

**QUESTION TO BE ASKED OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE HOUSING COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY,
20th MAY 2003, BY THE DEPUTY OF ST. MARTIN**

Question

- (a) The properties known as Amy's House and l'Hôpital in St. Martin have been unoccupied for some considerable time. At the States meeting of 8th October 2002, in answer to a question querying why the properties remained unoccupied, the President stated that the Committee was going to sell the properties by way of open tender. Will the President inform members why the properties still remain unoccupied and outline what steps have been taken to sell the properties?
- (b) There are a number of other properties owned by the Housing Committee which remain unoccupied and unsold such as those on the Waterfront site. Will the President inform the States of the number and location of all properties in Housing's portfolio that are unoccupied and for sale?
- (c) In respect to the properties referred to in (b) above will the President state how long those properties have been on the market and give an explanation as to why they remain unsold?

Answer

- (a) The Committee offered Amy's House for sale by way of open tender in November 2002, and 8 tenders were received. Regrettably, the two highest tenders were subsequently withdrawn and it was therefore decided to sell the house in the traditional manner, on the open market, with an asking price of £285,000.

The Committee has now, subject to States approval, agreed to sell Amy's House for £275,000. This offer is not subject to survey. A report and proposition has now been lodged 'au Greffe', with comments to follow from the Finance and Economics Committee. If the States agree to sell Amy's House, this long running saga will shortly be brought to a conclusion.

With regard to l'Hôpital, the Housing Committee, following advice from the Law Officers' Department, has agreed to carry out significant works to the bank surrounding the property prior to sale. In view of the unique location of this property, the design of the works has needed to be particularly sensitive to the shoreline. In this regard, discussions with Planning Officers are on-going. It is hoped that permission to commence work will soon be forthcoming and that a start date can be programmed for July. When the work is complete the sale will be pursued by means of an open invitation to tender.

- (b) With the exception of the Waterfront, the Committee currently has no other properties which are unoccupied and are being offered for sale. However, the Committee does have several sites where development plans are being pursued and it is intended that sales agreements with Housing Trusts will follow.
- (c) The Waterfront, Albert Pier housing development was completed and available for occupation on 28th March 2003. Sales agreements have been reached with the Jersey Homes Trust for the northern part of the development and with individual first time buyers for 29 out of the 70 flats in the southern part of the development. Due to various legal queries, which have arisen, no contracts have yet been passed before the Royal Court but the Committee is hopeful that these will be resolved in the near future.