

23.02.28

14 Deputy L.V. Feltham of the Minister for Infrastructure regarding access to swimming facilities in Town (OQ.31/2023)

Will the Minister advise what work, if any, has been or will be undertaken to ensure that users of the AquaSplash swimming facilities will continue to have access to a town-based pool throughout the course of the redevelopment of the St. Helier Waterfront?

Deputy T. Binet:

I am perfectly happy to answer this question but could I ask whether you or Deputy Feltham would have any objection to it being answered by Deputy Stephenson who has recently been appointed as Assistant Minister with ...

The Bailiff:

Well it is a matter for Deputy Feltham. She is entitled to require you to answer it but if she agrees that it be answered by Deputy Stephenson then she can. Which would you prefer, Deputy Feltham?

Deputy L.V. Feltham:

I do not mind; whoever can give me the better answer. [Laughter]

The Bailiff:

It sounds like the Minister is conceding that Deputy Stephenson will answer; therefore, if you would answer the question.

Deputy L. Stephenson of St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter (Assistant Minister for Infrastructure - rapporteur):

I thank the Deputy and the Minister for the opportunity to answer this question. I feel like it is a bit of a challenge now; challenge is on. As Members will be aware, the Jersey Development Company submitted an outline planning application in December 2021 to regenerate the south-west St. Helier Waterfront into a mixed-use development delivering around 1,000 homes and various sports, leisure, arts and cultural activities, open space, public squares and public parks. Under the plans a new sports facility, including a public swimming pool, is proposed to be developed on the site of the current AquaSplash. The Jersey Development Company is committed to ensuring that the Island is not left without a public swimming pool in St. Helier; instead it will ensure that replacement facilities are up and running in advance of closing the existing buildings. The current forecast phasing plan earmarks the AquaSplash for redevelopment in 2029 to 2031. This remains subject to a future agreement with the Government as they have a long lease on the premises.

3.14.1 Deputy L.V. Feltham:

Will the Assistant Minister give assurance that she will consult with the affected users of the swimming pool facilities throughout this development?

Deputy L. Stephenson:

I understand that officers are in ongoing discussions with the Jersey Development Company as part of the process as these plans are put together. I would fully expect that that will include communications with users of the AquaSplash as well.