

21.02.09

**12 Deputy M.R. Higgins of the Assistant Chief Minister regarding the interaction with the Connétable of St. Helier during the progress of Our Hospital project (OQ.43/2021)**

Will the Assistant Chief Minister outline for members the number and nature of any meetings and conversations held with the Connétable of St. Helier, or his officers, between the time the project board had decided that Overdale was to be the site of the new hospital and when the public announcement was made; and what the outcomes were, if any, of those discussions?

**Senator L.J. Farnham (Assistant Chief Minister):**

The political oversight group for Our Hospital met on 30th September and chose Overdale as the preferred site. The Council of Ministers approved this the following day on 1st October and we also advised Scrutiny on the same day. The proposition P.123 was lodged on 6th October, one week later. There were no formal meetings with the Constable during that period. However, I do communicate regularly and informally with the Constable and indeed many Members, including Deputy Higgins, on a range of issues. I would have contacted the Connétable to inform him of the decision of the preferred site and we spoke on the phone about that once or possibly twice during that period. Following that period, I have spoken to the Constable on a number of occasions and attended 2 public meetings with him, with the residents of the area.

**6.12.1 Deputy M.R. Higgins:**

Can the Assistant Chief Minister tell us then when consent was given to do drilling on the Parish-owned land. Also, what the implications were for the bowling club on top of Westmount?

**Senator L.J. Farnham:**

No, I cannot provide that information. That information is with our design and delivery partners and the Parish, so I do not have that information to hand. I could not understand the second part; was it in relation to the bowling club, could he just make that clear?

**Deputy M.R. Higgins:**

Yes, when did you communicate to the Parish that the bowling club would be lost as a consequence of the adoption of the Westmount Road approach?

**Senator L.J. Farnham:**

I cannot recall the exact dates of that communication. But I do remember fairly shortly after that again meeting with the Connétable and members of the bowling club and Parish officials at the Town Hall, sometime shortly afterwards. But I cannot recall the exact date.

**Deputy M.R. Higgins:**

Can the Minister please let Members know the date? Thank you.