

Save Garnaw Valley campaign

Catherine Polidano is certainly one to call a spade a spade when in the press conference held yesterday week by the Save Garnaw Valley lobby group she asked the authorities that figures, like architects, with a vested interest, either political or planning, should not be included in legislative bodies. To quote from the lobby group's Website: "The Development Planning Act provides for tough measures against illegal developers. A person who carries out any development without permission, or who allows it on his or her land, can be fined up to Lm50,000 in court.

"Continued disregard of the law could earn the developer an added fine of up to Lm50 per day. On top of that, an illegal developer who is served with an enforcement notice and who fails to obey it could be sentenced to prison for up to three years.

"The law also specifies that the developer should continue to be prosecuted even if he or she applies for, and obtains, a permit to cover the illegal development. As an alternative to court action, the law empowers MEPA to levy an on-the-spot fine of up to Lm1,000 on illegal developers"

Wishful thinking, isn't it? With over 6,000 pending enforcement notices, this would certainly cause a bulge in our islands' coffers.

A few minor clarifications on the Country Castle case. A large part of the Country Castle is covered by a permit, so only those parts that are illegal have been sealed off from the inside by MEPA. It was also confirmed by MEPA that there is soil beneath the debris that currently covers the parking area.

The owner has asked the Authority to give him some time and wait for the first rain to make it easier for him to rework the land to its original state.