



JYP PROGRESS REPORT

The Right to Play Campaign

September 2023



Table of Contents

3	Introduction
5	Parks
7	Rate my Park
10	Our Favourite Parks
12	Things we like
13	Parks that require improvement
14	Things we don't like
15	Ideas for Jersey
17	Fort Regent
19	Closing Remarks
20	Questions to the Ministers
26	The Next 6 months
27	Conclusion
28	References
29	Acknowledgements
30	Appendix



Introduction

Our Youth Parliament is made up of young people from across the island and provides a forum to highlight issues that affect them to the States Assembly.

We are the 'Right to Play' Group focusing on Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child which states that every child has the right to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts

On 26th September 2022, the newly formed Jersey Youth Parliament met in the States Chamber to select their three campaigns to focus on over the next eighteen months. The campaigns that were chosen were:

- The Right to Play
- Housing
- Diversity & Inclusion

Since the selection meeting, members have been conducting research to help them with the campaigns. They presented their first recommendations to the States Assembly on 27th November 2022 and you can view these on our [website](#). On 25th September 2023 they provided an update to the States Assembly and this report summarises this.

"We are the right to play group & this campaign is based around giving teenagers more places to hang out with their mates for lower prices. In the future we would like to make sure every child feels safe in facilities and outdoor public spaces in Jersey."



Introduction

Hello, I am Leala, I am 14 years old and seeing my friends is important to me. When I go to meet my friends, we can never find anything to do and end up sitting on a bench or something instead of enjoying our time with something more fun. Most of the time we go home early because that seems like less of a waste of time than just sitting outside. Having good parks suitable and welcoming for teenagers would be good because we could go out and enjoy ourselves more.





Parks

During our research for the previous presentation, our team was disheartened to discover the **absence of public play parks in two parishes, namely St Martin and St Clement** (see appendix). We hoped that by shedding light on this issue, it may motivate these parishes to take action.

We are delighted to hear that since we presented in the States Chamber in September, a new park has been opened in St Martin. We are so happy to have been quoted in the press release and to hear that our previous report from November 2022 helped to influence this.

21st November 2023

Tomorrow (22 November) at 11am, a new accessible children's playground will be opened on St. Martin's village green, following community consultation, led by the Chair of the Privileges and Procedures Committee, Connétable Karen Shenton-Stone.

The opening will be attended by a number of Islanders, including:

- Year 3 students from St Martin's School who were instrumental in the design process;
- Members of Jersey's Youth Parliament, whose Play Strategy also influenced the project;
- Local parents who helped to shape the final designs; and
- Two major donors who facilitated the new playground's creation.

The playground includes the first supported seat swing in the Island and other accessible features. Each piece has been carefully chosen and designed with inclusivity, play principles and its setting in mind. The Parish has also added a natural play space with log slides and tree trunks for young parishioners to climb and enjoy.

Karen Shenton-Stone, Connétable of St. Martin, commented: "I am absolutely delighted that this project has come to fruition and that the children and parents who helped to design the playground will now be able to enjoy it."

States Assembly Website



Parks

To gain a better understanding of the state of parks throughout the island, we decided to visit and evaluate various parks. Our campaign was surprised at the amount of play parks there are in Jersey for young children and often some parks were **missing things that teenagers would use.**

However, we also observed that some parks were in need of maintenance and improvement. We hope that by emphasizing the importance of public play spaces, we can encourage greater investment in these areas for the benefit of local communities.

It's important to recognize the **impact that public play can have on the wellbeing and development of children.** By highlighting the absence of play parks in certain parishes and the need for maintenance in others, we hope to inspire positive change and investment in these areas.

We believe that every child deserves a safe and fun place to play, regardless of where they live.



Public play parks provide a space for children to socialize, exercise, and develop important physical and cognitive skills. In addition, they can help to **strengthen community bonds** and promote a sense of belonging.

Investing in public play parks is not only beneficial for children, but also for the wider community. By providing a safe and enjoyable space for children to play, we can help to reduce anti-social behaviour and improve the overall wellbeing of residents.

