

2017.06.20

3.6 Deputy M. Tadier of the Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture regarding the playpark at Les Quennevais playing fields: [1(366)]

Will the Minister consider making funds available for more improvements to the playpark on Les Quennevais playing fields?

Senator L.J. Farnham (The Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture):

The Deputy has agreed that the Assistant Minister answer the question.

Connétable S.W. Pallett of St. Brelade (Assistant Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture - rapporteur):

I thank the Deputy for allowing me to answer. The simple answer is yes, but to briefly expand. In response to a written question from the Deputy in January of this year, I indicated that additional equipment had been identified and earmarked for the playpark at Les Quennevais. Officers indicated that this would be installed over the next 3 weeks in time for the main school holiday period but I would apologise that this work has not been carried out sooner. I also indicated in my response to the earlier question that once these additions had been made another consultation exercise was proposed among users to identify whether further improvements would in future be necessary. Once this consultation is carried out and the results are known the department will consider whether further investment is required.

3.6.1 Deputy M. Tadier:

I thank the Minister for that answer. I am glad to hear there are some improvements being made. Could he explain and does he agree that this has been going on for perhaps longer than it might have needed to for over 4 years when I initially raised the question, and that there is considerable discontent about the facilities which used to be more plentiful and now are quite sparse? Will he ensure that proper engagement with users is undertaken so that we can see something which is fit for purpose that is delivered for the users and their families?

The Connétable of St. Brelade:

As I said in the answer, there will be further engagement with nearby residents in regards to the improvements, once these improvements are made. I think we need to be conscious and cognisant of the fact that there is an extremely well equipped playpark within 300 metres, less than 3 minutes' walk from the current playpark. I admit for some users that might not be the most ideal situation but it is extremely close. I know this has gone on for some period of time. This has been going on since I have been in the States but not while I have had responsibility for it. As I have said, I have apologised for the time it has taken but the equipment has been identified and, as I say, will be in place within the next 2 or 3 weeks.

3.6.2 Deputy S.Y. Mézec:

The Assistant Minister mentioned the written question that was asked in January, which said this work would be completed by I think it was Spring 2017. Could he just clarify why that has not transpired?

The Connétable of St. Brelade:

Two reasons: one, we had to identify the equipment, which we have now done. The other one was about resource. Like every States department resource is limited. We have now identified where

the money can come from to put that equipment in. It is not easy to find any money for improvements of any nature at the present time considering the cuts the department have had to make. But it is important. I think the investment is well worthwhile. A lot of people visit it, not just from St. Brelade but from around the Island when they come to play football and other sports. We are going to do the best we can to improve that park and, as I say, re-engage with residents when the work is done.

3.6.3 Deputy M. Tadier:

Just to thank the Minister for his response and I am sure the Constable of St. Brelade as well, as the Minister for Sports, will be keeping an eye on the issue with interest.

The Connétable of St. Brelade:

I just want the best equipment and if we can improve services within the sports centre. I think the services provided at Les Quennevais Sports Centre are exceptional. If we can improve on that we will.