

Council meeting 06.12.12 – report

‘Berga’

I am pleased to inform the Council that as from Tuesday 11th December we shall be having the services of a ‘Berga’ in the locality. Initially the clinic will function every Tuesday morning. Rev Fr Tony Agius has offered the use of the Church premises for the rendering of this service as well as the use of a telephone line. The council will be painting the waiting area. Furniture will be provided by the ministry of health. The Minister of Health will be in attendance for the opening at about 10.30

Mobile Post Office

Maltapost have accepted to offer the service of the mobile post office on a weekly basis. they are of the opinion that Ibrag Road is best suited for the service and they have asked us to reserve parking for their van in the parking area opposite Mercato (behind the bus stop).

Resurfacing of Triq il-Qasam

We have had negotiations with officials from the OPM and agreed with payment terms for the resurfacing of Triq il Qasam. As long as the contractor sticks to the price he had originally offered, the following payment terms were proposed:

During 2013, the council will pay € 200,000 and the Govt. will pay € 100,000

During 2014, the council will pay € 20,000 and the Govt. will pay € 50,000 during January.

The contractor has accepted these payment terms. we still need to receive an official 'go ahead' from OPM and we also need to confirm with architect Dieter Falzon that technical terms are in order.

Resurfacing of Triq il-Keffa, Triq it Tiben and Triq Marbat

Architect Dieter Falzon has prepared costings for the resurfacing of the above mentioned roads :

Triq it Tiben € 241,831 + € 91,800 for culverts, total € 333,631

Triq il Keffa € 252,353

Triq il Marbat € 98,876

It is obvious that the council does not afford to resurface any of these roads. It is also a fact that the state of these roads is atrocious.

I shall be presenting a request to OPM for state assistance

Security is Swieqi

Security in Swieqi remains an issue. Since we took office last April we made it a point to do our best and try to solve this long outstanding problem. I recognise and appreciate that other councils tried to solve the problem and I was aware that it would not be an easy task.

We met residents and listened to them. We organised meetings during which residents put forward their grievances directly to the assistant commissioner of police and the superintendent. We also made a request so that two policemen stationed in St Julians will be dedicated solely to Swieqi.

The police maintain that they did patrol the locality, however residents maintain that they have never seen them !!

We keep receiving complaints from Triq il-Keffa, Triq s-Sidra and Triq Santu Wistin/Lourdes Lane.

I have asked superintendent Stephen Gatt for an urgent meeting, however he is abroad for a week. I will follow up again next week.

The problem is that some residents are of the opinion that the council is not doing enough.

Traffic management

San Gwann Local Council and Swieqi local council have sent a joint letter to transport Malta asking this authority to consider widening the road. Transport Malta have acknowledged the letter and confirmed that they will be putting the matter up to the appropriate section.

With regards to our proposed traffic adjustments and the request by Transport Malta that we do our own traffic counts, I must admit that we are stuck. I have written to the Chairman of Transport Malta and to the Minister about this fact, however i have not received a reply as yet. I have also enquired about this measure and I have been informed that some officials from Transport Malta are making life difficult.

Nearly six months have passed since we proposed the traffic adjustments. This is too long a time and we need to take drastic action.

Traffic hazards next to corner Food Store

Architect Dieter Falzon has given me a plan as to how the traffic hazards near Corner Food Store could be decreased. Copy of the plan is attached. I consider this step as a start. However we also have to identify ways how we could reduce the speed at which cars drive as well as how to control the flow of traffic coming out of triq il-Keffa into

triq il-Qasam. I am of the opinion that we should consider the installation traffic lights.

Outdoor Gym

the tender for the purchase of the outdoor exercise machines is about to be issued. I have passed on the plans to architect Dieter Falzon who informed me that we have to apply to Kunsill Nazzjonali Persuni b'Disabilita. I told him to go ahead.

Swing for the disabled – Triq il-Hemel

The Executive secretary has to issue the tender for the purchase of a swing for the disabled. He is also to contact Kunsill Malti Persuni b'Disabilita so as to make sure that the site chosen for its installation is acceptable to them.

Sports

The setting up of the Basketball nursery has been delayed once again since I was approached by the nursery and senior female teams of Athleta Basketball Club who said that they are willing to bring the whole nursery and the senior female teams over to Swieqi. However in order to do this they need a hefty sponsorship ! we are also discussing with the ministry of sports the possibility of setting up a 'bubble' basketball court in Pembroke.

Development of the ex Forum Hotel

The developer has informed me that his application with MEPA is progressing well. I once again informed Mr Portelli that the council prefers that either part of the premises are offered for the use by locals or that the garden in Triq il-Hemel be developed. He confirmed that he informed MEPA about our request and he informed me that during mid January MEPA will be discussing the matter with the Local Council.

Pavement works – triq il-qasam

Pavement works in triq il-Qasam have resumed. The stretch close to the farm has been rebuilt. Also the stretch of the pavement which was blocking the entrance to a garage has been repaired and the sharp drop has been replaced by two steps. The owner of the garage has promised to build a removable 'bridge' which will remove the danger and inconvenience caused by these steps.

Immunisation

The whole program was performed successfully. Over 400 residents attended. The service was offered by Mrs Mary Dimech over a period of 8 days. I propose a compensation of €240 for the services rendered.

Dog bins

Skips

HSBC welcome to Swieqi signs.

Noel Muscat

06.12.12