We encourage all parishes to consider the importance of public spaces and to take action to improve and maintain them. By working together, we can create a more inclusive and vibrant community for everyone.





Rate my Park

Park and Parish			Overall Score
Elephant Park – St Brelade's	We liked the space as children are more free to play There was sheltered area Animal bins Variety of equipment and picnic tables	We would like to see more slides and animal bins as it would fit in with the theme of the park	9.5/10
Les Quennevais Sport Centre Park – St Brelade's	The park was clean There was a picnic table for adult and children to sit around Good location	We would like to see more equipment and benches We wished that there was a bigger age range	6/10
St Aubin's Park – St Brelade's	We liked the touch of nature and flowers around the park within the play equipment there were hidden tables and chairs	The park is too small No variety and aimed at very young children	6/10
St Ouen's Village Green Park	We liked the fact that it was colourful Cool animal bins. It was in a good location Surrounded by nature	Fairly small which doesn't allow children to enjoy the park/space Needs more equipment Appeared old	6/10
St John's Park	Wooden equipment Tower with a play café Good location close to school and shops Lots of trees Good fence height	Looks rundown and unloved Not clean not many benches A small area and does not have enough space for a large group of children No one was using it when we went	6/10
St Mary's Community Centre Park	It was wood and very sturdy Had a cool castle Had a tennis court and Had tyres and loose equipment children could play with	When we reviewed the park was not clean – Needs more bins The fencing around the park looked uninviting More benches	7/10



Rate my Park

Park and Parish			Overall Score
St Peter's Community Centre Park	Communication board is cool Café is close Bins and benches	Too small Needs more equipment Not a large range of equipment for different ages	6/10
Coronation Park – St Lawrence	There is 3 parks for different ages Waterpark Zipline Lots of nature	We liked everything	10/10
Howard David Park – St Saviour	Surrounded by Trampoline It was busy	Small park aimed at small children	6/10
Long Beach Park – Grouville	We enjoyed playing on the swings Lots of trees around Good view of the beach Climbing equipment – monkey bars	We didn't like that there was sand everywhere, it made it not accessible to everyone	7.5/10
Trinity	We were told there is a small play area next to the Youth Club but we haven't managed to get there yet to review.		TBC
St Andrew's Park – St Helier	Pretty flowers Variety of equipment – zipline and climbing wall Pirate ship	When we visited the park the chains on the monkey bars were broken	9.5/10
People's Park – St Helier	Good equipment – like the fitness equipment Unusual slide Near houses	We found the exercise section small and would like to see the whole park be expanded	8/10
Millennium Park – St Helier	We enjoy the the fountain , We also enjoy the open space The basketball court	We wished the children's park took up more space as it is quite narrow and can get over crowded very quickly Some broken equipment	8/10



Rate my Park

It's not fair that there's a huge difference in quality of parks. All children need a park 10 minutes from their home as recommended in the **Bridging Island Plan Policy C18**, some parishes have huge parks, some have one tiny park and St Clement and St Martin have no parks in the parish.

Policy C18 – Space for children and play

All new major development should consider how it will contribute towards helping children to be safe, active, social and imaginative, as well as helping children access and spend time in nature. Design statements issued with development proposals must explain how this has been considered in the design stages of the development, from a placemaking perspective.

Development proposals providing between five-ten family homes (2+ bedrooms), are required to provide appropriate communal space for play on-site where possible, or otherwise make a contribution to the provision of new or enhanced space for play within five minutes safe walking distance, or 500m from the site.

Development proposals providing more than ten family homes are required to provide appropriate communal space for play on-site, unless it is agreed that there are

exceptional circumstances where an off-site contribution may be permitted; and/or when an off-site contribution will lead to a substantial betterment in provision and will be within five minutes safe walking distance, or 500m from the site.

If any such agreed, off-site contribution cannot be met within the specified distance, new play space must be provided elsewhere and evidence of options considered must be provided, together with a justification for the proposed location and an explanation as to how this will benefit the occupants of the development.

