



**RECORD OF THE MEETING
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**HELD IN STANLEY
ON 24 APRIL 2014**

**RECORD OF THE MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
HELD IN STANLEY ON THURSDAY 24 APRIL 2014**

The Speaker of the House
(Keith Biles, JP)

MEMBERS (Ex-Officio)

The Honourable Chief Executive
(Keith Padgett)

The Honourable Financial Secretary
(Nicola Granger)

Elected

The Honourable Janet (Jan) Lynda Cheek
(Elected Member for Stanley Constituency)

The Honourable Roger Anthony Edwards
(Elected Member for Camp Constituency)

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby
(Elected Member for Stanley Constituency)

The Honourable Ian Hansen
(Elected Member for Camp Constituency)

The Honourable Michael James Poole
(Elected Member for Stanley Constituency)

The Honourable Phyllis (Phyl) Mary Rendell MBE
(Elected Member for Stanley Constituency)

The Honourable Gavin Phillip Short
(Elected Member for Stanley Constituency)

The Honourable Michael Summers OBE
(Elected Member for Stanley Constituency)

PERSONS ENTITLED TO ATTEND

The Attorney General
(Charles Peter Judge MBE)

Commander British Forces South Atlantic Islands
(Air Commodore Russell La Forte CBE)

CLERK: Claudette Prior MBE

PRAYERS: Reverend Richard Hines

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**The Record of the meeting of Legislative Assembly
held on Thursday 24 April 2014**

Prayers

Mr Speaker

Honourable Members, I wish you good morning and my usual reminder please, about mobile phones to be turned off or at least turned to silence.

Clerk of the Assembly

Confirmation of the record of the Legislative Assembly held on the 27 March 2014.

Mr Speaker

Honourable Members, I have before me a record of that last meeting. Is it your wish that I sign this as a true record?

Honourable Members

Aye

Clerk of the Assembly

Papers Laid on the Table by the Honourable The Chief Executive. Copies of Subsidiary Legislation published in the Falkland Islands Gazette since the last sitting of the Legislative Assembly and Laid on the Table pursuant to section 35(1) of the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance 1977.

- Coins Order 2014 (Correction) Order 2014
- Mental Health (Approved Practitioners) Order 2014
- Mental Health (Approved Medical Centre) Order 2014

The Honourable Chief Executive

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I hereby lay the aforementioned papers on the table.

Clerk of the Assembly

Questions for Oral Answer.

Question Number 07 of 2014 by the Honourable Dr Barry Elsby

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, can the Honourable Michael Poole please advise this House what provision has been made for play areas in and around Sapper Hill housing development and how they will be equipped?

The Honourable Michael Poole

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, thank you to my Honourable Colleague for his question. I would also like to thank the Head of Environmental Planning and the Director of Public Works for their assistance in compiling my response to this question.

Clearly access to appropriate and sufficient open space is a priority. It is important for appearance and also for public health purposes as well.

This question is reflected in the draft Development Plan at the moment which we are currently consulting on. There are statements in there: "The town being a safe, attractive and convenient place to live, providing opportunities for healthy lifestyle and a range of recreational activities". There is also a specific objective included which says "To support all our communities in living healthy lives, in an attractive, safe and clean environment which facilitates walking and other outdoor pursuits".

The specific question regarding Sapper Hill, the development is divided into four loops, as people are probably aware, with each loop representing two individual phases for a total of eight phases for the four loops. The first two loops which have planning permission are already underway and the play park is to be provided between phases two and three of these. It is envisaged that this will be levelled and seeded in summer 2014/15 and play equipment provided in summer 2015/16, so the end of next year. A bund is also being provided between phases four and five, to not only reduce wind speed, but also to provide amenity space. It is envisaged that the landscaping of this will commence next summer.

There is also amenity space between the properties on Rex Hunt Road phases one and two, which it is anticipated will be used for less formal play.

There is the potential for additional open space in the area, and it is envisaged that the area currently used for spoil dumping to the North of Diamond Jubilee Road will eventually be levelled and landscaped as an additional amenity area.

The way in which the rest of the development (phases five onwards) is developed is yet to be decided, and will require funding approval from Executive Council and Budget Select Committee in due course. As such, it will be informed by the emerging development plan review. There is also, therefore, the potential for further open space to be provided as part of that.

Setting aside the above, the whole development backs onto Stanley Common and Sapper Hill which have been used recreationally by children in the Islands for a number of years.

I believe my Honourable Colleague is also interested specifically in traffic calming measures in the area as well.

Currently there are no plans for specific traffic calming measures within the development, and in this respect it's exactly the same as the rest of Stanley.

I believe he is also interested in children being able to cycle safely to school. Although there are currently no plans for specific cycle paths within the first four phases, a foot path has been provided from phase one to FICS which is not adjacent to the main road. There are also paths linking between the main sections of road in each pair of phases which will enable young cyclists to take shortcuts away from the road should they wish to.

Thank you Mr Speaker.

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsbay

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, who told you what my supplementary questions might have been, so you have beaten me to it, but thank you very much for the detailed response and I am pleased to hear that so much consideration has been given.

Because I think it is a new housing estate, the roads are fairly narrow, I know they are wide enough, but they are still fairly narrow and they are curved so I think we do need to pay attention to the speed limit and a speed limit of 25 miles an hour through the actual loops might be a little bit high, I think, if there are lots of children playing around, but I am pleased to see all the provision you are making for the play areas and particularly the consideration for children cycling within that area as well. I think that is very important and I thank you for that.

Mr Speaker

Are there any other supplementary questions?

No.

Clerk of the Assembly

Question Number 08 of 2014 by the Honourable Dr Barry Elsbay

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsbay

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, can the Honourable Phyl Rendell please advise this House if the shelter belt trials planted in various parts of camp in the 1990's have been successful.

The Honourable Phyl Rendell MBE

Thank you Mr Speaker. I am indebted to the Senior Agricultural Advisor for the information that I have got here today.

The shelterbelt planting trial took place in the Falkland Islands between 1997 and 1998 and plots were established at Fitzroy, Estancia, Saladero, Port Howard, Bold Cove and Shallow Harbour.

The trial plots successfully demonstrated that selected tree species are able to be established and grown in the Falkland Islands.

The most successful tree species evaluated has been Lodgepole Pine.

However, a key issue for the Department of Agriculture is that the economic benefit of establishing tree shelterbelts on farms for agricultural benefit per se has not been demonstrated.

A recent report on the Shelterbelt Trials placed the cost of establishing a single farm scale plot at over £6000. The Department of Agriculture has reviewed economic assumptions made, and is of the view that the likelihood of a single shelterbelt providing sufficient improvement in farm productivity to justify private expenditure is not high. The likelihood of achieving sufficient return on investment is further significantly reduced if the number of shelterbelts is increased to the more likely number of five or ten shelterbelts per farm to provide protection for a modern farmer's sheep flock.

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to thank my Honourable Colleague for that. So what we are saying is that they are effective, trees do take and you do get a shelterbelt, but it's purely a matter of the return on that investment, of how soon people can get that back. You have got to remember that those trees are there forever so they will be protecting the sheep for many generations to come.

Are there any plans to help farms, any form of subsidy, to help them develop more shelterbelts for the long term development of the Islands?

The Honourable Phyl Rendell MBE

The Department of Agriculture doesn't have any plans to encourage farmers to plant more tree shelterbelts.

The Department of Agriculture is actively promoting a broad suite of activities with greater opportunity for economic return on investment than tree shelterbelts. Further, the Department of Agriculture will continue to work closely with all sectors of the industry to review programmes of activities/support over coming months to ensure that priorities remain appropriate.

I might just explain that if a farm has say 4,000 ewes and you have one shelterbelt that has cost you £6,000 to put into place, you can't really keep your 4,000 ewes on that small space that's sheltered by those trees for a very long period of time unless you have supplementary feed etc. So a farm with say 4,000 ewes would need five, six, seven, eight shelterbelts grown

in areas where their ewes are lambing. That is to ensure that they have sufficient feed during that period of say 50 days, so the economies of scale grow. Yes, the Department of Agriculture accept that the trials have proven and we know that trees grow in the Falklands Islands if given shelter to start with, and they have adequate water supply, but it's that scale and the economic returns in the long term for farmers with substantial numbers of ewes.

Mr Speaker

Is there any other supplementary question?

No.

Clerk of the Assembly

Question Number 09 of 2014 by the Honourable Phyl Rendell.

The Honourable Phyl Rendell MBE

Thank you Mr Speaker. Following the recent very well received breast cancer screening programme, could the Honourable Mike Summers tell the Assembly what other health screening measures the Medical Department has in place, and if there are any plans for additional preventative care? Could for example the merits of regular blood testing for diabetes, blood diseases and chlamydia plus blood pressure checks for cardiovascular diseases be considered, not only as a service to the community, but also as a potential means of reducing medical treatment costs in the longer term?

The Honourable Mike Summers OBE

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members. There is no quick fix answer to this question; it is a long and complicated subject. Much of what is mentioned in the Honourable Members question, for example the testing for diabetes, blood pressure checks, are already done on a regular basis for those who have relevant conditions, but also on an adhoc basis for those who attend the hospital or the primary care services. You can only test those people who come to the facilities.

There are other important conditions for which we can and should be screening, and we do cervical smear screening and colon cancer.

Before other screening programmes can be introduced we need to more fully develop our Primary Care Services. We need to ascertain information about the prevalence of disease and to be able to collect data and use this information to screen the right population. This takes time and resources because setting up a screening is labour intensive and time consuming and therefore very costly.

I would remind Honourable Members that there is a request in this year's Estimates for further time to be allocated for IT support in the hospital. We are not good at collecting statistics in the hospital and we have limited capability to interrogate the information that

exists in the hospital records, and so to have effective screening programmes will rely quite heavily on the ability to be able to collect statistical information.

Some years ago the National Health Service, on who we base much of what we do, began a Quality Outcomes Framework which changed GP working practice. It is recognised that the Falklands needs to develop its own Quality Outcomes Framework, or whatever we would like to call it, and develop new innovative ways of taking the health service forward. Public Health needs to have a more prominent role with its own resource and its own manpower and how we get to that I think will take yet a good deal of discussion. It is possible that this is separate from KEMH, but it's more likely that they will be collocated because that makes for better use of resources.

