

<p>PRESS RELEASE</p>

No: 648/2012

Date: 8th October 2012

Dr Cortes: "Figueras wants Commonwealth Park project to fail."

The latest statement from the GSD's Selwyn Figueras illustrates why that party has been and continues to be the reason that politics in Gibraltar is so confrontational.

Mr Figueras seems to be obsessed with trying to somehow portray the excellent Commonwealth Park in a negative light. Without any good reason to do, Mr Figueras now wants again to insist on disclosure of the budget for the works at the Park.

It has been made abundantly clear to Mr Figueras that the final budget for Commonwealth Park is not yet fixed. The designs are being finalised for the Park, based on the architectural drawings set out in the GSLP/ Liberal manifesto.

What Mr Figueras is really complaining about is that the GSLP as a party, not the Government, will not disclose to him the cost that the party had assigned to that project.

The fact is that the project was fully costed by experts for the GSLP/Liberals before the election. Now they are in government, the GSLP/Liberals are making final design changes involving expert design advisers AND seeking to get the best value for money for the tax payer in delivering this magnificent and overdue project which Mr Figueras and his party never had the imagination or will to deliver in their long stint in government.

For Mr Figueras to say that the Government seeking to deliver Commonwealth Park at the best possible value for money is a "fraud" illustrates his lack of political maturity and the GSD's style in just looking to insult and exaggerate at every possible juncture. It's a bit rich for a party that overspent on the airport by a factor of 300% to criticise the GSLP/Liberal government for wishing to complete a project 'under budget!'

Minister for the Environment, John Cortes said: "The public know that Selwyn Figueras hates Commonwealth Park and wants it to fail because it will show up what his GSD party colleagues failed to deliver in Government. The fact is that the only fraudulent politics in Gibraltar today are Selwyn Figueras'. He

has introduced this language into the political debate about a Park. He knows that the Government is doing the right thing but he pretends otherwise to have a chance to issue a cheap press release. Language like that and the references to "corruption" made by Damon Bossino illustrate the desperation of the GSD and bring that party and its politics once more into disrepute. They are not about taking Gibraltar forward. They are about hyperbole and insults. None of that helps deliver the better Gibraltar that our people want or the politics of progress our people deserve. I will look forward to seeing Mr Figueras walk along the paths at Commonwealth Park and seeing that and all our other projects delivered and observing him enjoying eating his words."