In the first instance, developers should seek to include as much green or natural play space as possible. Play space could also be provided as outdoor play equipment, playscapes (landscape design that incorporates play features), space for ball games and dedicated space that encourages safe bike riding, skateboarding and scootering. In some circumstances, indoor communal space may form part of the space for play contribution, such as communal games rooms or youth facilities. Other types of space for play will be considered where the developer has undertaken appropriate consultation and there is clear evidence of community support.

Space for play must be delivered before the first occupation of the development, and this will be secured by planning condition.

Our Favourite Parks



The Elephant Park

This park also has a variety of equipment, including a sand pit and a climbing frame. Which is great because different people have sensory needs, so a variety is good. The key feature of the pink elephant slide gives it an identity which makes the park memorable.

Long Beach

We loved this park because of the good location with access to the beach and the tire swing. When we visited long beach as a campaign the staff had to drag us out of the park as we were having so much fun.



Coronation Park

They had many things that we loved, including a car park, the new water area, and a zip line. Also it is spacious, well-maintained, good for all ages because of the variety of equipment, is welcoming and has some areas of accessibility. It gives young people a place to be and a reason to be outside.

Our Favourite Parks

St Andrew's Park

We spent a long time here and could all go on everything. It had pretty flowers which makes it inviting. It also had a good safe space with a gate for toddlers and not for older ages which makes it great for all ages. We loved the zipline as it is suitable for all ages, and we think all parks should have one.



People's Park

We were all impressed by the exercise equipment, this would be a great feature to put in other parks as well as it is a feature that appeals to teens and adults too.



Things we like



Zip Lines



Exercise Equipment



Communication Boards



Accessibility



Clean and Well-Maintained



Nature



Parks that require improvement

St Mary's Park

There is a huge fence that made the whole park felt like a jail, we want parks to feel inviting, free, and welcoming. Children are trying to explore on their own, gain independence and take risks and the fence acts as a barrier toward that.



St Peter's Park

It's the only park in St Peters that we are aware of and it's incredibly small, if there's too many children the limited equipment will make the park feel cramped. We did like the communication board because it creates a unique way of play and is great for children with additional needs or that speak different languages



St John's

The equipment was not looked after well; it was covered in moss.. e like that is was close to shops and the school but not that it was near the graveyard! However, it was quite big, so it has potential for the future.





Things we don't like



Big fences – These are uninviting and intimidating.



Dirty or Broken Equipment – This makes the space unsuitable for play.



Small Spaces – Can fill up quickly, or be unsafe if overcrowded.

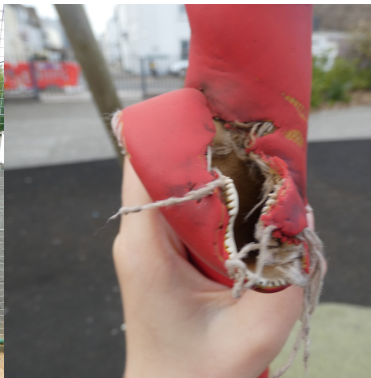


Too Many Rules – This is restrictive and limits independent learning through play.



Equipment only for very young children

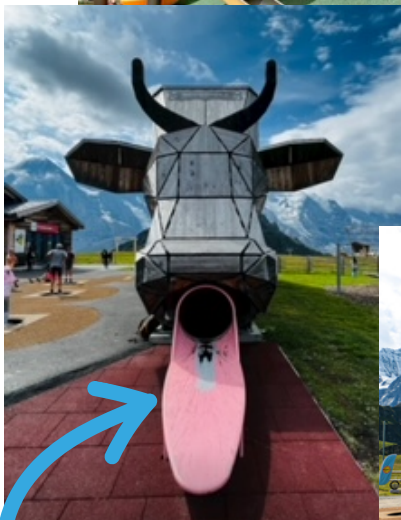
There should be a balance of accessible equipment and free space.