But as a society there are all sorts of things that we can and should do to improve our health. The health service can pioneer things, but so can the local population, and the local population needs to get involved increasingly with being healthy. There are discussions taking place amongst some of us later today, and on-going, about the Health of the Nation and the role of sport and exercise particularly in the Health of the Nation, and that's an area on which I think we should strongly concentrate.

The Honourable Phyl Rendell MBE

Mr Speaker, I would like to thank the Honourable Mike Summers for that reply. I am very pleased to hear that this is being given considerable thought because yesterday, in our discussions in Standing Finance, we noted that the cost of medical treatment overseas was rising to nearly £2million out of a budget for the hospital of £7million. This is a huge proportion of that budget, and we do need to see emphasis being put on the primary public health screening to try to finally, (obviously, it's going to be over a long period of time), have a reduction in not only the cost, but the inconvenience of people having to travel overseas for treatment when they are away from their families and their home.

I thank the Honourable Mike Summers for that. I appreciate the tremendous effort that the staff at the KEMH put into health care for the Islands, and I know they have had difficulties with staffing, but I would like to think that in the next few years we have a steady state there in that department with staffing, and that these issues can really be addressed and some solid public health promotion can be introduced in the next coming years.

Thank you very much.

Mr Speaker

Are there any supplementary questions?

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to thank my Honourable Colleague Mike Summers for a very informative answer, and I think I share his views that we must place more emphasis on primary prevention, stopping people getting ill at the beginning, and I welcome those initiatives.

When MLAs went down to Goose Green recently, a person there asked what was happening to the Bowel Cancer Screening Campaign, and I have had a few people since then asking what's happening to the Bowel Cancer Screening Campaign, and I wonder if he is able to comment on that.

The Honourable Mike Summers OBE

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am not a medical technician nor a doctor and therefore I can't comment in any detail on exactly how the Bowel Cancer Screening programme is being carried out, but I am happy to ask the medical staff to provide that information and provide it to Members.

The Honourable Gavin Short

Mr Speaker, I too would like to thank the Honourable Mike Summers for his quite detailed reply there. I fully accept you may not be able to answer this at the moment, but just curiosity on my part.

You mentioned that we were having trouble getting statistics off the system within the hospital. I was just wondering whether this was due to the lack of people to actually get those statistics off, the lack of knowledge, perhaps, of what we ought to be going for, or is it in fact a problem with the software package that we have within the hospital.

The Honourable Mike Summers OBE

Mr Speaker, I can address that question. The problem is not particularly with the system itself. The problem historically has been that we have not had the capability to use and interrogate the EMIS system. It is my understanding that whilst you can always improve just about every computer system, that it is a perfectly adequate system for the health service. Our problem has been having people to understand it and use it properly.

We had a consultant visit relatively recently from EMIS who trained a young Falkland Islander in being able to use the EMIS system, and he has made great progress and we have already seen some early result from that.

The reference I made earlier to increasing IT support would be to turn that into a full time post from a half time post, so that that person can continue to develop his skills and to be able to provide the sort of statistical information that we require to run a proper health service.

The Honourable Gavin Short

I thank the Honourable Member for his reply.

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby

Mr Speaker, I wonder if I can just again pick up on the Bowel Screening Campaign? I feel a sense of guilt in a way because I set that up 20 odd years ago, and suddenly I then become a

full time MLA and it's been left in abeyance. I think it's an important scheme and I would just repeat my offer that I have made to the Department before, that I would be willing to do that screening campaign whilst the House is in recess.

The Honourable Mike Summers OBE

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my understanding is that the programme is not in abeyance, but there is an alternative approach to it, and I will provide written information to Members on that.

Mr Speaker

Is there any other supplementary question?

No.

Clerk of the Assembly

Question Number 10 of 2014 by the Honourable Jan Cheek.

The Honourable Jan Cheek

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, can the Honourable Ian Hansen confirm if civilian airmail is despatched on the first available flight to the Falklands following its receipt at the military depot, whether it is carried on every airbridge and whether all airmail has the same priority.

The Honourable Ian Hansen

Thank you Mr Speaker. I thank the Honourable Jan Cheek for her question and I also would like to thank the Post Office for supplying the answer I am about to give.

The Royal Mail and BFPO system is not under our control so therefore we can't guarantee that civilian airmail is dispatched on each available flight, but having said that, the Post Office are aware of how the system operates, they can and do alert Royal Mail if it appears the flow has been interrupted or delayed.

For instance, earlier this month the Post Office received dispatches that civilian airmail had left Royal Mail on 1st, 2nd and 3rd of April and they were carried on the first available flight on Sunday 6th and duly arrived in the Post Office on Tuesday 8th April. That is just an example, but this happens on a regular basis and this would indicate that civilian airmail to the Islands is receiving priority.

The Honourable Jan Cheek

I thank the Honourable Member for his reply. Unfortunately, that appears to have been a rare instance. I asked this question because I was contacted by people, and discussed it with two people who are currently in this room, who had taken three months to receive airmail for

which they had in good faith paid an airmail premium. Can I ask that the Post Office make further enquiries, first with the Military who transport the mail, and if satisfied that the problem does not lie there may we ask that further enquiries be pursued with the UK Post Office, because while delays are understandable at busy times like Christmas it would be good to know what system is in place for the rest of the year. Thank you.

The Honourable Ian Hansen

Yes, I am more than happy to pursue that line of enquiry as the Honourable Member suggests, and I apologise that I haven't got any more information than what is in front of me, but I shall certainly follow that line of enquiry.

Mr Speaker

Are there any supplementary questions?

The Honourable Gavin Short

I would just like to bring to the Honourable Members' attention that I think the Honourable Dick Sawle, in his time in the last Assembly gave quite a detailed explanation of how mail gets to the Falklands, and perhaps you might like to reference that.

Mr Speaker

Any other questions?

No.

Clerk of the Assembly

Motions.

Motion number 8 of 2014 by the Honourable Dr Barry Elsby

That this House believes that provision of suitable sporting and leisure facilities in the Islands should be incorporated into the Government's infrastructure planning.

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have already touched on this subject today on the need for primary prevention to keep people healthy, stop them getting ill for their own benefit, but also to reduce the cost to Government in sending people overseas when they have illness.

This is a very large subject, it's probably much larger than people realise from just the title. One aspect is the provision that Government makes for people to undertaking competitive sports throughout the Islands for enjoyment, but also perhaps to increase skill levels so that they can take part and represent the Falkland Islands in such places as the Commonwealth

Games and Small Island games, and I would encourage that. My younger, fitter and slightly more active colleague, the Honourable Michael Poole who will be seconding the Motion, I am sure will speak more about competitive sports, but there is a lot of sadness, of course, with Manchester United. Some Members are feeling a bit upset that they are not doing so well.

The other aspect of this debate though is what provision should Government make for the less active members of our society, and here I include myself in that and perhaps quite a number of my Colleagues sitting around the table here today. We need to take more exercise, and how are we going to encourage people to do that and to take more leisure pursuits, not just competitive sports. There is a mountain of research out there that shows the more active people are, the less they suffer from things such as heart disease, many forms of cancer, obesity, of course, that we are all worried about in our children, many forms of cancer as I have said, and possibly even depression. It's generally understood that for every £1 we invest in measures that are aimed at prevention we see a return of a reduction in healthcare costs by about £3.50, so it's a good way of investment for the future.

Last month, this House accepted the new Islands Plan, and in that plan under the health section it states:

“Everyone in the community should be encouraged to live a healthy, independent, and fulfilling life. We will continue to focus on the provision of excellent public health and primary care, and appropriate secondary care” - that means hospital based treatment.

“We will place renewed emphasis on health prevention and promote healthy and active lifestyles to reduce the requirement for costly treatments, both at home and overseas” – there again you see it's focusing on the investment in primary and prevention, to stop people getting ill in the first place is very effective.

As my Honourable Colleague has already said today, by the end of this financial year we have probably spent somewhere in the region of £2million sending people, ill people, overseas for treatment. It's estimated that the total medical budget by the end of this financial year will be somewhere around £8million. That's almost 20% of the whole Falkland Islands Government and that's really unsustainable and it's growing year on year. We have to do something. My estimate is that we have already spent in the year about £90,000 on Health Promotion measures which should stop people getting ill in the first place, and this difference between what we spend on prevention and what we spend on illness is crazy. We have to shift the emphasis more onto prevention.

Mr Speaker, the Jesuits have a saying: 'Give me the child for his first seven years, and I'll give you the man.' This is a very powerful statement because the habits we develop in childhood forge the habits of a lifetime. We need to engage children in regular sport so that it becomes part of their way of life and they carry it on into adulthood, and they expect their children to develop more active lifestyles.

Most experts think children in school should be doing somewhere between two to three hours of physical education a week. In the Islands we do somewhere between one and a half and two hours a week. It's not bad, but it's not as good as it should be, and I think that's partly

because teachers recognise the importance of physical education, but they are in competition with the need to produce more academic results and all too often physical education suffers as a result.

In the UK only about 7% of children attend private schools, 93% go to state schools, and yet when the Olympics were held in London, 17% of the British Olympic squad was made up of competitors who had attended private schools. And of the medals that the UK won, 40% went to people who attended private schools. Just about half of the English cricket team, who are not doing too well at the moment, but half of them are made up of people who attended private schools and the same applied to the English rugby team.

I would suggest that is because private schools recognise the importance of physical exercise on a daily basis as an integral part of the education. They provide very good resources, they provide very good teaching, but perhaps more importantly, they have the full and active support of the parents who are paying to send them there.

Our Leisure Centre is something we should be proud of, and its mission statement used to be "*Stanley Leisure Centre, working towards a happier and healthier Falkland Islands community*" - which fits in with what we have already been talking about.

But in 2012 that changed to "*provide sporting facilities including a swimming pool, fitness suite, sports hall and sports field for approximately 16,000 users a year and approximately 370 Members*".

Now I think that change has been a retrograde step in a way it separates the Leisure Centre from the Islands Plan, the idea that we should be exercising more, we should be getting people more active, and that change in mission statement, (and I hate that word mission statement), but that change in mission statement seems to disconnect that too and I think we need to look at that again.

The evidence is very clear in virtually every society in the world that the poorer members of society have poorer health, for all sorts of reasons, and it's these people, the poorer members of any society, that we should be encouraging to use our leisure facilities.

