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OPPOSITION SEEKS TO 'RUBBISH' THE COMMONWEALTH PARK

The Opposition's statement on the car parking facilities to be provided once Commonwealth Park has been established are as contradictory as they are short sighted and opportunistic.

Mr Figueras apparently wants to ignore what he has been told in Parliament about the magnificent plans for the provision of Commonwealth Park.

During answers to various questions about the Park, the Government has already confirmed that it has been approached with new proposals which will be cheaper for the whole community - something which is essential given the mismanagement of public funds which the Government inherited from the previous administration.

'Whilst most right thinking members of our Community will welcome an excellent initiative by the GSLP/Liberal Government to deliver a green park area in the centre of our city, Mr Figueras' approach to the Commonwealth Park appears to be that he will do anything to rubbish it' said the Chief Minister, the Hon Fabian Picardo.

'If we are able to deliver the park AND double the parking available free of charge in the area for Gibraltar residents at much less cost than would have been the case with an underground facility (without losing development prospects on other sites), then why does Mr Figueras want to insist on us doing it in a more expensive way?' asked the Chief Minister.

'Is that still the "throw money away" attitude of the GSD which got Gibraltar into the mess of the missing £100m of company borrowing and an airport the cost of which went from £24m to £80m?

'We are now also negotiating to be able to have Commonwealth Park link up via and around the Kings Bastion Leisure Centre to a park in the area of the Naval Ground with further amenities provided there.'

'I am delighted in particular for residents of the Town Area that we will be able to deliver more parking also for them, as they have been ignored for years by the GSD,' added Mr

Picardo. 'The announcement by the Government of the progress being made in respect of Commonwealth Park will no doubt be seen as a further positive development in the delivery of a flagship manifesto commitment likely to be completed ahead of schedule and under the budget originally estimated and ENTIRELY within the relevant paragraphs of our manifesto explaining what would be provided.

'Mr Figueras needs to work harder (even in August if necessary, despite the GSD apparently wishing to have the whole month off from their political duties) if he is going to avoid his press releases boomeranging back to embarrass him as much as his lame and lamentable remarks on the much anticipated Commonwealth Park have done.'