

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

106/2009

25 August 2009

The Opposition has received complaints from beachgoers of Western Beach about the shortcomings of the facilities provided to users of the beach.

The first is that the changing rooms and the toilets are too far from the beach itself and this has already created problems for the elderly and for families with young children. Whereas in other beaches like Camp Bay and Eastern Beach these facilities are provided within the actual limits of the actual beach, in Western Beach bathers have to leave the beach and walk half way down the access road in order to avail themselves of the facilities.

There is also a need for storage facilities at the beach. This is something that is also provided in other beaches in different forms. This is required for the beach equipment and furniture which people take to the beach on a daily basis and would make life easier for all concerned, particularly the elderly, those with young children or those with impaired mobility.

In the absence of a store, it had become customary at this beach for people to chain their beach chairs etc every day to a fence which runs along the back of the beach which borders MOD property. This year, signs were placed on the fence in question by the Gibraltar Tourist Board. The signs read: "These items left on the beach will be disposed of as from Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June. Please remove before that date." No reasons were given but according to beachgoers the suggestions were either that the MOD had complained or that the beach furniture padlocked to the fence looked unsightly from the queue.

The end result is that people now chain their beach furniture to another much smaller fence at the entrance to the beach or have built makeshift stores of their own. However, this exposes the equipment to vandalism or even to theft particularly if it is new.

The Opposition considers that the Government should have ensured that these issues were addressed before the bathing season opened.

ENDS