The way the Leisure Centre charges at the moment is to offer relatively cheap annual membership for regular users, but to charge proportionally far more for the casual or the occasional user.

If you are on a good salary then this annual membership is very appealing, but if you are a family say on a lower grade and you have already got three or four children, then that £320 might be just a little bit too much, and we need to come up with innovative ways of pricing such that we can encourage the occasional users, so that the family on a Saturday or a Sunday can feel "yes, we will all go off to the swimming pool for a few hours today, and we don't feel that that's going to cost us too much".

I believe we need to refocus again so that the Leisure Centre target those people who would benefit most, namely those people who take little or no exercise, and those families on low incomes who don't have the annual membership certificate.

We also need, I think, to use the Leisure Centre to lead on the provision of more after school and holiday clubs. I know some already go on, but with my education hat on I get lots of parents contact me saying: “look, particularly during the holidays but during lunch breaks and after school, both parents work and we are concerned about who is looking after our children”. It would be good if we had more after school clubs and exercise during the holidays.

I think to bring all these changes about, I feel we need to place the Leisure Centre perhaps under a joint medical and education management structure so that it can not only provide the facilities that dedicated users want, but can also be used as a tool to try to improve the Health of the Nation.

Mr Speaker, if you will bear with me for just a moment, I wish to expand on the leisure aspect as well.

I asked my Honourable Colleague earlier today what provision had been made for the Sapper Hill development to encourage people to cycle into school, because I think that is very important. We have to encourage children to walk to school, we have to encourage people to cycle more and particularly children to cycle, and we don't see enough children walking to school or cycling to school. I think we need to put more emphasis on that because as we build and develop the Islands, as we build and extend Sapper Hill, we really need to recognise that unless we are going to get everybody driving into the centre of town every day and there is nowhere to park, we have to make it easier for people to walk and to cycle.

One of the commonest leisure pursuits in the Islands is probably gardening, but as new houses and flats are built there is less garden attached to those, and I think that when Sapper Hill was first developed I suggested that we put some land aside for allotments because I think that is important. I think it's something I would like to see the Lands Committee consider again: the need for allotments, which is a new concept in the Islands, but it's something that has grown in popularity in other countries where land is at a premium.

So Mr Speaker in summary:

- I think we need to expand and refocus the Leisure Centre and its facilities;
- I think we need to look at providing more after school clubs;
- Finally, we need to recognise the need for cycle tracks, more play areas, perhaps allotments as well, to get more people out taking more exercise who perhaps wouldn't be attracted to formal sport.

Mr Speaker, I support the Motion.

The Honourable Michael Poole

Thank you Mr Speaker, Honourable Colleagues, I think my Honourable Colleague Dr Barry Elsby there has very clearly laid out a vision and underlines the public health benefits of good

sporting and leisure facilities generally. Despite his kind words, I think, sadly, my dream of becoming a professional footballer maybe over, I have just come to realise in recent weeks, so instead I am left to talk about these kinds of things.

I shall begin by noting developing our sporting infrastructure in particular is a priority of mine, and I think as had been mentioned, we put it very clearly in the Islands Plan that it's a priority of the Government more widely as well. I don't think anybody would argue that there is a lack of things do to outdoors in the Falklands, there's not, but Government has a role to play in terms of basic infrastructure, and I think there is more we could do and more we must do frankly, and hopefully that will be reflected in this year's budget and in future budgets as well.

A lot of what does go on in terms of sport and leisure is very heavily based on volunteers, and also generally supported by corporate sponsorship, which is great. We would all like to see that continue. I think a number of us consistently thank those that give their personal time towards sporting clubs and general leisure clubs as well, we really appreciate that, but I think support from Falkland Islands Government needs to come in financial terms, in terms of basic infrastructure development, but it can also come in planning terms and land allocation terms as well, which is something we have touched on earlier.

In terms of wider leisure facilities separate from sporting facilities, we have started to have some discussions about a community centre, potentially incorporating a cinema as well, and I don't want to set unrealistic expectations here, it's very early stages. Anything in this area is going to be possibly prohibitively expensive, I mean we are just starting to consider it, talking to a few people about it and will develop it over the coming weeks and months and see where we get to and, hopefully, we can come up with a plan that over the next few years we can actually put something in place, but there is a lot of work to be done in the meantime. I particularly encourage anybody that may be interested in getting involved in that project to come and talk to myself or the Honourable Phyl Rendell or the Honourable Barry Elsbey, in particular.

Thank You Mr Speaker, I support the Motion.

The Honourable Mike Summers OBE

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am delighted to be able to contribute to this discussion because it is close to my heart. I think exercise, and sport in particular, is a crucial part of any successful society, and my Honourable Colleague noted that half the English cricket team came from the English private school system, the other half comes from South Africa, where they place a great emphasis on sport as they do in Australia and New Zealand.

A couple of things I would like to contribute. The Commonwealth advisory body on sport, whose chair was actually visiting us fairly recently with the Queen's Baton, has a recommendation to Governments that they should spend of the order of .75% of the national budget on sport and leisure activities. In our circumstances that would equate to something like £375,000 per annum, we are nowhere near that, and so I think as an aspiration, as a way to start thinking about sport and sporting activities it's a figure to have in mind. But our issue I think is going to be the mechanism to deliver. We have a Leisure Centre, but it's part of the

Government and therefore it's restricted by Government ethos, Government thinking, Government rules and regulations and all those sorts of things.

The Falklands Overseas Games Association, of which Members will know I am the Chair, has tried to take a broader view of sport in recent years, not just overseas competitive sport but sport development, and we have been the only body in recent years that's been able to do anything about developing sports. I think we have been reasonably successful, but there is a lot further to go, and in the last couple of years, actually as a result of the secondment of a person from Canada, we developed a proposal for a National Sports Council and that is with the Director of Central Services and has been there for some while. The National Sports Council would provide a focus for the sorts of things that my two Colleagues have been talking about. To be able to focus not just on the role of sport and exercise in community development, but also excellence in sport. The two things are not necessarily the same, but they are complementary. I think I have circulated the proposals for the National Sports Council to all Members. The thinking of the Director of Central Services I believe was that once the investment has been made in the Leisure Centre we should come back to this, because the obvious way to launch the National Sports Council is by handing over to it, or making some arrangement with it to run, the leisure facilities that the Government has and it can run it in a very different way than we currently do.

The Overseas Games have always been a flagship for the Falklands and we are going back to Jersey again next year. Last time I was in Jersey, which must be 16 years ago now, I came across "exercise on prescription", and that was something that the Jersey sporting community and hospitals had pioneered and I brought the idea back here, and I think for some time it was actually used in the hospital here. So, if somebody comes in not very well, instead of giving them some pills, you send them up to the Leisure Centre to take some exercise. That relies on having somebody who can devise a proper programme, a proper safe programme for those people, and again we have at various time had an exercise referral practitioner or somebody with the capability of devising safe exercises for people, and if we are going to do that sort of thing, then you need to be able to do it safely like that.

These are all things to think about, but of course, they all cost money but within the .75% of Government spending I think we could probably do that.

I am also hugely supportive of exercise in the curriculum at schools and I have had discussions, again as Chair of FIOGA, with the heads of both schools to sort of see how much formal exercise is being done in the schools, and indeed what's organised for after school. I know it's an awful long time since I was at school, but when I was at school we had sport and exercise every day, at lunchtime, after school, Saturday afternoons, Sundays, instead of going to church it was a much better thing to go and play football or run around the field than go to church. Perhaps I shouldn't say that, I do beg your pardon, Vicar. But exercise in the curriculum is important, and it's important for two reasons: not only for developing the health of our young people, but also for developing competitive spirit. Competitive spirit matters if you are going to get on in this world. You have to be able to work with other people, teamwork comes through sport, competitive spirit comes through sport, and I think that's one of the fundamentally important things that you see in the British public school system who provide all these excellent athletes. They generate this ethos that competitive spirit matters, and just in closing I would note that I visited the Palmerstone

North Boys school relatively recently in New Zealand to remember Rick Abselon who died here on Mount Longdon some years ago. It was a very interesting experience because in that school, which is a state school but a very competitive school, sport matters, competition matters and they have leadership as part of the curriculum. They have a leadership director, and the leadership director attends all parts of the school activity to relate the boys, and it is just a boy's school, but to keep relating the boys back to this concept of leadership. This is an important discussion, it's about health, it's about teamwork, it's about leadership and all these things can come together if we do it properly.

Thank you.

The Honourable Phyl Rendell MBE

Mr Speaker, I would like to make some comments on this Motion and I very much welcome the debate today. I make the point too that this is an Island-wide issue and it should be for everybody in the Falkland Islands, and we are talking here of facilities in Stanley and I do think that we should not forget the Camp, and some key areas of Camp. Recently I visited the Faroe Islands and I was absolutely amazed to see that every tiny hamlet in the Faroe Islands had an astro-turf football pitch for however many kids were in those places, this is something that we need to aspire to later on, I am sure, when our finances are fit for that, but it just was such a fantastic example of what can be done in a remote isolated country. So don't let's forget the Camp.

I am pleased too that we are not just talking about sport here, fitness is not just about sport it's also about exercise, and certainly for my generation it's probably about exercise, and again referring to the Camp, I think Camp people lead a much less sedentary life and I hope they are healthier for it, and I think the Honourable Ian Hansen and I this last weekend were moving quite a lot of our shearling ewes around, and weighing and drafting, and I think we got our fair share of exercise this weekend, so I commend that lifestyle to people. I am glad you mentioned gardening and walking to work, I have heard in the last few weeks discussions about the issues about parking around the junior school, needing to perhaps knock down buildings to create more car parking spaces. In my view the more car parking spaces you make the more you will need. You have to tackle it in a completely different way and we must encourage our young people to walk to school, cycle to school and all of us perhaps try and walk to work as well.

Just lastly, I am glad you are looking at the Leisure Centre, my Colleague here on my left, and considering the fee structure. I had a totally different view when I was Director of Education, it was all about getting revenue in and balancing budgets and trying to see how much revenue we got from that brand new facility. I have changed my view, I think the Health of the Nation comes long before a few thousand pounds that we take in revenue in the Leisure Centre, and I would commend you, the Honourable Barry Elsby, to look at free entrance for young children going for swims, going to the Leisure Centre, I really do. I think we should be making it free for young people and a number of my constituents have mentioned this recently. Furthermore, I understand that to hire the sports pitch is really a costly charge for that, and I think if young lads or ladies want to go and play on the football pitch, we should try to make that as available and as free as we can make it for those people to take that exercise.

