

STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION 43/2007

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The Opposition has been inundated with complaints from motorists regarding the chaotic state of our roads and the serious difficulties that are being encountered by many road users to find a parking space.

In all the time that they have been in office, the GSD Government have failed to find solutions to the problems of traffic and parking that Gibraltar has faced and is facing today. Indeed, over the last eleven years the level of traffic chaos on our roads and the lack of parking spaces has been allowed to reach crisis point.

The Government have often taken policy decisions which have had the effect of reducing the number of parking spaces that existed. For example, roads had to be widened in many parts of Gibraltar and many parking spaces were lost in preparation for the new buses.

In addition to this, the number of developments which are going up all over Gibraltar has increased the lorries and heavy goods vehicles on our roads. This has added to an already chaotic traffic situation. The fact that all this construction is happening at the same time reflects a serious lack of planning and of basic common sense on the part of the Government.

There are some areas of Gibraltar, for example in the South District, where parking spaces are taken up by the vehicles belonging to the companies that are working on the building sites or by the private cars of the staff of those companies. All this leads to a reduction in spaces for tenants and residents.

In some cases, irate motorists have complained to the Opposition that they have driven into town to do some shopping or to work and have found all the car parks full and have had to drive back home again and park the car where it was before they started.

Members of the business community have also expressed concerns to the Opposition at the amount of time that it takes for any driver making a delivery or providing a service to get from one place to another. In these cases time is money and the more time that employees are stuck in traffic the less time that the businesses in question have to deal with other matters or clients.

To add insult to injury, the Opposition has learned that most of the USOC car park has been closed for several days in connection with a new development in the area. It is absolutely scandalous that the Government should close this down without a care in the world as to where the vehicles that normally park there are going to park in the meantime.

Commenting on the matter, Opposition spokesman for traffic Lucio Randall said:

“The Government is so out of touch with reality that they will no doubt persuade themselves that everything is all right and that we are making it all up. They have shown that they do not care for ordinary citizens and for the concerns of the motoring public.

All that seems to matter to them are their grand schemes of converting Gibraltar into a rich man’s paradise without regard for the ordinary Gibraltarian who are paying a big price in the disruption to their everyday lives and who have seen little direct benefit so far.”

ENDS