

NEWS

Police HQ site may be a temporary car park

By Shannyn Quinn

squinn@jerseyeveningpost.com

PART of the current site of the States police headquarters could be used as a temporary car park once funding is available to demolish the existing buildings.

In the States this week Deputy Louise Doublet asked Treasury Minister Alan Maclean whether any discussions had taken place on the use of the current police headquarters site in Rouge Bouillon.

Assistant Treasury Minister Deputy Eddie Noel, speaking on Senator Maclean's behalf, said that the relocation of the police station and headquarters to Green Street would release 'a considerable amount of land' on the site of the former Summerland factory, Broadcasting House and Thorp House, opposite the main headquarters building.

Deputy Noel said: 'It is proposed that the sites when both sides are vacated will be transferred to Andium Homes to prepare a detailed planning application.'

'The former Summerland factory, Broadcasting House and Thorp House, together with the current ambulance station site, have been identified for affordable housing. Consideration of the two outlining planning applications for 152 properties on these two sites is pending completion subject to the conclusion of a planning obligation agreement.'

He added that funds were currently being sought to demolish the existing police buildings and that part of the site - the Summerland, Broadcasting House and Thorp House



The site opposite the main headquarters of the States police

sites - could be used as a temporary car park before houses are built.

Deputy Doublet asked the assistant minister whether any consideration had been given to Rouge Bouillon School, which is situated

adjacent to the police headquarters.

Deputy Noel said that the department would be working with Andium Homes and the Education Department to see what improvements could be made to the site but

added that in the short term, they would like to utilise the site for a temporary car-park for both residents and commuters.

It is thought that both sites will be vacated by early 2017.

Jersey 'leads the way' with law on sexuality

A STATES decision to outlaw discrimination on the grounds of sex has been welcomed by a charity which supports transgender Islanders.

This week the States voted to expand the current discrimination law to cover sex, gender reassignment, sexual orientation and maternity.

And charity Trans* Jersey says that the new legislation goes further than laws in the UK for protecting people who do not identify themselves as either male or female.

Vic Tanner Davy, founder of Trans* Jersey, said: 'This is an important inclusion that recognises a small and often misunderstood section of society. It makes clear the distinction between intersex and transgender people and it allows those who were born biologically neither male nor female to identify themselves as intersex.'

'The trans community in its widest sense is at its most vulnerable from physical and verbal abuse when it does not fit society's ideal of men or women. Jersey has recognised this and put in place protections.'

'We are pleased that Jersey is leading the UK on this and we congratulate the States Members on their decision.'

The new law, which will enable those who discriminate against transgender and intersex people to be prosecuted, is due to come into force on 1 September. The law also gives legal protection to women to breastfeed children of any age in public.

'No repeat' of pay-out for foreshore claims

THERE will be no repeat of the Les Pas saga that cost the States millions of pounds in lost revenue when an Islander with ancient property rights claimed ownership of a strip of land on the south coast, the Chief Minister has said.

Last month a historic decision was made by the Queen to give the foreshore and the sea-bed surrounding the Island to the public, bringing to an end the Crown's long ownership of the area.

But following the announcement, Advocate Richard Falle said that the Island and the Crown could be sued by Seigneurs - feudal lords who were granted fiefs, which are hereditary property rights.

Mr Falle became embroiled in a long-running dispute



Chief Minister Ian Gorst: 'I do not accept that Les Pas can be repeated'

with the States after claiming that he had feudal rights to an area of land on the coast. To settle the dispute out of court, the States gave Les Pas Holdings, the firm representing

Mr Falle, a strip of land which the company eventually sold to Dandara for £10 million.

But in the States this week, when asked by Deputy Russell Labey whether issues of seigniorial claims would 'rear their ugly head again', Senator Gorst said: 'I understand that comments have been made about the Les Pas deal and potential challenges along the same lines. I don't accept that premise for a number of reasons, not least that it was settled in 2003,' he said.

'It had been ongoing since 1989, and of course as we know the States had not enjoyed the possession of the foreshore which gives right and title. I do not accept that the Les Pas situation can be repeated.'

States to push general use of solar panels

STATES buildings could be covered in solar panels in future as part of a drive to make Jersey more environmentally friendly.

Speaking during States questions, Environment Minister Steve Luce said that the Island needed to make better use of solar power and other renewable resources.

'Last year we approved Pathway 2050, in which we set ambitious targets,' he said. 'Producing renewable energy is part of that plan. Future States buildings will be taking into account the ability to use renewable energy.'

'The new school building in St Martin - not only has solar panels but it also captures water off the site to be reused. I am confident that this building will be the exemplar for other States buildings in the future.'

Car fines are used in no smoking bid

SMOKERS are being urged to kick the habit after the States voted to ban lighting up in cars carrying children under 18.

From 1 September, drivers could be fined up to £2,000 for smoking in cars carrying children. The British Heart Foundation has welcomed the move and is now urging smokers to use the opportunity to quit.

Mike Hobday, director of policy at the charity, said: 'The legislation is a step in the right direction. However, this won't solve the problem completely. The single most effective way of reducing children's exposure to passive smoke is for parents to be supported to quit.'

For information on how to quit log on to bhf.org.uk.



The Islands' reputable business magazine

All of the comprehensive information in Business Brief, the Channel Islands leading business magazine, is now available to view, anytime anywhere. It doesn't matter where you are in the world all you

have to do is log onto www.briefci.com and read the magazine online in its entirety.

With live links to web and email addresses, you can also quickly contact people and businesses featured in Brief. Join over 6000 monthly readers.

Whether it's an advertiser's website, or a link for more information about an editorial feature, you are just a few clicks away. It will help you keep up to date with what is happening in the business world in Jersey or Guernsey wherever you may be.

www.briefci.com
The Channel Islands' business magazine

For information on Business Brief contact either Lorna Byrne on 611710 lbyrne@jerseyeveningpost.com or Paul Rebour on 611690 prebours@jerseyeveningpost.com