I support the Motion.

The Honourable Jan Cheek

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members I don't think you will find anyone opposing this Motion, the value of sport in health is well recognised, as is its value in education where knock on benefits to learning for healthy active young people are well proven, and I would agree with several hours of sport a week is appropriate. I think we should recognise the many people who buy their own sports equipment, those who provide sponsorship, do fundraising for their activities, but that the community needs a usable sports pitch that's suitable for multiple activities and that no one organisation can afford it. That's where Government has a role.

I agree very firmly with those who say that we should make the Leisure Centre more affordable, and certainly when I had the Education portfolio and the Leisure Centre was part of that, we made a nominal charge for children's swims at the Leisure Centre. There was some criticism of that, people thought children were spending too long in the pool. I don't think so, I know they were having fun as well as engaging in healthy activity.

I would end on saying it's also important that we make it easier for children to walk to school. I have watched my grandchildren walk to school and seen the independence it gives them, as well as healthy exercise and while we don't have all the facilities we would need, I would remind everyone that a brisk walk is healthy and free.

Thank you.

The Honourable Ian Hansen

Thank you Mr Speaker, as I too am very supportive of this Motion and I am pleased it came to the House today. I believe the development of sport in the Falkland Islands is hugely important to us now and I think it's time we took that extra step forward, and I think the development or the creation of a National Sports Council, call it what you will, with its own annual budget, I think would be a really good thing for the Islands, and would be, as I say, that further step that will help peoples' health and the sporting facilities in the Islands.

The Leisure Centre, of course, is hugely important as well. While I don't disagree with anything that my Colleagues have said about the Leisure Centre, I do believe that we shouldn't just focus on the Leisure Centre and be careful we don't lose the rest of the plot, if you like, because as the Honourable Phyl Rendell mentioned, this is an Island wide thing. There is a lot of space out there, and I think we can use that space for walking and whatever. Let's just not lose sight of that.

Mr Speaker I do support this Motion.

The Honourable Roger Edwards

Mr Speaker, Honourable Colleagues, in rising to support this Motion for sport and fitness in the Islands I actually believe we do commit about .75% of our budget to sport or to the

facilities and the provision of sport, but I do believe it is spent in the wrong way currently. I think my Honourable Colleague Mike Summers should be congratulated both for his work as Chairman of FIOGA, and with the proposal for a National Sports Council. It would certainly make our life a lot easier when it comes to Budget Select Committee, when we get lots of subventions in from the cricket team, the football team, indoor badminton team or whatever it might be, and it would be much easier if we could put in a Government funding to a National Sports Council, who then can distribute that funding in a far better and more equitable way than what we ever can when we are looking at individual requests, so I strongly support that going forward.

I don't believe my Honourable Colleague was politically correct though, when he suggested that you should perhaps play football on a Sunday instead of going to church. I had a granny who used to put the cockerel under a creel on a Sunday so that the cockerel couldn't run around, and as for competitive spirit, goodness me, when I went to school we used to get prizes for being first in form, second in form, third in form. These days that would be frowned upon, my goodness me, so I think my Honourable Colleague is not being quite politically correct for today's situation, however, I do support the Motion and I hope people come along on Thursday next when we are having a public debate about the Capital Programme, and some of the decisions that we have to make during the budget and the capital funding is on possible sports pitches, community centres and the rest so I hope people come along and give us their views, because it's very important that we get input from the community.

Mr Speaker I support the Motion.

The Honourable Gavin Short

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as somebody said before me, I don't think you will find anyone who will vote against this Motion, I mean I certainly won't. I have actually been finally shamed into standing up. Being more of the portly Members who does practice some rather bad habits according to everybody else, but very enjoyable, just like fishing really.

I was sort of thinking back when I was listening to people talk, to the conversation I once had with Roger Diggle when he was down here, who was referring back to a study I think that had been done some many years ago, when they came down and looked at the population, and basically we had not a lot in the way of sports facilities then. We had a pretty awful diet as well, it was mutton, spuds, cabbage and carrots basically, but what they couldn't find hardly, was any cholesterol when they did the survey, and why was that? It was quite simple really. In those days there wasn't much in the way of vehicles, there wasn't anything in the way of television, there wasn't anything in the way of electronic games, us kids were pretty feral after school. We went out in groups and played and roamed about and of course, the adults were either in the garden or they were chasing peat 365 days a year. In other words, the population was active in those days, and I think that's what it has come down to. Society now had changed, as one of my Honourable Colleagues said, when we started building houses with smaller amounts of ground the gardening ceased. We now go down to the West Store and get your vegetables and fruit there, if you can afford them, and I am not beating the Falkland Islands Company over the head or anybody else because I know due to airfreight, fruit costs an arm and a leg, but that is one of the barriers to the lower paid families. If they

wanted to feed their children fruit they would have to sell both their kidneys, and I think we have to look at all these aspects of it. It's not just about sports facilities as important as they are, but we have to look at everything, the affordability of the most basic items in a child's agenda.

Certainly, as I say, I fully support this. I heard, I think, my Honourable Colleague Mike Summers mention the big shed theory for example., I certainly look forward to hearing more about that, and I know I did hear some years ago that the rifle club was thinking about maybe a shed sort of thing for small bore rifle shooting and such like that, and certainly I would support any initiatives that do come along. So I do look forward to seeing what does happen as we move forward.

Mr Speaker

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby, it's your option to sum up if you wish?

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I think we have heard today a fair reflection of everyone's concern that we need to invest in sport, but also leisure because the majority of people aren't going to take part in active competitive sport, they are going to take part in leisure activities, and I think it's important we recognise that.

My Honourable Colleague Mike Summers, I think, talked about £375,000 a year or .75%. The Leisure Centre runs at a loss at the moment of £350,000 a year, so you could say that we are already investing some money, but I think we need to invest whatever it takes. Now that might not all be in the first year, or the first two years, and not everything to get people active costs a lot of money. It's an attitudinal thing, and I think the things people have mentioned about competitive sport, getting kids more involved, and as my Honourable Colleague Gavin Short says, years ago kids were more active, parents were more active, you didn't have so much on the TV, you didn't have four channels. I am not allowed to have KTV's television, the wife won't allow it, so I have only got four channels, other people have got many more. Kids now virtually all have laptops and iPhones, and you are competing against the amount of time they want to spend in a sedentary position emailing people just 20 yards down the road, which years ago they would have just nipped down and had a look. I think it takes finance, it takes some initiatives to develop maybe some extra facilities, it takes commitment from the Members here, which we are convinced that commitment is there, but it also needs a way of trying to change people's attitudes as well, and that's a slower job and that's partly with the schools and partly with parents, but I think with the support we have got here today I think we will make progress in this matter.

Mr Speaker

Honourable Members the Motion before the House is that this House believes that provision of suitable sporting and leisure facilities in the Islands should be incorporated into the Government's infrastructure planning.

Is there any objection to passing that Motion? There is no objection, that Motion is therefore passed.

Clerk of the Assembly

Reports

Report from the Public Account Committee on the Morrison (Falklands) Ltd Partnership Agreement and the following Motion to note the Report.

That this House notes the report of the Public Accounts Committee in respect of the Morrison (Falklands) Ltd Partnership Agreement.

That is Motion number 9 of 2014 by the Honourable Michael Poole.

The Honourable Michael Poole

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, alongside my Honourable Colleague Ian Hansen I sit on the Public Accounts Committee at the moment, and have been asked to introduce this report which has come to us from the Chair of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).

The report covers the partnership arrangement between the Falkland Islands Government and Morrisons (Falklands) Ltd as has been said. The issue of the Morrisons partnership arrangement was first referred to the PAC in around 2011 so some time ago, so it's taken almost three years to reach this House. There are a number of reasons for the length of time it has taken. The key of those I guess is it's quite a complex issue, it's taken some time to compile all of the relevant documents and data and to analyse it, so naturally that will take some time. There has also been unavoidable change within the membership of the PAC itself which has, again, inevitably led to some delay. There was also a significant delay related to receiving documentation from relevant parties involved in the agreement, this likely contributed probably about a 12 month delay to the process, which is disappointing, but we are where we are, and there was also a need to obtain independent expert comment on it from overseas, which again took some time.

The report in front of the House today consists of a covering letter of four pages with two separate consultancy reports attached to it. Both of these consultancy reports are from Mazaars, the auditing firm that currently audit the Falkland Islands Government annual accounts. They were contracted in mid-2012 and again in mid-2013 to provide independent expertise on the partnership arrangement. Their reports provide very good background I think, and an interesting read because they give good context to this kind of arrangement as well, but the covering letter itself presents the main body of the feedback from the PAC.

The PAC approached this issue from the point of view as to whether the Falkland Islands tax payer is receiving value for money from the partnership arrangement as it stands at the moment. They did this by firstly benchmarking against common practice within the UK, how does the UK Government do things, is a partnership arrangement of this type suitable, and they also then looked at specific projects that have been worked on under the partnership arrangement such as the Fisheries Building as just one example of those.

I shall attempt to summarise the key findings of this research as briefly as possible.

Firstly, it's worth noting that whilst it's not the remit of the PAC to comment on policy decisions, their research did show that there are no clear reasons why a single bid procurement approach cannot be used by Falkland Islands Government. They said this system can work and it has worked elsewhere in the world, which was quite reassuring. However they did find that significant strengthening of the existing partnership arrangement needs to take place to further protect tax payers' money and to ensure value for money generally.

To this end, the partnership agreement should be renegotiated to more clearly articulate respective risk sharing between the two parties involved, and it should also have much clearer contractual and pricing methodology included within it as well. This renegotiation contract has to come from a starting point of common objectives and goals. We need to talk to Morrisons about what are we trying to achieve here with this partnership arrangement, and then it needs to be legally binding as well, and it requires a clear definition of each party's respective roles and responsibilities.

The new document has to be based on past experience over recent years, looking at where things have worked well, where things have worked not so well, and restructuring it from the years of experience we have had with Morrisons (Falklands) Ltd. We should also take the chance to benchmark against what would be seen as appropriate elsewhere in the world too.

