

**REPLY BY THE PRESIDENT OF
THE COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION, SPORT & CULTURE
TO QUESTIONS ASKED PURSUANT TO RULE 14 OF THE RULES OF
PROCEDURE BY DEPUTY LESTER QUERPEL**

Bearing in mind that the Sports Commission have recently employed a new member of staff whose primary role is to encourage islanders to participate in Outdoor Sports, I ask the following:

Question 1

Are Education, Sport and Culture responsible for the areas of land immediately to the North of Beau Sejour Leisure Centre, which includes a bunker, a model car track and an area of wasteland that was, quite some time ago now, once an Outdoor Trim Trail?

Answer

Yes. The Committee is responsible for the entire Beau Sejour estate which includes the areas referred to above.

Question 2

If the answer to Question 1 is 'yes', then can you please tell me why the Trim Trail was removed and why it has been left as a piece of wasteland ever since?

Answer

The Trim Trail was removed due to its ongoing maintenance costs and the limited public interest in the facility, against a backdrop of increasing budgetary pressure. It should be noted that, via private funding, an alternative public outdoor adult fitness facility was installed at Delancey Park in 2013.

Question 3

Bearing in mind the primary role of the new member of staff at the Sports Commission is to encourage islanders to participate in Outdoor Sports, can you tell me please if ESC have any plans to reinstate the Outdoor Trim Trail at Beau Sejour?

Answer

The Committee currently has no plan to fund the reinstatement of the Trim Trail or a similar outdoor facility at Beau Sejour.

Question 4

If the answer to Question 3 is 'no', then can you tell me please what ESC plan to do with that piece of land?

Answer

The Committee's current view, especially given the terrain, is that it is difficult to see how this area of the Beau Sejour estate could be put to effective use without incurring disproportionate costs.

However, in keeping with the principle of ensuring all property is used effectively and efficiently, the Committee can confirm that if it was approached by an individual or organisation proposing a specific use that was complementary to the facilities at Beau Sejour; was align to the States' policy initiatives; brought financial or other benefits to the States; and/or that could be entirely funded and maintained without recourse to States finances, then this would be seriously considered, taking the necessary input from States Property Services.

Question 5a

Do ESC have any plans to improve current outdoor sporting facilities?

Answer

Yes. One of the ambitions of Active-8 – A Plan for Sport, relates to making open spaces accessible and connecting the community with its natural surroundings, inspiring individuals to use the great outdoors to get active, immersing themselves in the natural world to do so, alongside making parks, open spaces, playing pitches, and transport links more attractive and accessible to inspire daily habitual physical activity.

The Committee looks forward to working with the Guernsey Sports Commission's new Outdoor & Adventure Sports Development Officer in contributing to the development and implementation of plans and other strategies for outdoor and adventure sport.

The Committee is also currently in the pre-tender stage of further refurbishment works to the Garenne Stand building at Footes Lane. Officers are also in discussions with the Guernsey Football Association about the development of new facilities at the Victoria Avenue playing fields (although the proposed new facilities will not be funded by the States).

Question 5b

Do ESC have any plans to provide new outdoor sporting facilities?

Answer

Ongoing workstreams attached to Active-8 might well identify a need for new outdoor sporting facilities. We will continue to work alongside the Guernsey Sports Commission in establishing and prioritising any identified needs.

Question 6a

Is the Model Car Track still operational?

Answer

Yes.

Question 6b

If the answer to 6A is 'yes', then can you please tell me if it's leased to a club, or organisation, free of charge, or is there a charge for it?

Answer

The area is made available to the Guernsey Radio Control Car Club free of charge on the basis that the Club maintains the area and keeps the site clean and tidy.

Question 6c

If the answer to 6A is 'no', then can you please tell me if you have any plans for that piece of land?

Answer

See the answer to question 6b.

Question 7

I believe I'm right in saying that the bunker has been used by numerous organisations over the years, but it isn't being used at present. So, can you tell me please if ESC have any plans to renovate the bunker and lease it out, thereby generating an income?

Answer

The bunker is being used. It is leased out to the Channel Islands Occupational Society for a relatively small sum, which reflects its limited use as a property. It's use by the Society is very much in keeping with the mandate of the Committee.

Question 8

Can you tell me please if any member of your committee has been given a specific responsibility to promote and 'drive' sport here in the island, and if they have, then can you tell me how they actually go about doing that please?

Answer

Deputy Cameron is the Committee's representative on the Guernsey Sports Commission, which is supported via a grant from the Committee, and he attends its regular meetings at which various sports-related initiatives are discussed. The aim of the Commission is to promote physical activity and sport and its role is to lead, represent and be a voice for sport in Guernsey. This type of commissioning partnership is aligned with the Government Work Plan's Priority 4 – Reshaping Government, which includes a workstream related to the formal establishment of a commissioning infrastructure.

Question 9

If the answer to Question 8 is 'no', then can you please tell me what your committee does to promote and 'drive' sport here in the island?

Answer

See the answer to question 8.

Question 10

Mr Martin Yabsley, a former professional Basketball player who has played Basketball all over the world, said in the media on February the 17th that the floor in the main sports hall at Beau Sejour is the worst he has ever played on. He said the main problem is that it's not fully sprung, as a sports hall floor used for Basketball and Netball should be. He said playing on the Beau Sejour sports hall floor was like playing on concrete. So bearing all of that in mind, can you tell me your views on what Mr Yabsley said please?

Answer

It is correct to say that the Beau Sejour sports hall floor is not fully sprung. Originally the floor had no spring but a decision was taken several years ago to apply a limited amount of spring. Advice suggests that a fully sprung floor would not be suitable or easily sustainable given that the main sports hall is, and has always been intended to be, a multi-use facility accommodating not only multiple sports but also functions and events such as balls, dinners, conferences, trade shows and concerts some of which involve significant weight loadings on the surface.

Date of receipt of the Question: 15th March 2022

Date of Reply: 30th March 2022