

STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION

35/2010

23 March 2010

The Opposition considers that the length of time that it is taking to repair the large hump in front of Grand Ocean Plaza in Glacis Road is astonishing.

It will be recalled that in January the Opposition drew attention to the presence of a large hump in front of Grand Ocean Plaza which was exposed when the hoarding around the development was removed. This hump on the paved area, which resembled a speed bump, seemed to serve no useful purpose and represented a potential danger to pedestrians, particularly the elderly at night.

Soon after the Opposition drew attention to this problem the hump was fenced off and the pavement was dug up. This exposed what looks like a large pipe, part of which juts out near the surface of the road and accounted for the bump after it was simply covered up and tiled over.

The Opposition considers that it is beyond comprehension how the Government allowed the protruding pipe to be covered up and the resulting mound to be presented as part of the finished project, when it posed a potential hazard to pedestrians.

In the absence of any other information, the Opposition can only conclude that there has been some kind of miscalculation in the works associated with that part of the Ocean Village project which has not allowed enough space underground for the pipe in question to fit properly.

The Government must ensure that they maintain enough staff and deploy sufficient resources to be able to spot and resolve this kind of problem at an early stage. The fact that the hoardings were removed without this problem being addressed and that it remains unresolved two months after the Opposition highlighted the issue does not say much for the policy of the Government in this regard. The message seems to be that whereas ordinary citizens are made to comply with an array of rules and regulations, large multi-million developments can do what they like and get away with it.

ENDS