



HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
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City Centre to have new multi-storey car park for 1000 cars

It is incredible that the Opposition should complain about the parking situation in and around the City Centre when the existing problem is linked directly to their lack of activity on this front during the 15 years that they were in office.

It is true that the GSD did indeed create a number of multi-storey car parks in different parts of Gibraltar. However, these were for residential use and were in the wrong place having little or no impact on city centre parking by people who do not live there. Indeed, the enormous multi-story car park in Devil's Tower Road was found to be heavily under-utilised when the GSLP/Liberals came into office and even after renting out a number of floors, there are still a considerable number of parking spaces which lie empty day after day.

The Opposition cannot moan with any degree of credibility for the loss of car parking on the old yacht club site for a number of reasons. Firstly because this was always intended to be a temporary car park in the period before the plot went out to development and secondly because the project that is earmarked for that site is one that was inherited from them. The Government made it abundantly clear that an underground car park at Commonwealth Park would be subject to a geotechnical survey and that in any case the parking lost would be re-provided elsewhere. Indeed, compared with the old Commonwealth Parade car park, there are an additional 32 free parking spaces and an extra 17 'pay and display' spaces in the new Queensway car park.

Commenting on the matter, the Minister with responsibility for Traffic Paul Balban said:

"The Government does intend to tackle the parking issue head on and this will be explained in more detail in the sustainable traffic and transport plan. It should be noted that there are advanced negotiations for the construction of a multi-storey car park to take about 1000 cars in the city centre on the site of the old naval grounds. This will mean that the balance of new parking spaces will tilt even more heavily in the Government's favour."