

### 4.3 Road Races (Temporary Modification) Bill 2014 – Second Reading approved

The Hon. Member for Rushen (Mr Gawne) to move:

*That the Road Races (Temporary Modification) Bill 2014 be now read a second time.*

**The Speaker:** Mr Gawne to move the Second Reading.

**Mr Gawne:** Gura mie eu, Loayreyder.

I am pleased to be able to promote this short piece of legislation on behalf of the Department of Infrastructure.

The purpose of the Bill is to allow racing on the Billown Circuit on Sunday, 31st May 2015.

The reason for the request by the event organisers is due to the fact that Spring Bank Holiday Monday, the day normally used for the Pre-TT Classic, cannot be used on this occasion due to the late start of the TT Festival in 2015. Therefore, to enable enough officials and marshals to be available to run the event, the Sunday is the only day available, as most of the officials and marshals have work commitments on the Monday.

The only other options are for the organisers to abandon the event or to run it one week earlier. Staging of the event on a Sunday is, at present, prohibited by section 1(2) of the Road Races Act 1982. For the prohibition to be disapplied requires primary legislation. The provision will be in place for one day only and a sunset expiry clause has been included.

Having outlined the purpose of the Bill, I do hope that Hon. Members will give it their full support.

I could add that the event organisers have contacted the Vicar of Malew, who has confirmed that he has no problem with this event taking place. His church would be the only one actually cut off by the event. The event organisers have also spoken to the Fire Brigade, Bus Vannin, Castletown Town Commissioners, the Police and Ambulance Services, and they have also confirmed they have no issues with the proposal.

Of course, the other aspect to the Bill is that it merely *enables* the Department to make a road closure for racing purposes; it does not guarantee it. Before the Department would grant a road closure, assuming the Bill passes and receives Royal Assent, we would need to be satisfied that proper consultation had been undertaken with all affected parties. Full consideration would be given to any objections or suggestions for altering the Road Closure Order.

The fact that the club has already consulted many interested bodies about the proposed legislative change would not negate the need for full consultation on a Road Closure Order.

I hope that gives Members some degree of assurance, and I beg to move that the Road Races (Temporary Modification) Bill be read for a second time.

**The Speaker:** Hon. Member for Castletown.

**Mr Ronan:** I beg to second, Mr Speaker, and reserve my remarks.

**The Speaker:** I put the question that the Road Races (Temporary Modification) Bill be read for the second time. Those in favour, please say aye; against, no. The ayes have it. The ayes have it.