

**REPLY BY THE MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
TO QUESTIONS ASKED PURSUANT TO RULE 6 OF THE
RULES OF PROCEDURE BY DEPUTY MATT FALLAIZE**

In connection with that part of your Department's mandate which makes it "responsible for the management of the natural and semi-natural environment of States owned land including . . . parks [and] gardens . . .", I should be very grateful if you would kindly answer the following questions about the playground at Saumarez Park in accordance with Rule Six of the Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation.

Question 1

On what date did your Department close the playground to the public?

Answer

17th March 2014

Question 2

What are the projected total costs of your plans for redeveloping the playground and what proportion of such costs will be funded by your Department?

Answer

The plans for the new playground were commissioned by the charity "Friends of Saumarez Park Playground LBG" (FOSPP) who have also funded and helped design the playground as well as installing the first phase. The Environment Department were of course consulted.

The FOSPP wish to raise in excess of £500,000 to pay for a full revamp of the current playground.

The Department made no commitment to fund any specific proportion of the costs but has funded elements as described in question 3 below.

Question 3

How much has been spent thus far on the redevelopment of the playground and what proportion of that expenditure has been funded by your Department?

The Environment Department has funded £86,089 as follows:

Demolition, recycling & disposal of old playground	Cost: £16,751
Through drainage	Cost: £39,658
Perimeter and inner fencing	Cost: £27,000
Wood chip & stone dust	Cost: £2,680
 Estimated costs not yet committed	 Cost: £15,000

The FOSPP are currently completing their annual accounts but have estimated total spend so far as £146,000 not counting several hundred hours of free manual and professional labour in designing, project managing and building the development to date.

Question 4

On what date does the Department intend to reopen the playground to the public and will the whole redevelopment be complete by then?

Answer

The Department cannot give a definitive answer to this question as the matter is largely in the hands of the FOSPP who, as stated, is reliant on voluntary labour but their desire is to have phase 1 of the playground completed and available for opening during February. Subsequent phases of redevelopment will be considered and reviewed once phase one is complete.

Responding to these questions has cost the Department circa £190.

Date of Receipt of the Question: 5th January 2015

Date of Reply: 20th January 2015