

# STATES OF JERSEY



## LA COLLETTE LOW RISE: PROTECTION OF OPEN SPACE – PETITION (P.78/2015) – COMMENTS

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Presented to the States on 18th August 2015  
by the Minister for Planning and Environment

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STATES GREFFE

## COMMENTS

Whilst the subject of debates is ultimately a matter for the Assembly itself, the States of Jersey is not the forum for considering planning applications.

The Assembly has elected the Planning Applications Committee to carry out this function. Members of that Committee have been trained in that regard and have adopted a Code of Conduct on the manner in which they discharge their functions. Committee members should be given an unfettered opportunity to take the decisions which have been passed to them. This will give the best opportunity for a sound planning decision, which will take into account those matters which are relevant to the consideration of the application and, of course, discount those which are not.

This scheme is at an advanced stage of the decision-making process. The Planning Applications Committee has already determined a planning application for this site and although it was refused, it was turned down on very distinct grounds. These related to the position of Block D in relation to the Rope Walk. The open space provision has already been considered by the Committee and found to be acceptable.

Because of the late stage in the planning process, Deputy R. Labey of St. Helier's Proposition can now only serve to delay the provision of modern, affordable housing in this part of St. Helier. As a result of this Proposition, as a courtesy to this Assembly, I have had to instruct the Department not to put this matter before the Planning Committee at its August meeting. It will now have to be considered in September. The residents of the existing La Collette flats will now have this additional delay before they can be adequately housed.

Deputy Labey's Proposition is essentially a representation on the planning application, and the proper place for that to be weighed is at a public meeting of the Planning Applications Committee.

It is disappointing that the Deputy, as a member of the Committee himself, has seen fit to engage the whole Assembly on a matter which is patently within the purview of the Committee on which he sits.

I ask that the Assembly opposes this proposition.