Once you then have this much stronger partnership agreement in place, there is further work that cascades from that, particularly in terms of more formalised contractual documents for individual construction projects. A key part of this will be a much more detailed and agreed schedule of allowable costs for building works that are going on, and these costs will need to be regularly reviewed and appropriately benchmarked to ensure that they are accurate and fair.

Finally, once these documents are in place, the PAC also recommends a stronger oversight role from a person independent of the Public Works Department within the Falkland Islands Government, to look at specific individual contractual documents.

I am conscious that we as the Government have only recently received this report, so we are unable to respond in any real depth at this juncture, however we will produce an official response which will come via Executive Council and the Governor within a maximum of six months, though considering the magnitude of this issue, I am sure it will be within a shorter time frame than that, I would hope at least.

The responsibility for the current situation and also for approving it where necessary sits with us all, these things have gone via Executive Council, we set policy and we have a duty to protect public funds, therefore I am sure that all Members will be taking this issue most seriously.

I should note as a clarification, that there is a statement within the covering letter from the PAC which is incorrect. I have to say this was my personal responsibility, it was wording I included. Within the covering letter there is reference to an 8.5% average overspend against budget, however that figure was actually the average variance. Having looked again at the

analysis that Mazaars have done, in actual fact over recent years the average overspend has been only 1%, so I apologise to the PAC and to Members for that mistake on my part.

Whilst the report is detailed and covers a wide range of issues, I would suggest that instead of getting bogged down in detail here, I think that we need to take on board a range of valid comments that are included, and really work together towards a solution, and not talk about what's gone on in the past, but work with Morrisons about improving the situation today. How we are going to approach this over the coming weeks and months is yet to be decided. Obviously we all have a number of competing priorities and this is a big piece of work. We can't and shouldn't expect overnight results, it's going to take some time to work through and we need to do it properly and will take the appropriate amount of time to do that.

Finally, just one of the advantages of this report coming at this stage is that we are currently compiling a national infrastructure plan, as people will probably be aware, which is looking over a 20 year time frame, so I think it's right that we can look at the work with Morrisons (Falklands) Ltd in the context of this quite ambitious capital plan I think we are going to have over the next 20 years. So it's timely that we have received this report at this time.

Thank you for your patience, Mr Speaker. That is all I have.

The Honourable Ian Hansen

Thank you Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to second this Motion. I have very little to add to the Honourable Michael Poole's statement. He did an excellent job of summarising this report. I would just like to reiterate though, that this is an important report, and I believe in particular the parts that concentrate on the specific weaknesses of the present partnership agreement. I think anything else I would say would only be repetitive, Mr Speaker, so I shall just say I would like to second this Motion and look forward to the Falkland Islands Government response.

The Honourable Roger Edwards

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I, too, welcome this report from the Public Accounts Committee and I look forward to the response from Government within the six months that they are allowed to respond to these papers.

I do have one question for my Honourable Colleague Michael Poole and that is regarding the overspend. I recognise that the figures in the letter were incorrect and he quite rightly pointed that out. However, one of my fears is, and I have commented on it many times before in this House, is: are those overspends on the initial costs of the projects or are they overspends after all the apparent continuous agreed additional funding for those particular projects?

Mr Speaker

The Honourable Michael Poole, would you like to answer now or wait until your summing up at the end.

The Honourable Michael Poole

I am happy to answer at the end.

The Honourable Mike Summers OBE

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will speak briefly. I was a member of the Public Accounts Committee when this matter first came to that body and took part in some of the early investigations into this issue, and therefore I have sort of a bit of an insight into how it was conducted and how we approached it.

I think one of the important things to say about this is that we are in a very different period of time now to where we were when the partnership was first entered into, and there is a danger in these things, sometimes, of people being either overly critical and therefore other people who are responsible for delivering them becoming overly defensive, and that's not in our best interest. The point really is that when we entered into this partnership agreement many, many, many years ago it wasn't actually that easy to find somebody who would enter into an agreement, so the nature of the agreement that we entered into was probably appropriate at the time. We are in a very different period of time now. We are in a much stronger negotiating position and it is clear I think, from the things that Mazaars have set out for us in the advice they have given, that we should have a much more robust approach to the initial investigations to projects and initial costing of projects, and I think that touches on the point that my Honourable Colleague has been making. The notable, so called, overspends that we have had in the partnership agreement going back, have been on projects where they have been ill defined, and there has been risk that's been unquantified and unquantifiable, and by and large the over expenditure could always be explained. It doesn't mean it's right, but you can always explain it. So my plea really is that we approach this thing with an open mind and very positive thinking, so that we are not in a blame culture, we are not saying to anybody you shouldn't have done that, or that was wrong, or that's the wrong way of doing things. I have always been a strong supporter of the partnership agreement because I know and understand that it's generally speaking a very much cheaper way, you get much better value for money for public expenditure from these types of arrangements than often you do in competitive tendering. Positive, forward looking, but looking to improve the arrangement we have, I think, is the right way to go.

The Honourable Jan Cheek

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members I would like to reinforce what the Honourable Mike Summers has said. For all its imperfections, the partnering agreement replaced a very unsatisfactory situation and got us through some difficulties.

The Honourable Gavin Short

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I actually welcome this report. Obviously, as my department that I represent is probably the main user of Morrisons agreement, I certainly very much look forward to working through this and coming back to this House with the reply in, well, six months maximum, hopefully much shorter time period, so I very much look forward to this.

Mr Speaker

The Honourable Michael Poole it's your option to sum up, if you will.

The Honourable Michael Poole

Thank you Mr Speaker, I will just begin by addressing the Honourable Roger Edwards' question regarding the 1% figure which has been corrected from the 8.5% in the covering letter as it stands at the moment.

That comparison is made against the final letter of instruction which is quite late in the procurement process, so that's that point at which you have tied down what is hopefully your final budget. It's after any changes in specification that may have been made by Government, or the contracting party at the time, if that makes sense. I think if you were to compare against initial estimates, naturally there would be a larger variance, but that's to be expected and estimates are just that and the final price, as we all know, is often very different once you get into the detail of specific projects.

I, too, echo the Honourable Mike Summers' comments and the Honourable Jan Cheek's comments on this. We need to look forward. There is a shared responsibility here between Government and Morrisons (Falklands) Ltd, and I think that whilst there is a lot of detail in the report from the Public Accounts Committee, a number of these things really should be quite straight forward. Hopefully, it's just a matter of sitting down and kind of working through them, and devising the necessary kind of contractual and legal arrangements.

That is all I had for now, thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker

Honourable Members the Motion before the House is that this House notes the report of the Public Accounts Committee in respect of the Morrison (Falklands) Ltd Partnership Agreement.

Is there any objection to passing that Motion? There is no objection, the Motion is therefore carried.

As the Public Accounts Committee has made recommendations, this report will be submitted to the Governor in Council and it is the requirement that they make a response to this House within six months.

Clerk of the Assembly

Portfolio Reports, and we begin with The Honourable Jan Cheek.

The Honourable Jan Cheek

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my report is somewhat briefer than my last one because it covers a shorter period.

“Major projects” is part of my portfolio and while declaring my interest as a trustee, I am pleased to report that the museum development is making good progress, and we are aiming to open in the spring to allow people in the Islands a preview before the tourists arrive.

The other major issue ongoing is that we await the business case for a port development in Port William, and that business case is due in May.

Moving to another area: Minerals, as most people are now aware there has been some slippage in the original timetable indicated by Premier Oil, so things are fairly quiet here on the Minerals front, with the exception of the activity relating to the Noble Energy temporary port. The Director of Mineral Resources recently returned from overseas, he and representatives of the British Geological Survey were involved in a well-attended AAPG event, I think that’s the Association of American Petroleum Geologists, I am sure the Honourable Phyl Rendell will correct me if I am wrong, yes of Petroleum Geologists, and there was some interest being shown by a number of people there. The Director also had meetings with a number of the companies that hold exploration licences in our waters.

Moving onto Falkland Islands Development Corporation (FIDC), the Development Board met last week and received updates on many of the corporation’s activities. In addition, the Board agreed that the revised policy and procedures manual should be put to Executive Council for approval, and some loan applications were considered in the closed part of the meetings.

Several other activities from that group are worthy of note, including the Business Climate Survey.

The fifth edition of the FIDC Business Climate Survey was distributed to business on the 2nd April. The first time it’s offered as an electronic survey for those who want to fill it in that way. The response rate so far has been good, but it’s still a little short of the target of 40% return rate that we are hoping for. The deadline has been extended to this Friday, so if you are still thinking about it, please fill it in, and I have to admit I have to fill in mine. The feedback received in the returned surveys provides an important element of the information used by FIDC. It could lead to the development of schemes, initiatives and projects that help businesses like yours out there.

The Waterfront Development Working Group has met on three occasions so far and has had specific discussions on the development of the waterfront walk and the historic dockyard. The group intend to promote opportunities on the waterfront in the very near future, and the Honourable Michael Poole is involved in that group.

The third phase of the credit union project is underway. Three community leaders have volunteered to help with the project, and they represent the Chamber of Commerce, Rural Business Association and MLAs/FIG, again the Honourable Michael Poole. The next stage of this project is to develop a detailed business plan for a Falkland Islands credit union, in partnership with the World Council of Credit Unions.

Regarding the Youth Enterprise Scheme, work has begun on drafting the enterprise publications and recruiting mentors.

Finally, the Falkland Islands Development Corporation website has been updated to include information on all current operations including sections on oil and gas development and an enterprise section.

Thank you.

Mr Speaker

Are there any comments or questions from the Honourable Members?

No. Thank you for that report.

We move onto the next report from The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby.

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I too have a relatively short summary today. It doesn't mean things aren't going on, but it's what you concentrate on, and I think to touch on at the moment the safeguarding issues. People will know we set up a Safeguarding Board in the wake of the sexual abuse cases, and we have worked closely with the Lucy Faithful Organisation to help address this matter, and how we can take things forward so we can prevent such a thing happening again.

We have an absolute wish to start an ongoing publicity campaign, not just for a few months, but for years to better inform children, to better inform parents, about the dangers that modern life presents. At the moment parents and students will know that there is a questionnaire out asking for their views on certain questions, what would you do in certain circumstances, what are your views if this sort of thing happened to you. We are doing that to try to find out what people's views are here, so that when we do introduce the campaign to educate people of the dangers, we will be able to look back in a year's time and say: "well have we improved, are people more aware of the dangers?" I know a few people have been upset by the questionnaires because it touches on a very raw subject. It touches on safety of children, and that's very difficult, but I think it's a fine line you tread between trying not to upset people about emotional issues by trying to find facts that will better inform us of how to protect our children in the future.

