

2.12 The Connétable of St. Helier of the Minister for Transport and Technical Services regarding his comments on the Parish of St. Helier Roads Committee's 'Draft Cycling Policy':

Would the Minister explain whether he has replied to the letters of 30th May and 10th August 2006 seeking his views on the Parish of St. Helier Roads Committee's Draft Cycling Strategy, and if not, advise when his response will be forthcoming?

Deputy G.W.J de Faye (The Minister for Transport and Technical Services):

I must apologise to the Constable for not having replied to either of these letters. I offer no excuse for this oversight and I have asked the Chief Officer to ensure that in future acknowledgement letters, at the very least, are sent out. However, it is only fair to point out that I have instructed the relevant offices of Transport and Technical Services to prioritise work that needs to be undertaken to finalise drafting of the I.T.T.P. (Integrated Traffic and Transport Plan) which will be presented to the States by the end of this year. I am aware that this major piece of work has delayed evaluation of a number of plans and ideas that various bodies have drafted, but it is important that an over-arching strategy template such as the I.T.T.P. is completed before considering individual elements which will contribute towards its implementation. I would hope that departmental resources will be available in the last 2 months of this year to assess the Draft Cycling Strategy and to offer me expert advice. Consequent upon that, I would hope the Constable will receive a response in the New Year. In the meantime, I would urge the Constable, if he feels he has been overlooked, that rather than to go through the laborious process of tabling an oral question, he is very welcome to give me a telephone call.

2.12.1 The Connétable of St. Helier:

I could always write a third letter, I suppose. I do thank the Minister for his apology and accept it. I am somewhat mystified, however, by his further answer that we will be receiving an answer in the New Year to the letter, given that the Roads Committee has produced a Draft Cycling Strategy. Surely, that should be incorporated in the developing Transport and Integrated Traffic Strategy that the Minister is developing.

Deputy G.W.J de Faye:

The strategy is currently being considered by officers within the department, but I will give the Constable my assurance that, following on his concurrent remarks, I will look into the matter personally.