

## **ROADS AND HOUSING WOES**

OPPOSITION CANDIDATE Stephen Lashley wants Government to allocate substantial funds to improve narrow, bumpy, unpaved roads in a number of Christ Church villages.

Lashley, the Democratic Labour Party's (DLP) candidate for Christ Church West-Central, made an appeal for help for his "long-suffering" constituents yesterday, after the announcement of a planned step-up in road improvement projects across the island, with Cricket World Cup now out of the way.

Lashley made the call after touring his constituency and talking to a number of residents in Gall Hill, Silver Hill and Cane Vale with concerns about housing and roads.

"I think the Government would have to allocate significant resources for these roads because these roads not only need proper drainage," he said.

"You are going to have to put in facilities so that people can actually access and egress their areas."

He added: "The people in these areas deserve, by means of being taxpayers, to have some attention paid to the problems that are long-term."

Lashley said many of his constituents complained about roads that were problematic at the best of times and barely passable by vehicular or pedestrian traffic when it rained, because of thick mud and pools of water.

They also complained about the state of a number of National Housing Corporation (NHC) units being put up for sale, he reported.

"Many residents are very hesitant, understandably, to buy [the units], in the state that they're in," he said. "So I'm also calling for a proper programme of maintenance for the units; not only in Gall Hill, but also in Silver Hill."

Lashley said some constituents had complained that the NHC was slow in responding to calls to carry out repairs.

He said the DLP's plan was to donate the units to the people who had been living in them for significant periods, rather than sell them off. The party says that many of the occupants would have already paid,

through their rent, the true value of the units.

Lashley also complained that many people in his constituency found it difficult to get NHC houses to rent/buy, even though they had applied for them as many as 20 years in some cases, while people who had applied long after them had been successful. (TY)