

Investigating a new French Hospital

I am concerned about the cost, the location, and the time it will take to build our new Hospital. Recently, I went to Brittany to investigate a new Hospital that was built on a green field site. This is absolutely essential if time and cost are important. We have two sites which fall into this category, St Saviours Hospital which is not in the Green Zone, and Warwick Farm. If either of these sites are used for a village, the only people who would benefit are the people who would live there. If these sites were used for our new Hospital, then the whole population of this Island would benefit.

On either of these sites we could build a complete Hospital, with all the current departments we have at the moment, and when complete, could transfer into it without disrupting the care of patients. The granite building in Gloucester Street could then be used, possibly as an art gallery for Jersey's art collection with the remaining site sold for housing, government offices, or a park. This would considerably reduce the cost of Jersey's new Hospital.

The hospital I visited was completed two years ago and employs 650 people. It has 3 floors with a surface area is 23,650 sqm with parking for 600 cars for staff and visitors. As a part of its design it has a planned expansion area of 30%. It is environmentally efficient with a thermal shell, heat recovery loop, solar boiler, high return, low energy technical equipment and an efficient global building management system.

It also has a separate building for consultations by the 130 Doctors/Surgeons that work out of the hospital. There are 15 operating theatres and 300 acute beds with an outpatient unit of 50 consultant offices and treatment areas.

It took 28 months to build the hospital from start to finish, at an overall cost of £90 million! This included the land, all the equipment, and VAT at 20%. This is considerably quicker and cheaper than the proposal for Jersey's new Hospital at £466 million as a starting figure. We will never know what the final cost will be.

The group who designed, built, and managed this Hospital are A.I.A. Life Designers, a consortium of architects, engineers, designers and builders formed in 1965. It is a specialist infrastructure business and is internationally recognised for the design and delivery of innovative, high quality healthcare facilities. It is currently building several Hospitals each year, worldwide. It has also been working on an incinerator in Guernsey.

AIA is not only interested in designing and building hospitals, but particularly in the way they work and operate for the patients and the staff. Because of the vast amount of experience they have, each new Hospital incorporates the very latest innovations and technology. They are used to signing fixed time contracts at a fixed price.

If invited, A.I.A. is prepared to come to Jersey, and at cost, carry out a feasibility study of the short listed sites. They would welcome the opportunity to be able to tender for the building of our new Hospital.

Having met the Architects and the Management team, seen the Hospital, and appreciated an excellent professional presentation which emphasised the critical importance of consulting patients and staff throughout the planning and building process, I would hope that the Council of Ministers and the States would be interested and willing to take up this offer.