Ideas for Jersey

We think some parks should be bigger with more variety of equipment, there should be accessibility in all parks, parks should be kept clean and have a convenient location. **We found most parks are aimed at ages 0-12 years old which proves we need more aimed at teens.** We have been researching accessible equipment and also things for teenagers. We like these ideas



One of our members went to this park in Switzerland that was shaped like a cow, with trampolines for the cow pat. We LOVE this idea and think that Jersey should have something similar.



Ideas for Jersey



Indoor Spaces

Creative Use of Spaces

Climbing walls

Funky bowling alley

Zip Lines

We have been doing a lot of research on places to play around the world. We have created these mood boards as inspiration.

Nature

Nets in Libraries

Holistic Architecture





Fort Regent

Something that we are really passionate about is Fort Regent. We went to visit the recent 'playtime' exhibition by Will Lakeman which gave us inspiration for the Fort. Will met with us and generated images using AI that included a big disco in the dome and a waterpark.





Fort Regent

We have created our own AI images. One idea is activities such as a climbing wall and indoor gold course. Another idea is making use of it being like a greenhouse and growing plants and having shops and restaurants amongst them.



Recently we have read in the news that there is work that needs to be done on the structure of the Fort and that you are looking for ideas of how the ramparts could be utilised more. We have created this image of an outdoor entertainment space that includes a stage and seating area for performance.



“We would love to hear your thoughts and if we could work together to see how it could happen”



Closing Remarks

Whilst we have seen a few improvements in the right to play movement, such as the skatepark which has enabled the youth to have another safe, social space, we would now like to see more varied parks, like Coronation Park, which we all enjoy. We also believe that when considering building new parks and green spaces we should cater for all interests and hobbies. We would very much welcome the return of the ice rink, which always seemed to be very popular amongst the youth of Jersey and families.

We sincerely appreciate the upgraded facilities at Coronation Park (waterpark), and believe it truly benefits the younger children of Jersey, we also believe the location is extremely convenient.

We have also read the draft play strategy, which focuses on the meaning of play. We would like it to have some targets and ideas of things to do for play for teenagers. We hope that there will be some funding available to improve facilities and we look forward to seeing the finished product,

We discussed with the Children's Ministers and the director of education about opening up schools after hours to create places to play. We were very interested to hear about the 'Community Schools' initiative and we fully support this. We hope that there will be an update on this.



Questions to the Ministers

JYP members had the opportunity to ask questions related to their campaigns to the Ministers of the States Assembly.



Only 18% of young people in Jersey meet the recommended exercise levels of an hour a day. What are your plans to raise the physical activity levels of teenagers to reach your recommended requirements? Would you consider doing free entry for under 18's to sports centres?

Deputy Stephenson (Assistant Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture)

Thank you very much for that question and for the presentation as well. I think really excellent and I am always so impressed when we talk, when we hear from you and I would not expect anything less than a grilling from you all, absolutely. So, we know that obviously the figures that you quoted there, about 18 per cent of young people, and the figures are even lower when you look at certain groups as well. For example, females, those with a disability, certain ethnic groups and so on. So, the Government and Jersey Sport, which is its arm's-length organisation, are working towards a strategy aimed at tackling these levels, and there is some excellent work going on with projects from things like inclusion around Haute Vallée School that you may have come across. Even the youth work that goes on at the new skate park can all work together to make a difference. Because I think, as you have recognised, being active is about more than just necessarily playing a sport or going for a run.



It is about playing and about moving, and I think, as Emily said, maybe not just feeling like you can only sit on a park bench and not really do anything else. What I would say, though, is that I think if we are being really honest with ourselves as a Government, we are not doing it as well as we could be and should be. In a few weeks we will have a review of sport and the delivery landscape will be published. I think from there we are going to look at how we can move forward in a more positive and productive way. So I will absolutely take on board the things that you have raised now and that you will continue to do so, I am sure. Just on the point of the free entry for under-18s. A few weeks ago I did ask officers to look at this as something to start exploring and how it could work and what the implications of such a move might be. Obviously that is very early days and there are no guarantees. There are lots of things to take into consideration, but I think it would be a really fantastic move if we could offer teenagers free access, free active cards. You have your free bus passes, we can get on a free bus, go to a free gym or go to a free class, I think would be a great place to be in. Things like that do not happen overnight, but we are working on it.



