

**LES CREUX COUNTRY PARK, ST. BRELADE:
MILLENNIUM PROJECT**

**Lodged au Greffe on 20th October 1998
by Deputy M.E. Vibert of St. Brelade**



STATES OF JERSEY

STATES GREFFE

PROPOSITION

THE STATES are asked to decide whether they are of opinion -

to refer to their Act dated 3rd December 1997, in which they allowed the estimate of capital expenditure allocated to Millennium Projects in the sum of £2 million and to approve that the remainder of unallocated funds in this credit should go towards developing the Les Creux Country Park as outlined in the report and proposition ‘‘Les Creux, St. Brelade: Land Use Strategy’’ (P.36/98), which was approved by the States on 31st March 1998.

DEPUTY M.E. VIBERT OF ST. BRELADE

Report

I am increasingly aware of general concern that no major project that is likely to be ready in time for the year 2000 has been identified to be financed from the Millennium Fund.

I am proposing the Les Creux project be adopted as the Island's main Millennium project and is allocated the remaining finance available in the Millennium Fund, to be developed as Jersey's Millennium Country Park to open in the year 2000.

The projects approved for the Millennium so far are, in the main, relatively minor, such as the 12 wayside crosses and the various bursaries and the, as yet, unidentified feature or features to commemorate one thousand years of Jersey history.

In addition, £500,000 has been set aside of the £2 million Millennium Fund towards the landscaping of an urban park on the Bath Street/Gas Place site. The completion of this project appears to be a considerable time in the future, well after the Millennium, and the £500,000 identified will form a very small percentage of the overall cost of the underground car par/town park development.

I believe the unallocated £1,020,000 left in the Millennium Fund should be allocated to creating a country park at Les Creux in time for the Millennium.

Plans to turn Les Creux into a country park with sporting and leisure facilities were overwhelmingly approved by the States at the end of March of this year.

I believe there are many good and valid reasons for Les Creux becoming one of the main Millennium projects for the Island -

- (1) the Les Creux project can be substantially completed for £1 million;

- (2) Les Creux can be ready to open in 2000 to celebrate/commemorate the Millennium;
- (3) developing Les Creux would demonstrate good stewardship by the States as the majority of the land was acquired on a 99 year lease at considerable public expense and that lease is already being eroded by time. The public have so far had very little return for their money, which was voted to purchase land for a sporting/leisure use i.e. an 18 hole golf course;
- (4) it meets all the criteria for Millennium projects outlined by the Policy and Resources Committee in P.127/98 -
 - (a) the degree of longevity - Les Creux once established as a country park will remain as one into the foreseeable future;
 - (b) the extent to which the project is associated with Jersey and/or its history - Les Creux will allow the public access to one of the most naturally beautiful areas of the Island and will preserve hedgerows and dry stone walls;
 - (c) the extent to which the project otherwise would not normally be expected to achieve high priority in the capital programme using current criteria, or was a project that would be covered under a Committee's existing remit - Les Creux did not score highly enough in recent Decision Conference to make the proposed capital programme for the next four years;
 - (d) the extent to which the project could be enjoyed by all Island residents and families rather than just

those of a certain age or interest grouping, or those resident in one part of the Island - Les Creux meets this criteria in the same way as an Urban Park, with the added benefits of country walks and the opportunity to participate in sports and leisure activities;

- (e) the degree of environmental benefit - Les Creux encompasses a whole host of environmental benefits as outlined in the Les Creux Land Use Study: these include the preservation and management of natural habitats for wildlife, the extension of woodland to the benefit of the red squirrel population and to encourage environmentally sensitive agricultural management;
- (f) the degree of social benefit - Les Creux will offer both sporting and leisure recreation opportunities to the public to encourage healthy lifestyles;
- (g) the medium/long -term resources consequences of the project - the capital cost of the development was estimated in the Land Use Report of August 1997 as £1,386,000, of which some £271,715.89 has already been voted for bowls facilities currently being developed.

In conclusion, I believe Les Creux would be worthy of being regarded as one of the main Millennium projects for the Island. It complements the other main Millennium Project, a town park. It also commands widespread public support, meets all the criteria required of a Millennium project, can be substantially completed with the £1 million left in the Millennium Fund and can be ready to open in the year 2000 if the go-ahead for it is given in the near future.

CORRIGENDUM

**P.214/98 Les Creux Country Park, St. Brelade:
Millenium Project**

Page 4, paragraph (3) -

For the words "99 year lease" in the third line,
substitute the words "198 year lease".