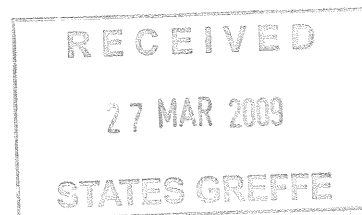


Regent Gymnastics Club

Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel
Review of Fort Regent

Deputy Roy Le Herissier
Chairman
Scrutiny Office
States Greffe
Morier House
St Helier JE1 1DD
Your Ref: 516/16 [5]



25th March 2009

Dear Roy,

I am writing to you as a committed Fort Regent Club user established since 1981 with our own Regent Gymnastics Club.

Over the years with successive change of Managers and Chief Officers, I am pleased that the latest review on the future development of Fort Regent is taking place and that the users and sports clubs are being approached for their views and requirements. In all the years we have been users of Fort Regent I cannot recall that any person has ever spoken to the sports clubs.

I personally have been involved as a Fort Regent user and also committee member and Chairman of the Fort Users Association.

Fort Regent is a wonderful facility, the first thing you see on the skyline as you arrive in Jersey and coming into town is Fort Regent. All our visiting sports people comment on the location and building.

Fort Regent is not being fully utilised, the staff and management are always helpful but due to restrictions put upon them it is difficult for them to fully satisfy everybody.

For instance as a Gymnastics club we have always been well looked after in the 28 years we have been based at Fort Regent, but we are finding it more difficult year after year to operate our club to its full potential. As a Club we have a lot of upheaval with moving areas within the fort due to a number of sporting and entertainment events taking place. A purpose built gymnasium for gymnastics is long over due.

Everybody is involved in some form of Sport or Arts it is only natural that we all require our own sport/arts areas to be established.

Fort Regent has the potential to make a fantastic Centre of Excellence for Sport/Leisure activities and would be able to accommodate everyone's needs.

- I feel it should be a community project to encompass the Town of St Helier.
- Each sport could look after and maintain their own facility to reduce a cost on the States Departments.

The access to the Fort Regent has always been a difficult one to overcome but I feel with the Town Park coming soon, why not develop Snow Hill Car Park with another level incorporating a fast access to Fort Regent from the central position at Snow Hill.

It would give the general public and visitors' a place to visit and appreciate the views of the panorama of St Helier to the West and East. The gardens could also be appreciated more.

For instance the top level of this would be an ideal position too as a main entrance and possibly a sport like ours could be located there, freeing up the Queens Hall.

I think the Swimming Pool area has to be re- instated possibly accommodation made available for visiting sports people or others to use of the Fort to make it vibrant again as it was in the eighties.

Would it not be possible instead of using an amount of money on the survey but utilise maybe Students from Highlands as a project in conjunction with you to carry out this review.

As you know I was involved in the Island Games in 1997 as General Team Manager and organised the Sport of Gymnastics since then. With Jersey looking to put forward a Bid for 2015, Fort Regent needs to be fully prepared and be able to accommodate a number of sports. What an ideal opportunity for Fort Regent to be the Sports Village for these Games.

Regent Gymnastics Club uses Fort Regent six to seven days a week some 25 hours with all our coaches give their time voluntarily. We currently cater for over 200 gymnasts both boys and girls from the age of three and half to sixteen to eighteen years of age. The support of our parents is also strong and many of them use Fort Regent themselves for other activities whilst their daughter and son are training with us.

I thank you for taking time in reading my views and comments and would only be too pleased to offer my services to you with the experience of twenty eight years based at Fort Regent.

Yours Sincerely



Arthur Falle
Regent Gymnastics Club.