

**QUESTION TO BE ASKED OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC
SERVICES COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY, 7th OCTOBER 2003 BY
DEPUTY J.B. FOX OF ST. HELIER**

Question

Would the President inform members of the Committee's plans in relation to the trial Residents' Parking Scheme in St. Helier, and, in particular, state -

- (a) how successful the trial scheme has been?
- (b) whether similar schemes are to be introduced in other urban areas of the Island? and,
- (c) whether the Committee intends to keep the price of any permanent scheme to a similar level to that of the trial scheme?

Answer

- (a) The trial scheme provides privileged parking for 172 residents in the Stopford Road area of St. Helier. Since its inception on 4th November 2002, and a small increase in the number of paycard parking spaces on 13th December 2002, to provide for visitors to the area, there have been relatively few comments. The most frequent criticisms from residents have centred around the inadequate level of policing of the parking restrictions at nights and on Sundays. Policing during other times is carried out by the Department's Parking Control Officers, who patrol the streets frequently. All residents of the area were invited to a meeting in June, this year, to gauge the degree of success and popularity of the trial. Approximately 60 residents attended the meeting, 26 of whom returned a form recording their views on the scheme. These comments together with others who wrote into the Department generally supported continuation of the scheme. However, of the 850 invitations distributed to residents and businesses in the area, only 3.5 percent chose to comment. Statistically, this is insufficient to judge the success of the scheme. Nonetheless, the Committee has decided to proceed to the next phase whereby the trial scheme will be made permanent.
- (b) The Committee is keen to consider the expansion of the scheme to other urban areas. However, the design and implementation of each new scheme will require a full evaluation on an area by area basis, requiring the allocation of funds and significant staff resources, which the Committee does not have available at this time unless an alternative funding route for new schemes can be identified. Similarly, additional resources will be required to carry out enforcement on any further schemes.
- (c) The former Public Services Committee agreed to introduce the trial scheme with a subsidy on the true cost of a parking permit, in order to gauge the level of interest in the new parking arrangements. This fact was made known in the lead up to introducing the trial. The Committee does not possess the financial resources to continue to subsidise the parking scheme indefinitely. It is essential that the scheme becomes self-financing, to cover initial costs, running costs plus the impact on parking income. The cost to the resident of a parking permit will therefore rise on 5th November 2003. However, because the Committee is prepared to continue to partially subsidise the permit fee for a further 6 months, the true cost will not be charged until May 2004. Permit holders have been informed with regard to the revised permit cost. The Committee has agreed that if a significant numbers of residents or businesses find the real cost of operating a residents' parking scheme in Jersey to be unacceptable and they wish the scheme be abandoned, the Committee will re-consider its decision to continue with the scheme.