So I do hope people will complete these questionnaires. I do hope that they will return them because I think it's important for the future.

The aim is to start the publicity campaign towards the end of May and, as I say, that will be an ongoing campaign, not a short brief one, but forever really, because as we said today, many children spend many hours on social media sites, accessing virtually anything they want on the internet these days, and we have to try to address that. It's no good trying to block our eyes to it, it's going to be there, but we have to arm young people with the information to protect themselves, and we also have to arm parents with the information as to how they can help in the situation as well.

As people know, I am the children's champion here, that sounds very grand, but it's really a non-statutory role to try to raise the issues of children in all aspects of Government. It's a new job, and whilst I am away at the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Wales in a few weeks' time I will also be spending some time, hopefully, with the Children's Commissioner in Wales. That is a statutory body that was set up, again, in the wake of sexual abuse crisis in Wales in 2001, and so they have got a lot of information, and I hope to learn a lot about what they have used, and how they have developed their services over the last decade.

In education itself, as with all departments at the moment, it's budget time and the Education Department is looking very closely at the budget to try to keep it within bounds. The Education Department is unusual, maybe, in the fact that it doesn't have much revenue, so we can't boost revenue very much, and most of the expenditure obviously focuses around staff and the facilities of the school. The department has a need to employ more teachers at the moment because of the rise in class sizes, so that by the end of this year and the start of the next academic year every class year in the Junior School will be split, and we are at a point where we need to look for accommodation. We have various options we are looking at for temporary accommodation, be they more port-a-cabins on Stanley Hostel, or looking at the Catholic Church Hall to be used as well as a spill over but, I think, at the end of the day, we have to accept the reality that we need a new Junior School, but I think as my Honourable Colleague Roger Edwards has said today, there are many other competing capital projects, and again I would encourage all people to attend the meeting on May 1st as he suggests, so we can discuss it with as many people as possible.

I think that's all I have to say at the moment Mr Speaker, thank you.

Mr Speaker

Does any Member wish to raise a question or make any comments upon that report?

No.

We move onto the next one from The Honourable Ian Hansen.

The Honourable Ian Hansen

Thank you Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my report today will be rather brief as well. I will speak first of all about one of my portfolio responsibilities I didn't touch upon during my last report, and that's Falkland Islands Government Air Service (FIGAS).

As certainly the Honourable Roger Edwards and the Honourable Phyl Rendell know, we know a lot about FIGAS. We spend a lot of time with them. They are a vital component for the Camp, and in particular I think for tourism in Camp, they are absolutely vital, but they do have several significant issues that are beginning to affect the services.

Not least of these is the age of the fleet. The aircraft range from an age of 21 to 27 years, so they are not young anymore. At some point a fleet review will be coming to Executive Council, at some point in the near future in fact, consideration will need to be given to what do we do with the aging fleet. It is aircraft type, size, and payload. There will be firefighting

requirements, service support, spare parts availability, aircrew training and engineering training to name just a few. So it's a complex issue. We also, of course, have an issue with getting qualified staff: licenced aircraft engineers. There is a worldwide demand for licence aircraft engineers and the age and type of our aircraft mean that there is an extremely small international pool for these people, so very difficult to get them. If we had a different type of aircraft it would be easier because it would widen the pool, but as I say, there is such a complex issue with changing the fleet that there is a huge amount of things that will come with that.

The possible requirement for Stanley Airport to be certified for the return of commercial helicopter operations is another issue. There will be regulatory obligations and associated costs added to that if or when it happens. Another issue is the Camp aerodrome fire appliances, again, they are aging. The current complement I think of about 33 of these fire appliances were purchased by Falkland Islands Government in 1988 so they are what, 25 years old now, and replacement parts are becoming progressively more difficult to obtain, so again, another associated cost will be involved there, but they will have to be replaced at some point.

So, as I say, it's not all doom and gloom because FIGAS is still operating a very good service, but these things are on the horizon and will be happening.

I would just like to do a very quick radio service update. Information I received yesterday, so this is as up to date as it gets I guess, the FM transmission is back on from Mount Kent, and this is thanks to BFBS who loaned us an amplifier and also took the time to fit it last week, and I would like to thank them very much for that. The new FM service from Mount Sussex is now transmitting Falkland Island Radio Station on 97.2. I did try this morning to find out how far reaching it was, but unfortunately, I couldn't actually get hold of anybody at Port Howard to see if that service is working in Port Howard, but I will try and do that later.

Unfortunately 530MW is still off air, and that's while KTV are installing the new FM equipment upon the Mount William mast. It's estimated that 60% of the work on Mount William is completed, but of course, this can be hampered by the weather and the weather lately hasn't been particularly helpful to KTV.

I think that is where I will end my report for this week, Mr Speaker.

Thank you.

Mr Speaker

Does any member wish to raise a question?

The Honourable Phyl Rendell MBE

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to thank the Honourable Ian Hansen for the update on Falkland Islands Government Air Service (FIGAS). I just wonder if you could tell me and the people that have got an interest in FIGAS, when are we expecting to have a report

on recommendations for new airframes or the continuation of airframes. What is the time scale please?

The Honourable Ian Hansen

Thank you Mr Speaker, and I thank the Honourable Member for her question. The timetable for the fleet review is June of this year. Also, for the future proofing of Stanley Airport which will involve what we need for helicopters, if and when that happens, will be coming in June, and the Camp fire appliances will be next month in May.

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I share your concerns about the Falkland Islands Government Air Service (FIGAS), particularly the lack of engineers. You are looking in a small pool aren't you. We had a very successful careers fair at Falkland Islands Community School the other day, and I noticed you had an excellent stall there from FIGAS, and lots of interest from students there. I hope some of those are going to be engineers and want to get into engineering, and I just wonder whether you are chasing any of those young people who expressed an interest in engineering then, to make sure they know they are valued and try to round them up and get them trained.

The Honourable Ian Hansen

I thank the Honourable Dr Barry Elsby for that question. Absolutely, we are working very hard on getting local people into these positions and certainly it is very high on the priority list to get young people interested in such positions.

Mr Speaker

Any other comments or questions?

No.

We move to the final report from The Honourable Mike Summers.

The Honourable Mike Summers OBE

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, thank you. I will concentrate this time principally on some capital projects, but they have important operational aspects to them and I hope I will be able to link those things in as we go.

Firstly, the Police Station and the Prison. It has been the topic of quite a lot of discussion on social media in the last few days, and that's been very helpful and very informative, and we were able to do a discussion programme on FITV recently on the subject and again, I hope we helped to inform people about some of the options available to us. The fact of the matter is that the Prison at the moment is pretty well full, not quite, but it's very close to it, and that's as a result of some excellent work over the last several months by the Police, the Social Work Department, the Medical Services, the Attorney General's Chambers, and of course,

the Court Staff, and as a result of all of that the Court has judged that a number of people who are a danger to society should be locked away for a lengthy period time. That is now the case, so the Prison is a bit of a problem for us.

So, what to do about it? There are various options and these are the things that we are currently trying to discuss, or we are discussing. One is to extend the existing Prison, the other is to build a new Prison on another site, and the third option is to remove both the Police Station and the Prison from the existing site to another site. They all bring with them particular implications. If we simply extend the prison here it is almost certainly the cheapest way to do it, both from a capital cost perspective and an operational perspective, but there are a number of people who object to the extension of the prison next to educational facilities. That is entirely understandable and having already potentially upset the Reverend Hines by suggesting earlier on that one should have been playing football instead of going to church, and what I surely must have meant was playing football after we had been to church, I hesitate to suggest that we could move the Prison anywhere further to the East, but there is very limited space on that site.

By simply moving the Prison to another site that is probably the second cheapest capital option, but it's an expensive operating option because you then have to basically double up the staff. By moving both the Police Station and the prison to a new site is clearly going to be the most expensive capital option. It has certain attractions in that you can maintain the working relationship between the Police and the Prison thereby reducing some of the operating costs, and also provide the opportunity of incorporating the Customs & Immigration Department into that facility which is perhaps where they ought to be, and saving some rent. So there are operational cost effects there.

It also then releases this site here for other use, and other use could most certainly include the possibility of use for educational purposes, so that's quite a complex range of issues that we do need to come some conclusions on in due course.

The second important capital project in my area of responsibility is the fire station. The fire station occupies a very important piece of real estate right in the middle of the town. They are old buildings, they are inherited from the military many, many, years ago, they have run their time and we do need to move. Do we need to move instantly, no we don't, we can make do and mend for a little while, but we do need to move and the benefit, of course, of moving the fire station is that you release that piece of real estate for all sorts of other potential development purposes. Not only potential for Government offices or possible medical services or whatever, any number of potential uses for that particular site, so that actually pushes it further up the list than it might be just because it does need to move of its self.

The third important capital project in my area of responsibility, of course, is the care for the elderly facility. You will find the theme here is the same, its release of space. The West end of the hospital is full of elderly people who need special care and attention, and it's overflowing. Last time I went there were two, possibly three, people on a long term basis in the acute wards. It's certainly not appropriate, so there is a relatively urgent need to create a care home for the elderly facility somewhere hopefully nearby, because if it is nearby you can still share a lot of the facilities with the current medical establishment. If you move it somewhere else, as some people favour, inevitably the operating cost will be significantly

more because you will need a lot more people, a lot more services, but the important issue there again is release of space. Not only to release some of the ward space back to the hospital for normal hospital use, but also the potential to release other bits of space in the hospital for the development of the primary care service which I think many of us strongly espouse.

There are three separate projects, but all actually with a common theme to them. We need to release the space, and there is a lot of interaction between each one of those projects. So like my colleagues before, I would strongly urge anybody with an interest in any one or all of these projects to attend the discussion about capital programme on the 1st May to make sure that you have understood as much as you need to understand, that you know as much as you need to know to help us make informed decisions about which way to go with these projects.

Mr Speaker

Does any Honourable Member wish to raise a question or make a comment on that report?

No.

Clerk of the Assembly

Orders of the day: Bills.

