

Jubilee Marine Lake: restoration project

**For consideration by the
Parish Assembly
on Wednesday 21st November 2012**

PARISH of St. HELIER

P.07/2012



PROPOSITION

THE PARISHIONERS are asked to take into consideration and if deemed advisable to approve

a recommendation of the Roads Committee and the Procureurs du Bien Public that up to £100,000 is given to support the regeneration of the former West park Bathing Pool.

REPORT

Visitors to coastal towns in France will be used to the sight of flotillas of pram dinghies being sailed by youngsters on sailing programmes, as well as groups learning to row and canoe. Given Jersey's strong maritime heritage as well as our continuing interest in recreational watersports, the town of St Helier seems an ideal place to provide the kind of training lake for watersports that the pool at West Park offers, as well as opportunities for sea bathing at all states of the tide.

The former bathing pool at West Park has been in an abandoned state for more than a decade, in spite of periodic calls for its refurbishment. One of the early development proposals for the West of Albert area included a developer-funded restoration of the bathing pool, but this was not pursued. When Roads Committee Member, Geraint Jennings, wrote an article about the history of the pool in the 'Town Crier' interest in the pool's future was reawakened, and Pierre Horsfall contacted the Constable of St Helier to see whether the Parish would be willing to champion a restoration project.

The project has been given added impetus due to Mr Jennings's work which showed that the pool was the Island's Diamond Jubilee project for Queen Victoria in 1897; what could be more appropriate than starting the restoration project in Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Year? The London Olympics and Paralympics also impressed on Mr Horsfall the opportunities the pool would offer as a training facility in watersports for local youngsters.

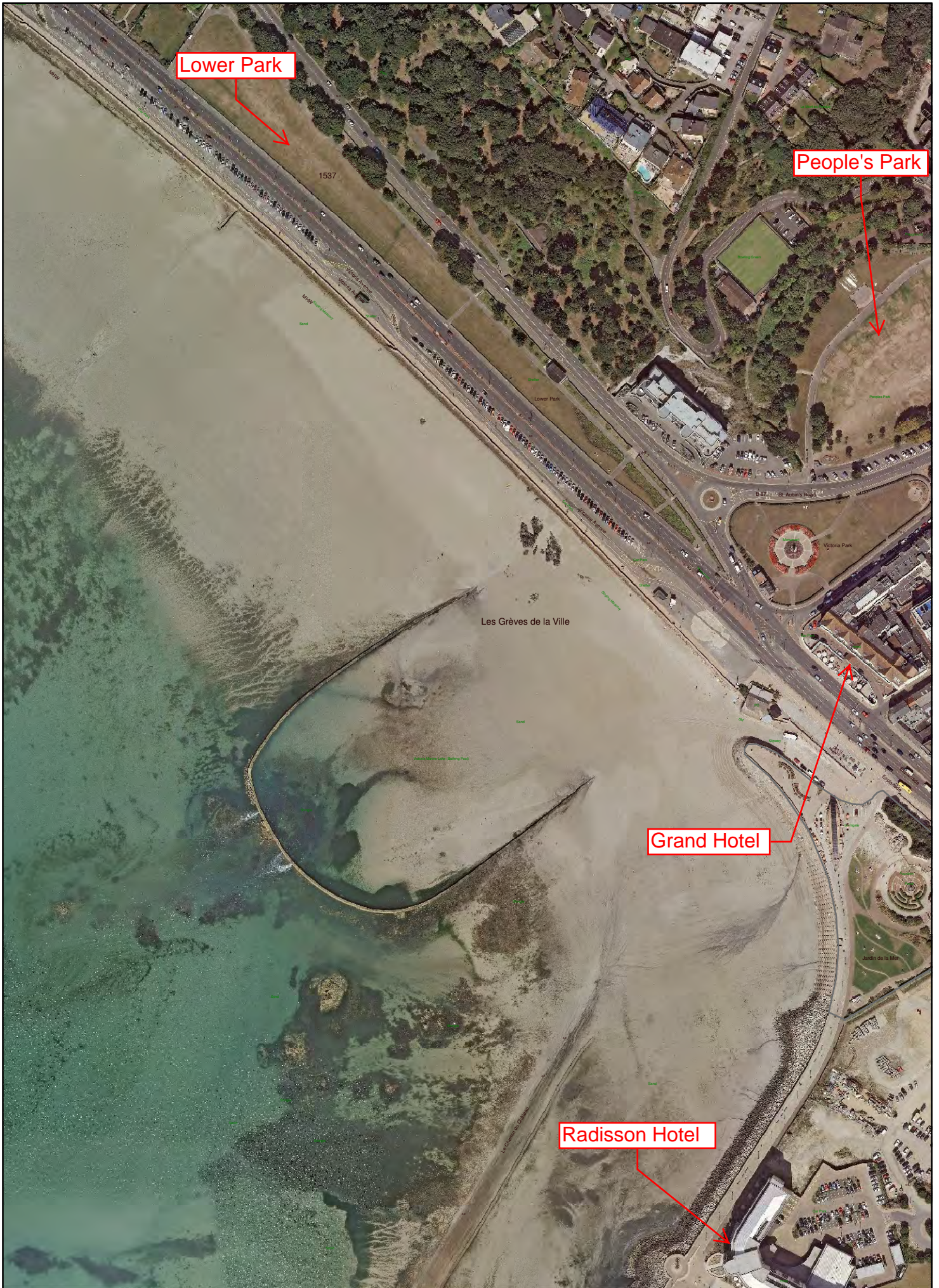
A working group chaired by Mr Horsfall and including Procureur du bien public, Clive Barton, Mr Jennings and the Constable has met on several occasions, and has focused on establishing both the feasibility of the restoration project, the costs, and the need for the facilities it would offer. This latter point has been particularly

important as it has been acknowledged that there would be little point in restoring and maintaining the pool were there to be no appetite for using it.

The Working Group has had positive feedback from a number of watersports enthusiasts, in particular, sailing and kayaking, and believes that there is ample evidence of potential users of the marine lake if it is restored.

A professional survey of the pool with options for its repair was carried out by civil engineers, Ove Arup, a decade ago, and the Working Group has had this updated. The cost of restoring the pool is estimated to be £260,000. The States of Jersey Development Company has agreed to contribute £100,000 provided that the Parish invests an equal amount in the project, and the Working Group has agreed to raise the remaining funds from sponsorship and private donations.

It is not anticipated that there will be significant running costs for the pool in the first years of its life but in discussion with the former operator of the lake, Transport and Technical Services, it has been suggested that a sum of up to £20,000 a year might be required to provide ongoing cleaning and maintenance. The Parish would need to provide this from its budget.



Lower Park

People's Park

Grand Hotel

Radisson Hotel

Les Grèves de la Ville

1537