

STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION

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The Opposition consider that it is very encouraging that after so many months of pressing the Government to re-open the car park next to Regal House, they have finally listened to reason and kept it open. This begs the question as to why motorists have been made to suffer all these months as a result of the closure which exacerbated the already notorious shortage of car parking spaces.

It will be recalled that the multi-storey car park closed earlier this year because it is situated on land which has been earmarked for the Mid-Town development. The construction of this development, which consists primarily of luxury flats and offices has been delayed and the Opposition has been urging the Government to negotiate with the developers so that they re-open the car park given the lack of activity on the site.

The Government opened a smaller car park at naval ground number one which has proved too small and is incapable of absorbing the demand for parking spaces which exists. Moreover, many of the spaces in this smaller car park have been allocated to vehicles who had parking passes in the other one. This has meant that comparatively few spaces have been made available for the general public and the net result was a serious loss in parking spaces.

The Opposition's demands for the car park to re-open were repeated when the Government recently struck a deal with the developer which led to the opening of the car park during the week of the fair. The fact that it is now appears to have continued open on a semi-permanent basis would appear to indicate that the Government are finally doing the correct thing and it is a case of better late than never.

ENDS