

STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION 78/2007

30 July 2007

The Opposition is concerned at the poor state of our roads given the number of heavy concrete vehicles that there are in circulation. This is another consequence of the lack of planning on the part of the Government in allowing so much construction to take place all over Gibraltar at the same time.

These large lorries not only add to the traffic chaos that motorists have to endure on a daily basis, they also wear out and damage the roads that were not designed to cope with such a high frequency of heavy vehicles.

It is well known that in many cases the weight of these lorries exceeds the weight limit of the road.

All the heavy lorries which are supplying concrete to the construction projects in the south of Gibraltar have to pass either through Europa Road or through Rosia Road. Both Europa Road and Rosia Road have weight limits. The cement lorries that are using these roads tend to weigh well over this limit.

This is visible and easy to see given that the weight of the lorry both empty and full is printed on the side of the vehicle. Given that these cement trucks tend to be Spanish, the "tara" shows the weight of the lorry when it is empty and the GVW is the maximum weight that it can carry.

The Government's cavalier attitude in turning a blind eye to these overweight vehicles breaking the weight limit in our roads is adding to the chaos being experienced. The cost in terms of stress and frustration experienced by motorists, environmental pollution of the gridlock and the economic effect of long delays is a daily constant of Gibraltar's roads.

There have been many instances of roads collapsing in the past. In May, for example, a part of Rosia Road caved in at the curve just opposite the Picadilly Bar and the Electricity Depot. The Opposition has been advised that this has happened before.

The latest report to reach the Opposition on Friday concerned the hill leading up from Ragged Staff Gates. The weight of the heavy vehicles that transit this road has not only caused the surface of the road to give way, but it has also damaged a water pipe underneath. This particular spot is prone to such damage.

It is not known whether those responsible are made to pay for the damage that they cause, or if any official record is kept which details the movements of every one of these lorries from the moment they enter Gibraltar in order to determine responsibility for the damage. The position is more likely to be that, on top of having to endure all the inconvenience, the taxpayer foots the bill as well.

It is typical of this Government to allow developers and their related construction companies to do what they like, without regard for the damage that is being done to our roads and the congestion that it causes. It is a serious error of judgement to have so much construction going on all over Gibraltar at the same time. To add insult to injury, it is the motoring public of Gibraltar who are being asked on a daily basis to pay for the mistakes of the GSD administration.

ENDS



Collapse of road near Ragged Staff Gates last week.



Size and depth of damage to the road.