The Fishery Products (Amendment) Bill 2014. This Bill has been published in the Gazette and we go to a second reading.

The Honourable Phyl Rendell MBE

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this Bill amends the Fishery (Products) Ordinance Number 21 of 2006 to give effect to the recommendations from an EU audit of the fishing industry in the Falkland Islands in September 2012 which noted certain deficiencies in the fisheries legislation.

In summary the Bill makes four changes to the Fishery (Products) Ordinance.

Firstly, the Bill replaces all reference in the ordinance to the relevant community legislation with relevant EU legislation. This change is terminology which was introduced in the EU in 2012, but the Falkland Islands domestic legislation was not updated at that time.

Secondly, the Bill replaces the definition of Fishery Products with a new definition so that it falls into line with the definition currently used in EU legislation.

Thirdly, the Bill repeals and replaces Section 27 of the Ordinance to replace references to European Community with European Union.

Fourthly, the Bill repeals and replaces Section 35 of the Ordinance which deals with the designation of vessels, establishments and installations for the purposes of EU legislation, and Falkland Islands regulations implementing EU legislation. Currently Section 35 specifies

dispatch centres, factory vessels, fishery products establishments and purification centres as defined categories of vessels, establishments and installations which can be designated. The replacement version of Section 35 will allow for the definitions of vessels, establishments and installations to be updated in line with EU legislation as it changes.

If the Bill is passed it will enable the making of the following set of regulations, drafts of which will be considered by Executive Council in due course. The regulations to be made are the:

- Fishery Products (Hygiene) (Amendment) Regulations
- Fishery Products (Vessels, Establishments and Installations) Regulations
- Fishery Products (Designations) Order

I beg to move that the Bill be read for a second time.

The Honourable Ian Hansen

Mr Speaker I second the Motion.

Mr Speaker

Thank you. Does any Member wish to speak on the principles of the Bill?

There is no debate. Is there any objection to dealing with this Bill by the short procedure? There is no objection. Does any Member wish to propose any amendments to the wording of the Bill? There are no amendments.

I declare that the Bill be read for a third time and do pass.

Clerk of the Assembly

Fishery Products (Amendment) Bill 2014.

The Motion for Adjournment.

Honourable Chief Executive

Mr Speaker, I beg to move that this House stands adjourned *sine die*.

Mr Speaker

Honourable Members does any Member wish to speak to the Motion for Adjournment?

The Honourable Michael Poole

Thank you Mr Speaker, Honourable Members.

I would like to begin by officially thanking the Acting Governor for his work over recent weeks, and look forward to welcoming our new Governor more permanently next week.

As people will be aware, as it's been mentioned a number of times, we are currently about half way through the next financial year's budget process which is quite a challenge. I think we expected it to be so, but from my experience perspective it's been even more difficult than imaged. We have had a few good years in terms of income from oil-related revenues, and good Illex years over the last two or three years as well, but no guarantees that continues into the future. From a personal perspective, I think the most challenging thing I find with the budget is trying not to overreach, you naturally want to include as much as you can, but we need to do it sustainably. Somebody was reminding me just the other day that the Falkland Islands people don't expect Government to solve every problem, we can't afford to do that anyway, but they wouldn't want us to and I have to constantly remind myself of that.

I did hear on a TV show the other day that there are two types of politicians. There's the type that wants to say "yes" and the type that wants to say "no", and wanting to say yes, isn't a sign that you are irresponsible or imprudent or inexperienced, it's also not a sign of weakness as some people may suggest. If an idea has value, then the natural response to it is to say: "yes, how can we do that, let's try and find a way of doing it". If there is then financial barriers or practical barriers to saying yes, then you have to go back to people and be honest and say: "well, it's just not possible". I think, as a Government, hopefully the Islands Plan reflects that we are a Government that want to say yes to things, we have got quite an ambitious programme, and hopefully will reflect that in this upcoming year's budget and in the next 3 years' budgets as well.

In terms of prioritising capital expenditure in particular, it has been mentioned we have the public meeting on the 1st May. I hope to see a wide range of people there. That will be very interesting debate.

Thank you Mr Speaker, I support the Motion.

The Honourable Ian Hansen

Thank you Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I wasn't here for the last Legislative Assembly, I was overseas and I would just like to briefly touch upon that trip that myself and Emily Hancox made to the Caribbean.

The first couple of days were spent in St Lucia at a Small States debate and although that was very interesting and there was a lot of networking done, some of things weren't particularly relevant to the Falklands.

I won't go on too much about this because there has been coverage of it, but the visit to Trinidad I think was extremely successful in the fact that I think some very important links were made. The Trinidad people seem to have the same attitude as the Falkland Island

people in as much that they look at something and see how it can be done, rather than suppose how perhaps it can't be. We found that very interesting. They have a huge amount of expertise concerning oil exploration and exploitation.. They have been in the business for many, many, years. They were very helpful in offering their services to us in training, not just in the oil business, but they do have some very significant and very capable training facilities in Trinidad. I was very impressed with what we saw.

There were some very good links made and we are in the process maintaining those links. We hope that later on this year we will perhaps even see a visit from some people from that area.

Closer to home, yesterday the Honourable Roger Edwards and the Honourable Gavin Short and I visited the abattoir. I have to hold my hand up and say it's quite a few years since I actually was there and had a look around inside the place, the throughput of the abattoir since I was last there has grown considerably, and the way it's ran is really quite impressive. If anybody gets the chance, go out there and have a look. I was very impressed and I am pretty sure my colleagues were as well.

Mr Speaker, I think that is all I have for today and beg to support the Motion.

The Honourable Roger Edwards

Mr Speaker, Honourable Colleagues, in rising to support the Motion for Adjournment I would first like to start by mentioning the school careers fair that took place in the sports hall last week. I must say I was very impressed. I was impressed by both the turnout and the enthusiasm of the young people there. I must say I have great faith in our youngsters, and I am sure they will respond to the companies that put up their trade stands at the careers fair. But it's not something that should just happen on a Wednesday afternoon in the sports hall, careers for our young people should be ongoing, and they should be supported all the way through. I would hope that all those who had stands and things there follow it through, and keep in touch with the youngsters who did show a little speck of interest perhaps and say, we saw you had a bit of interest there, maybe you should come back, come and have a day with us, rather than yes, they have organised weeks out and so on, but careers matter and we need, the Falkland Islands need, our own youngsters to get qualified and come back and fill the posts here, so I can't stress that enough.

There was some comment about the police standing there with their sub-machine guns and side-arms and riot shields and great sticks and things, but by golly do they have a bunch of youngsters around saying, "cor, can I have a look at your gun Mr". You know, it generated enthusiasm so whether it was right or wrong to have armed police in the school I don't know, but it did engender enthusiasm. Much the same as the fire brigade. There was a wonderful stall there. They took off a jacket and a helmet and this little lad, he couldn't have been more than about 3 foot tall, and first of all they put on a huge fireman's coat and so he disappeared so it became a coat and a head, they then put on a helmet and he completely disappeared, but he was thrilled to be there taking part so, I do congratulate everyone who took part in that careers fair and I think it was summed up by a representative of one of the local oil companies here when he said "it would put any number of schools in the UK to shame" to see the enthusiasm and so on there, so very well done to all the organisers and all those who

bothered to take the time out, set up stands and offer advice to those youngsters. Well done all.

My next subject is the park homes, cabins and caravans, whatever you want to call them, that caused quite a debate at the public meeting on Tuesday evening. I have since discovered that no windows were removed to take out the white goods that were removed from those cabins, so that's one thing that I did learn, although some of them are leaking around the windows and doors. But that's not because they took the windows out. However, it has come to my attention, subsequent to the public meeting and I hope to goodness it is not true, and I have passed the information onto a couple of my colleagues who are going to follow it up, but I have been told that some of the higher specification cabins with double bedrooms and en-suite shower rooms and so on, which were brought in to help with our contractor accommodation shortage, I am told that one locum who is here for only a very brief period refused to go on in there, and so is now housed in a hotel for the month they are here. I hope that's not right, and I am sure my Colleagues will come back to me with whether that is true or not.

But we have heard that we do have a very difficult situation regarding the budget, and we can't be seen to be spending money unwisely putting people in hotels when we have these park homes available to a higher specification. They are good enough for the locals, and they should be good enough for the contractors.

My Honourable Colleague Ian Hansen has mentioned our visit yesterday to the abattoir, and I thank John Ferguson the General Manager for taking time out to show us around. We did have quite a discussion about boils and fat score and other things that one does when one looks at animals in the abattoir, but it was quite a surprise when you see the animals lined up and the difference in quality between the animals. I do believe that getting the animals fit to go the abattoir, getting the fat score right, aiming for one score about what you want to deliver to the abattoir and so on, and the matter over the huge number of boils that seem to be appearing at the abattoir at the moment does need further discussion, and I know that the Department of Agriculture, the abattoir and everyone involved are setting up a series of meetings to discuss those things, and I hope that it's going to go forward.

I, too, would like to say thank you very much to John Duncan and Ann-Marie for their brief visit to the Islands. I think he's done a wonderful job and has made quite a mark on the Islands.

At the last Assembly meeting I congratulated the Commander of British Forces for going out and visiting the Camp, the settlements. I would like to say thank you very much to John Duncan as well who did the same thing. In his very brief period he found time to go out and travel around the roads on both the East and West Falkland to attend the dog trials and so on, and the feedback is very positive, I can say again, and again, and again, please get out and see what the Falkland Islands is all about, the Falkland Islands is not the main street in Stanley.

I will end by reminding everyone, I know it's been mentioned several times before, but we do have this public discussion on the capital programme on Thursday evening next, and I really do encourage everyone please come along and put your point of view forward.

Mr Speaker, I support the Motion.

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to strongly support what my Honourable Colleague Roger Edwards has just said about how successful the fair was at the Community School recently. He is absolutely right, it's not just an afternoon, it's an ongoing process and the Education Department is developing an ongoing career process linking in all the years and then in linking in the people when they go overseas, and again, I would like also to praise the people who supported it and the people who turned up to present such a good show.

But I am afraid I have in mind something that one of our staff at Gilbert House told me this morning as I left for this meeting, and she said "remember anything you say I have to type up" so I am going to keep my comments brief.

Mr Speaker, I support the Motion.

