

STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION

129/2008

18 November 2008

The Government's hysterical reaction to the press release from the Opposition last week in respect of the abusive manner in which they have implemented the service charges payable at Waterport Terraces once again displays the usual GSD attempts to create a smokescreen of insults and innuendo to avoid dealing with the issues.

The Opposition will deal with each of the issues raised by the Government in turn to show that the GSD Government is now simply resorting to lies when attempting to defend the indefensible.

1. Waterport Terraces Management Limited invoices are being handed to purchasers who have not yet taken possession of their homes. This is actually confirmed in the Government statement which shows that service charge invoices are being handed to purchasers on completion. For that reason it is clear that the payment of service charges has to be made before the purchaser has yet been able to set foot in his house and part of the process of the keys being handed over to them. The Government statement to the contrary is the first lie in a pack of lies that make up its press release.
2. The Opposition statement does not anywhere say that these charges are being levied by the Government. The Opposition press release explains that Waterport Terraces Management Limited is a company set up to manage the estate at Waterport Terraces. But it nonetheless is undeniably true that the officers of Waterport Terraces Management Limited are all government officials. Again the failure to accept this on the part of the Government reflects

the GSD Government's fear of the truth and its continued reliance on lies to weave a web of deception designed to mislead the general public in Gibraltar.

3. The truth, therefore, is that even the Government now accepts that service charges at Waterport Terraces are higher per square metre than in an estate like Montagu Gardens which is now almost 20 years old and which clearly therefore requires greater cost in replacement and maintenance of fittings etc.

The purchasers at Waterport Terraces and the people of Gibraltar generally will all want to know why it is that the GSD Government attempts always to lie its way out of the dead ends into which it manoeuvres itself and why it laces its press releases with insults addressed to the personality and professions of the members of the Opposition who are discharging their political obligations in keeping Government actions under scrutiny.

Shadow Minister for Housing Charles Bruzon, commenting on this matter, said:

“Clearly it is disappointing to see the Government not deal with issues and instead address only insults to members of the Opposition. In fact when the Government have addressed some of the detail of our criticism they continue with their tactic of insults designed to avoid telling the people of Gibraltar the truth. Instead, they often come up with explanations that have no grounds in reality.

The purchasers at Waterport Terraces are fed up with the Government's inaccuracies, whether they relate to the detail of service charges or the dates when their homes will be ready. It is clear that nothing that comes out of 6 Convent Place is reliable, whether it relates to the dates when Waterport Terraces will be handed over to purchasers, their answer to our press release on services charges or many of the other issues on which Mr Caruana and his Government comment.”

For further information and comment: Charles Bruzon

ENDS