

2.1 Deputy T.M. Pitman of St. Helier of the Minister for Economic Development regarding the working party looking into the issue of allotments:

Would the Minister advise the Assembly who is on the working party looking into the issue of allotments, to which he referred in the States on 28th April 2009, who is the Chairman and what progress, if any, has been made?

Senator A.J.H. Maclean (The Minister for Economic Development):

Can I ask my Assistant Minister, the Constable of St. Clement, to answer this? He has been dealing with the matter.

Connétable L. Norman of St. Clement (Assistant Minister for Economic Development - rapporteur):

The working party is made up of a representative from each of the Jersey Farmers' Union, R.J.A.&H.F. (Royal Jersey Agricultural & Horticultural Society), the Jersey Organics Association. It is chaired by an independent, Mr. Jeff Hathaway, and is supported by an Honorary Minute Secretary and a States Horticultural Adviser. The group is in the process of producing a report and recommendations, which I hope to receive by the end of June.

2.1.1 Deputy R.G. Le Hérissier of St. Saviour:

At the risk of ploughing the same furrow, I wonder if the Assistant Minister could tell us what lessons were learnt by what appears to be the aborted attempt to set up a series of allotments in St. Lawrence?

The Deputy Bailiff:

I think that goes beyond it, does it not, Deputy? **[Laughter]**

Deputy R.G. Le Hérissier:

I wonder if I could rephrase it? In selecting these members, was a conversation held with them about the lessons learnt of the previous attempt? **[Laughter]**

The Connétable of St. Clement:

When the working group was formed the application for the St. Lawrence field had not yet been determined by the Planning Minister.

2.1.2 Deputy P.J. Rondel of St. John:

Given that the season is getting well advanced now, for planting seeds, *et cetera*, would the Assistant Minister be able to tell us whether or not we will have any allotments for this year? Time is ticking on and he is now telling us it is going to be the end of the month before we get any results. Could he please try and get things out earlier so that people who are waiting and would like to get, shall we say, winter crops in can do so.

The Connétable of St. Clement:

Until I receive the report I could not possibly comment on a timescale.

2.1.3 Deputy D.J.A. Wimberley of St. Mary:

It was just a point of detail. I did not quite catch after the Honorary Minute Secretary who the other member was of the working group. I am sorry; I just did not catch it.

The Connétable of St. Clement:

I said that the group was supported by the States Horticultural Adviser.