



JERSEY BOWLING CLUB
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STATES OF JERSEY SCRUTINY OFFICE - OUR HOSPITAL PREFERRED ACCESS ROUTE

5th January 2021

Thank you for inviting the Jersey Bowling Club to give your panel its views on the proposed route and road structure at Westmount.

In answer to question 1: We were contacted in the first instance by Phil Dawes on behalf of the "Our Hospital Project Team" by email on 9th September 2020, asking me as the then Club President to contact him. I did this by phone the following morning, when I was told that if the preferred site for the new hospital was Overdale, our treasured Bowling Club would need to be demolished completely, club house, bowling green, car park, gardens, etc, etc. The date given would be March 2022! This news was received with complete shock and horror!

We met with Mr Dawes in October 2020, when we were then informed the date had been changed to June 2021, in other words we would NOT have another bowling season at Westmount. Our bowling season usually starts mid April and continues until the end of September, the club is used during the off season for many indoor club activities.

We were told by email on the 17th November, that we can now stay until 12th September, due to the delays caused by Constable Crowcrofts amendment to review the proposed road structure.

In answer to question 2: Obviously as a Club we are devastated and desperately worried. We have been at Westmount since 1912, started as a small shed for a clubhouse, no car park, a rough bit of grass as a bowling green, and in those years since, by sheer dedication by all members past and present the club has become what you see today, all of this has been done voluntarily by Members and friends.

If we have to be relocated, then WHEN is the million dollar question we are keen to have answered, also WHERE. If things are delayed, and to date nothing has been suggested, the Club I fear will fold, after all our Members are there to play their sport, and without a Club and bowling green this will be impossible. The continuity of the Club is of the utmost importance.

We have been led to believe that the Club would be impacted either way, if a two way road is kept, or if a one way road is decided. We would have to move.

Question 3: We appealed with regard to the date given June 2021, and as I have said, we now have until 12th September 2021 and extra couple of months.

Question 4: We have had nothing officially in writing with regard to all of this from either the States or our landlords the Parish of St Helier. We have had very little information given, we have had two meetings with Simon Crowcroft in the early stages. Also a meeting with Simon, his CEO and Senator Farnham, this was on 6th November, the main essence of this meeting was to ask us if we had any idea where we want to be moved to as a new site for the Club and everything we own. They suggested that an area at Warwick Farm may be possible, a couple of other suggestions were made, which we considered unsuitable. We said Warwick Farm would be our preference as it has the space to house all we need. Nothing further has been discussed since then! We have today been asked by Phil Dawes for permission for Rok to carry out surveys on our property sometime this week.

There were two meetings called with the affected residents of the area, we as a Club were not informed or invited to attend.

Question 5: I would not like to walk or cycle up that hill. The buses will need to provide a suitable service at all hours of the day (and night) The fact is that building a new hospital on the top of a steep hill will mean people will use their cars more to access it, not really lowering carbon emissions as Jersey has promised to try to do. The road will be busier than it is now, and should they decide that JBC can stay put, it would be very dangerous for our members accessing the club car park, it is on a bad bend as it is.


Question 6: this has been answered in question 2.

Question 7: On looking at what is being proposed as the new access route, I think the key challenges will be ALL OF IT! The park will be greatly affected, no parking, less pathways, less greenery, no childrens play area/ fitness area, it will be surrounded by huge motorway type roads. We feel that the whole lovely corner of St Helier will be destroyed, ruined forever. The residents all around the new route will be heavily affected by dirt, and noise for years to come.

We now anxiously await the final outcome and we desperately need to be given options of relocation for the Club and a suitable time frame for this to happen.

Whilst we appreciate Overdale has been chosen, we are all horrified this site was selected with the implications attached and the huge destruction and impact on a popular corner of St Helier, surely the worst choice. Other, better sites with a blank canvas have been identified which already have better access, and would not require all of this disruption and loss of amenities.

Yours sincerely



Jean Lowery

Immediate Past President

On behalf of the Committee and Members of Jersey Bowling Club.

Contact number 629425.