with the landowner of the Parish of St. Helier to see if that can be developed.