

## **STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION 95/2007**

**19 October 2007**

The Opposition regrets that representations about the safety of pedestrians at Europa Road have been ignored by the Government for years. Had these concerns been addressed, the Opposition believes that the accident yesterday where a local resident was hit by a motorcycle may not have occurred.

Opposition spokesman for traffic, Gilbert Licudi, said that again and again the concerns of road users fall on deaf ears.

Mr Licudi said: "It is often the case that Government only reacts after numerous traffic accidents occur. By then it is too late for those who are involved in those accidents often resulting in personal injury. Various accidents have already occurred in Europa Road in the area of the Rock Hotel but nothing seems to happen to redress this.

It is difficult to understand why appropriate measures are not put in place in Europa Road to prevent these accidents occurring. There is a bus stop and car park on the eastern side of the road from where residents of the area and guests of the Rock Hotel have to cross. The obvious solution is to have a pelican crossing installed. This does not disrupt the general flow of traffic and is only activated when a pedestrian wishes to cross the road. Pedestrians can then do so safely.

There is a need for a more pro-active approach rather than the present attitude of reacting only where a crisis level is reached.

In our manifesto for these elections we committed ourselves as a matter of priority to draw up a comprehensive traffic plan encompassing the whole of Gibraltar following a major review of existing traffic arrangements. Such a plan would have considered all aspects of traffic management including the safety of pedestrians and other road users. We would urge the Government to adopt this forward-thinking approach and carry out this major review as a matter of urgency."

**ENDS**