There is a real lack of facilities in the east of the island. We have looked at the plans on the Inspiring Active Places and it has great plans for the field near Le Rocquier School. what is your update on this?

Deputy Stephenson

Thank you for the question, and technically I am perhaps straying into the territory of my colleagues at Education here, so do forgive me if I refer to them as well. But the upgrades to the sports facilities at Le Rocquier School are currently being planned in a staged process, and it will begin with plans for a new 3G pitch and improvements to the sports centre. There is then feasibility money earmarked in the Government Plan, which States Members will debate, and hopefully agree, in December to look at the longer-term project. The priority currently is the school and the school's requirements. A brand-new multiuse community and sports facility, which has been talked about in the past, but did come with a price tag of £71 million and would probably be even higher now – I will be very honest – is not affordable or deliverable in the current climate. We have got to be realistic, and we have got to work with that. So, we are reviewing the whole of the Inspiring Active Places Strategy that you will have read in that document so that it reflects the vision and priorities of this Government, but also really importantly the current economic and fiscal situation that we are in.



I would also add that I am very mindful of the balance of the facilities that you mention, and with regards to the east of the Island, that is something that is acknowledged, not just by me and others, but I think more widely across the Island. We recognise there are needs in the east. There was a recent States decision around F.B. Fields and agreeing to vary some covenants on the fields, and that will allow us now to start to develop a vision for how we may use and revitalise F.B. Fields going forward. I think, personally, that is a really exciting project, and I would love for you, and others like you with an interest in it, to feed into that process as it all starts to take shape.



(Supplementary Question)

Is there anything you are working on that we could help you with?

Deputy Stephenson

Thank you. I would say that the Play Strategy work that we are currently involved in, and I chair a Play Strategy Steering Group and Deputy Doublet is the vice-chair. It is in part inspired by your work and your decision to make play one of your priorities. There is a commitment in the Bridging Island Plan for a number of Ministers and departments to work together on such a strategy. I was not necessarily aware of that commitment when I first started talking about wanting to do it. What I was aware of was that the Youth Parliament had made it one of their priorities, and said it is really important to young people today. So what you are doing is making a difference, and I think take confidence from that. But please do continue to talk to us and highlight areas where you think improvements can be made, whether they are big or whether they are small. The Government and Parishes, and the third sector, we want to listen, do not give up if you do not feel like you get the answer immediately. It is one of the things I have learnt in the past year in this role, that if you do not get the answer the first time just keep asking and asking and asking again and see where you get to. So, yes, share your views and experiences.



As I say, please do feed into things like F.B. Fields. I would also mention here, the ice-skating rink. After our last conversation, I did take that away and we did do some work looking at whether we could get an ice rink together for Christmas this year. I do not, unfortunately, have good news for you on that front, but I just want to say we are listening, and we are trying and taking those things away, so do not give up with them. Thank you.



In our last report we identified that St Martin and St Clement do not have any public parks. Has there been any work to change this? The Government recently asked young people what they wanted to be put in the field by Coronation Park, when will young people get feedback on this and development start based on their suggestions? We were also asked what we think should happen at Les Quennevais and submitted ideas but haven't heard anything back. Is there an update on this?

Deputy Stephenson

Thank you for that question as well, and I absolutely cannot take any credit for this first bit that I am going to give you as an answer. But the Connétable of St. Martin is up in the public gallery and can absolutely take credit that, I believe, work to start creating the park at St. Martin is imminent. It has taken time to get through the planning process and the financial challenges as well, but work there is imminent, so the Connétable is up there. With regards to St. Clement, again, there may be a St. Clement Connétable around or we could ask about that. But what I would say is developing a revised vision for F.B. Fields can absolutely start to work towards creating a more public park space there as well. I would envisage that any discussion about what happens in the future of F.B. Fields would involve quite extensive public consultation, and of course, you are the public. That involves your views about what you would like to see there.



