

2024.09.10

**2.12 Deputy D.J. Warr of St. Helier South of the Minister for Infrastructure regarding the use of the former Jersey Gas site for community activities (OQ 160/2024):**

Further to his letter dated 29th August 2024 to the chair of the Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel, advising that work on the North of St. Helier Primary School has been delayed to 2027, will the Minister advise whether there is any intention to use the former Jersey Gas site for community activities prior to the works on the new school commencing, and if not, why not?

**Connétable A.N. Jehan of St. John (The Minister for Infrastructure):**

I thank the Deputy for his question. I expect the Deputy is aware the site is not currently in Government ownership and therefore any use, community or otherwise, would need to be negotiated with the site owner. The Government's interest is in acquiring the site for a new primary school and any use of the site prior to that point is currently not a matter within our control. Our focus is on properties that we currently own and I am working with the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning to get better utilisation of school estate out of hours and I am pleased to report that we are making progress in that area.

**2.12.1 Deputy D.J. Warr:**

To continue on that theme, given the proposed £2.1 million budget cut in his department's rolling vote, and in the spirit of trying to find further savings, has the Minister considered the repurposing of the existing Gas Place showroom into a youth facility upon vacation by Rock(?)? Would he be willing to support such a use, something his Assistant Minister, the Constable of St. Helier, has been championing?

**The Connétable of St. John:**

The priority for this Government is to find a permanent home for a St. Helier youth centre in the north of Town. I think that, with the amount of development in that area, the Council of Ministers as a whole have come to that conclusion and we are refocusing our efforts to deliver that. We have identified a site and we hope to progress as soon as we possibly can.

**The Bailiff:**

We come now on to Question 13. Before we do, I am afraid, Deputy Ozouf ...

**Deputy P.F.C. Ozouf of St. Saviour:**

I put my light on, Sir, to admit to an inadvertent ping, sorry. But also I was going to ask the Minister for supplementary, but you did not get to me, so that is fine.

**The Bailiff:**

Well, I assumed that you were going to make the usual £10 contribution to the charity, notwithstanding the musical nature of your interjection. Very well, we come to Question 13 that Deputy Renouf will ask of the Minister for Infrastructure.

**Deputy J. Renouf:**

Minister for the Environment. Oh, is it ...

**The Bailiff:**

No, I think it is misstated on the ...