The Honourable Phyl Rendell MBE

Thank you Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in rising to support the Motion I am very much taking the same themes as my Colleague the Honourable Michael Poole has done. For both of us it's our first budget and that really is preoccupying my mind a great deal at the moment. I really don't underestimate the magnitude of the deliberations that we are undertaking currently, and the decisions that we have got to make in the next few weeks, and I do understand that those decisions will impact on the lives of the people of the Falkland Islands.

Quite frankly, we have got quite a healthy economy and we do look forward to further revenue from oil exploration in the next year and hopefully further revenues in the future. We do have to plan and prepare and I am pleased to see how much the departments are doing just that, planning and preparing for the "what ifs" and the "when's", and that's absolutely vital that we do address the issues and have procedures in place to embrace a new and exciting industry.

We also have to manage the growth of the recurrent budget. I think this is really what we are wrestling with currently. We have two or three days already in Select Committee, have had a break, we are having a look at things again week after next, and I think we really do have to be careful that we don't have major increases in the recurrent budget, that are not sustainable because it's going to be much more difficult to undo things than put them in place in the first place. So this is really taxing my mind currently.

I think we all do, and I do, want to maintain high standards of service, particularly in Health and Education, but we have to make sure that other areas of Government are not left so far behind. I think that really is an issue for us, we might have first world services in some areas, but if we leave the rest of the Government services behind and put all our emphasis in certain areas, I think we are doing a disservice to everybody, and we do also need to support those departments that are working on growth in the economy, particularly my portfolios of Fisheries and Agriculture, particularly Fisheries. They are the key regulator and the

department that ensures that we have a healthy income from the fishery resource. At the last Legislative Assembly meeting, I was very pleased to report on the success of the Ilex catches and that's continued and has to be welcomed, but we know that that is very much a variable and can't be relied upon.

Many of my Colleagues have referred to the capital budget that we are going to be looking at in due course; I really do look forward to the feedback from the public about what they see as the priorities. We already have a list that is far too long for this Assembly to address. We do need to look very much long term and we have to look to see which projects we can start now, and which we perhaps have to delay, so there will be disappointments and difficult choices. We only have a finite amount of money and our expectations and our community's expectations are very high. It will take time to deliver those capital projects, but I do warmly encourage people to give us their views on what they think are the priorities.

Mr Speaker, I support the Motion.

The Honourable Gavin Short

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I actually leap to my feet with joy in my heart today. When we were first re-elected I remember some of my Colleagues sitting down as a little group and saying "in the House we shall not repeat what has been said before, we shall not make comment on it," and today I hear those Members merrily breaking that. I am happy because right from the start I did not believe in curtailing the freedom of speech in the House, which was what was being done. So I hope, this long continues in this vein.

I am going to join in now with breaking the rules seeing as everyone else started, I only had a very meagre amount, but the budget, I am probably a bit more chilled than some of those that spoke before because I suppose I am slightly an old hand, I have seen this. I remember very well the first budget I ever went into I came out of that first day's session suicidal, thinking we were doomed! You get the same thing every year and yet you come out at the end with a pretty good budget that keeps essential services running, delivers projects on the capital side which of course drives money into the local economy and keeps things flowing. I don't think this year is going to be any different from the ones that have gone before in all honesty, so I think we will get there.

The Honourable Roger Edwards did say, and rightly so, that Stanley is not the Falklands, you need to get out there. So just to say, that I will be crossing the pond again this weekend, back onto the West, so hopefully it doesn't upset the weather any more than it has already.

As I said, I have only got a very meagre amount because I thought I wasn't allowed to comment on anything much.

It's basically Public Works Department (PWD) type things. I am happy and indeed grateful to the PWD highways lads and lasses for continuing their clean-up campaign around Stanley during the winter, and in case anyone missed it, I would give it a plug, it was out in last week's Penguin News and it basically says "that the PWD Highways Department continues to provide a free service...", and I note that you see we provide a free service in PWD, "...for the removal of personal and residential heavy waste that an individual cannot remove

themselves. This service does not apply for commercial or industrial waste". If you want more information then please ring Sally Minto on 27387.

Anyone with some heavy rubbish such as old vehicles, they can take advantage of this offer and I would urge them to call that number. It was a subject that did come up on Facebook, I think it was during the run up to the last election, about the state of some people's yards, but obviously it's for people themselves to make that call, you can't take a dislike to somebody's yard and call PWD and have them come and take somebody else's valuable goods away.

On the same vein, I was happy to receive an email from Tim Miller yesterday saying that this afternoon the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts will be out and about between two and four, and they will be zooming around town pulling out thistles and any other weed that gets in their way. Apparently they can earn their Scout Environmental Badge by doing this project, so I think we should see a few keen fellows out there today going for it. I take my hat off to them and hope they have a great time.

I am sure that all in this House will wish the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts the very best in their endeavours, but I would also like to thank all those involved with these and other groups who give up large amounts of their time to making sure that youngsters do have something positive to be doing, should they wish to join those particular groups.

I was rather disappointed though to learn that someone from Conservation (I believe we have somebody down from the invasive species unit or something at Kew), was unavailable to give the kids a chat about invasive species, as we should never lose any opportunity to enthuse our youngsters about the wonderful natural environment that surrounds them, and indeed the invasive species that, like thistles, are really getting a hold in the Stanley area and other parts of the Falklands and if not checked will indeed change the landscape of the Falklands.

Alas, I do find myself being draw inexorably back towards thistles again. I have heard it said that thistles are well under control, but certainly based on the evidence that I gained when I walked through the whole of town a few weeks ago now, I would beg to differ with that opinion.

I know that a contractor has sprayed quite a bit of Stanley now for the PWD, but certainly the seed heads do still need, I think, taking away in some areas and I know also the PWD crew have been out trying to do their best to get rid of the things as well, but I would ask once again that private property owner join in with us in trying to get rid of these things. I think it will take about 2 years concerted effort to probably get back to where we were before things really did slip this year.

With that Sir, I will sit down and I support the Motion.

The Honourable Jan Cheek

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to reinforce what others have said about the difficult task we have in completing the budget, and I would like to add that we have to be careful not to be seen giving with one hand and taking with the other, but as others have very

correctly said, whatever we have to do must be sustainable, and like the Honourable Gavin Short, I know we'll get there, we always do. Those of us who already have white hair won't be troubled, but those who haven't will have gained a few white hairs by the end of it.

As has been mentioned, next week we have a meeting on the capital programme and as we see at public meetings, the vast majority of the electorate don't actually, are not able or don't wish to, attend public meetings and speak out on these issues. I would urge them to contact Members individually with their questions and their views on this and whatever other matters they hold strong views on. Otherwise, there is a danger that minority views loudly expressed can be seen to be representative of the views of the whole community. I would urge you to continue as you do, stop us on the street, in the shops, telephone us, but not too late at night please, take advantage of the Thursday meetings, and remember if those are not convenient and as from May they will be one to one meetings with a single member, if those are not convenient just a phone call to Gilbert House is all you need to set up a meeting with a Member of your choice. We do welcome interest and we are committed to representing you fairly.

I support the Motion.

Mr Speaker

Honourable Members, the House stands adjourned accordingly.

WRITTEN SUPPLEMENTARY REPOSES

Question Number 09/14 by the Honourable Phyl Rendell

Response provided by Director of Health Services

Bowel Cancer Screening (Colorectal Screening) Programme

The Legislative Assembly meeting of 24 April 2014 raised a specific question about the Bowel Cancer screening programme which I was unable to answer. I am now happy to provide the following information which is provided by the Director of Health Services, together with the Chief Medical Officer and the Surgeon.

A working group has been convened to plan and implement the colorectal screening programme. It will meet fortnightly in order to deliver this programme of work.

The plan

1. Three groups of patients have been identified:
 - An agreed age group for screening
 - Current patients who were in the previous screening programme
 - High risk patients outside the 2 groups above

2. The working group decided the following:
 - The screening programme will follow the screening programme currently in place for the Southampton NHS Trust
 - All patients age 60-70 will be in the screening programme in line with the Southampton protocol
 - Current patients in the previous screening programme will be reviewed, and this group may require a separate plan for colonoscopy depending on the findings
 - The Consultant Surgeon with assistance of the Medical team will develop the criteria for the high risk group of patients.

3. The following actions will now be implemented:

Administrative Functions

- Identify dedicated GP support for the screening programme.
- Order a supply of faecal occult blood (fob) kits (this is for the first level of testing).
- Identify dedicated administration support for the programme.
- Publicise the new testing programme
- Agree how to communicate outcomes to patients.
- Identify equipment needs to support the programme.

Medical Functions

- The EMIS system of patient records will be thoroughly checked to ensure all patients in the 60-70 age group are identified and contacted.
- The group of patients on the previous screening programme will be reviewed by the responsible GP to determine if there is a need for a recall, and advised accordingly.
- Carry out fob tests on those in the screening programme.
- Arrange gastroenterologist visit to perform colonoscopy for those patients showing a requirement for further investigation
- Arrangements are being made now to engage a gastroenterologist to undertake the colonoscopies of any patients who are assessed as requiring it now.

I hope that this plan will provide the Islands with a sustainable robust screening programme.

Question Number 10/14 by the Honourable Jan Cheek

Response provided by Commander British Forces

At a recent Legislative Assembly meeting, you asked the Honourable Ian Hansen about civilian airmail on the South Atlantic Airbridge, namely:

- If civilian airmail is despatched on the first available flight to the Falklands following its receipt at the military depot?
- is it carried on every air bridge? and
- if all airmail has the same priority

Further to the Honourable Ian Hansen's response, I have made some enquiries - herewith some further background:

- All mail (military and civilian) is collated at the HQ British Forces Post Office (BFPO) in London – at RAF Northolt.
- All mail is treated equally. Civilian mail is 'over labelled' with a BFPO 655 sticker and placed in a large mail bag alongside military mail.
- HQ BFSAI receives no more than 125 bags of mail (military and civilian) during each and every airbridge.
- If there are more than 125 bags of mail they have to wait until the next airbridge.
- If any mail is assessed as too big/outsized (i.e. it won't fit in the bag), it has to travel via the FIRS.

In summary, MOD policy is quite clear - there is no difference in the treatment of military and civilian mail. If you are aware of any evidence to the contrary, please do not hesitate to pass the details to me, and it will be investigated.

Confirmed this 4th day of June 2014.

Speaker of the House