So, I would encourage you to feed into that as well. Coronation Park is not something I am directly involved in, but I have sought to find out, and the extra land that was allocated for the extension is now open for use. There is a temporary ramp from the existing park, and the Government will soon be applying for planning permission to make a formal opening to properly connect the 2 parts of the park soon. Work on future designs for the area is ongoing. I am afraid I am going to have to take away some homework and come back to you with an answer on Les Quennevais, so apologies.



Questions to the Ministers

What are your responses to these questions?

Very well responded. Thank you Lucy Stephenson for listening to our opinions and getting the ice skating rink back for winter 2023.

We understand the financial barrier to create a park in the east side of the island. We feel like it is an important element to focus on for young people to access children friendly areas growing up.

Did they answer them sufficiently?

Yes they did, informative feedback. We feel that we got the answers we were looking for.

Is there anything else you would like to know?

What's happening with the fort?

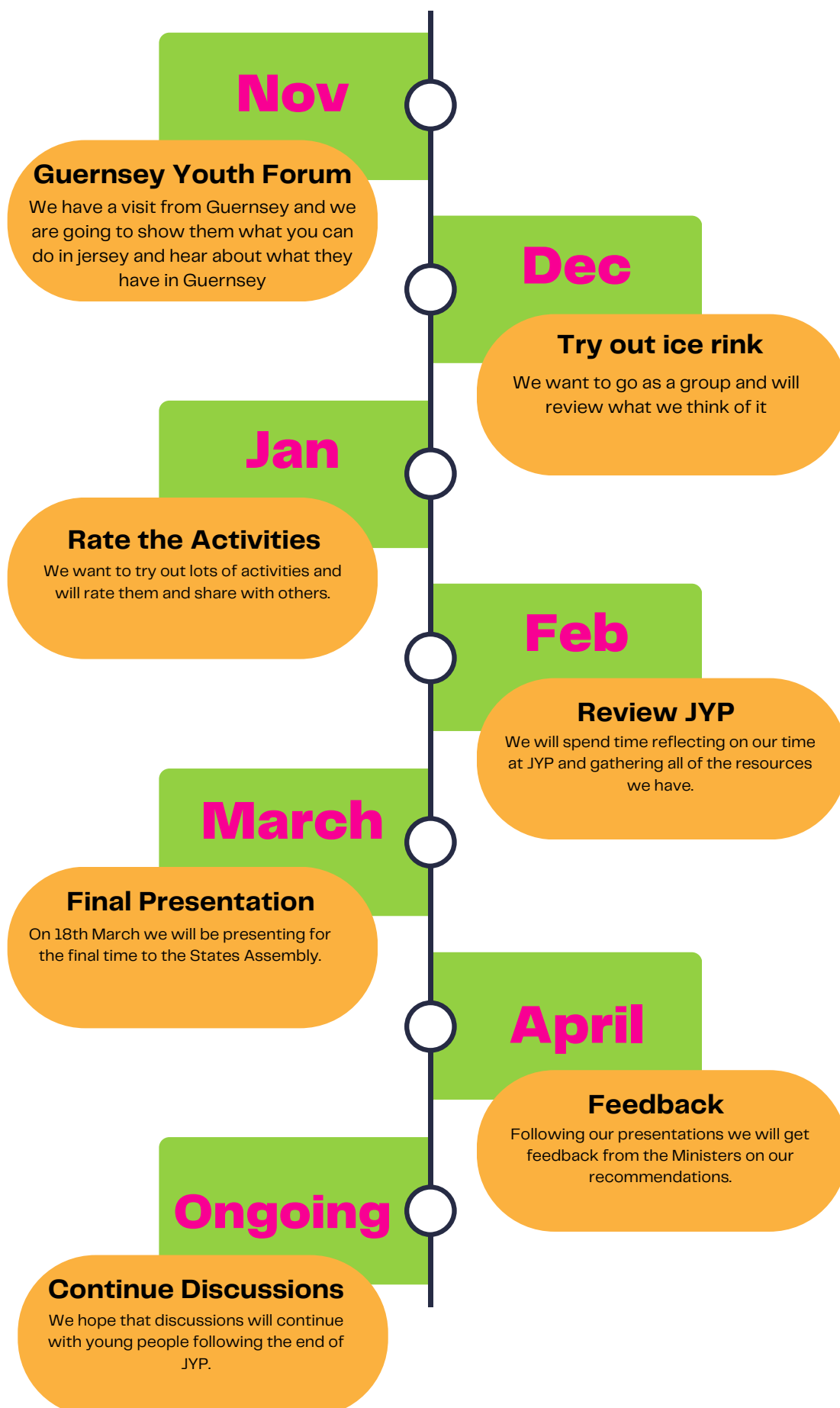
Are free gyms, buses and classes still on the agenda. Do you have a time frame of when this could be available?

Is there something we could do in the meantime while we wait for a park to be built?

Can we raise money to create things to do for the already existing areas?



Next 6 months





Conclusion

We would like to achieve many things like to add stuff to parks like zip lines or just making them bigger. While on the topic of parks we would like to make them more accessible by adding ramps and inclusive equipment like lie down swings. We'd like to work with the diversity and inclusion group to make this happen. We have passed on our ideas for the development of Les Quennevais Play Park and we hope our ideas come to life. And of course Fort Regent is still a main priority for us. We hope you will take our ideas into consideration. We also hope that you improve the play strategy to include a wider variety of things. Thank you for listening.



Pricing of Facilities

- Cheaper facilities and more accessible
- Introduce a free pass for young people to access sports facilities



Bus Routes

- Keep the £20 student bus pass
- Improve the service at weekends
- Better information about routes



Physical Education

- Play park in every parish
- Open up sports facilities for young people to use
- Keep school playgrounds and pitches open after school and evenings



Safer Environments

- Ensure that parks are kept safe and clean for all young people



References

Bridging Island Plan
[Government of Jersey](#)

Children & Young People's Survey
[Statistics Jersey: Children and Young People's Survey \(2021\)](#)

Communication Boards
[All Matters Neurodiverse Jersey](#)

JYP Right to Play Campaign Report November 2022
[JYP Website](#)

Swiss Cow Park
[Alpine Herdsman Playground](#)

Young people have their say in St Martin
[States Assembly Website](#)

Useful Links

Holistic Architecture
[What is it?](#)

Jersey Sport
[jerseysport.je](#)



Acknowledgements

Thank you to the following people for helping us with our campaign so far:

- ArtHouse Jersey
- Deputy Lucy Stephenson
- Nikki Holmes and Emily Jennings from the Government Play Strategy
- Will Lakeman

Thank
you!

CONTACT

Jersey Youth Parliament

1St James Centre, Le Breton Lane, St
Helier, Jersey, JE2 3QZ

www.jyp.je
hello@jyp.je
[@jsyyouthparliament](https://www.instagram.com/jsyyouthparliament)



Appendix

Parish Parks Table (as on September 2023)

Parish	Play Park	Park	Notes
St Brelade	✓	✓	2 play parks and 2 public parks
St Peter			No response from parish
St Mary	✓	✓	Play park & green space at community centre
St Ouen	✓	✓	Village green with play park
St John	✓	✗	Skatepark and play park
Trinity	✓	✓	1 play park and 2 public parks
St Lawrence	✓	✓	2 play parks and a public park
St Helier	✓	✓	5 play parks and 10 public parks
St Clement	✗	✗	No public parks
St Martin	✗	✓	Plans to build park on village green
St Saviour	✓	✓	2 public parks and a play park
Grouville	✓		No response from parish