

Agpte 23/10/14

## **Council Meeting -23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2014**

### **Report**

#### **Meetings held :**

#### **29/9 – Lifelong Learning – Johann Strauss School of Music**

Received a call from Ms Rosetta Debattista, a musician employed with the Ministry for Culture and the Arts, who is also a resident in our locality, and she informed me that as part of the Lifelong Learning programs, the ministry was prepared to start giving music lessons in the locality. since it is our Council's aim to set up a Regional Art and Culture Centre, I thought that this could be a good start.

Fr Tony Agius was prepared to offer space in the Church premises for the teaching of piano lessons. However the Department was not pleased with the space offered. I then offered the use of the 'Community Room' at the Civic Centre and the offer was immediately accepted. Piano lessons are being given every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The principal in charge, Ms Mary Ann Cauchi, has written to me to inform me that they are very happy with the service being given.

## **01/10 – Meeting re Christmas Festivities**

A meeting was held in the Council's premises so as to explore what activities could be organised during Christmas time. In attendance, Justin Fenech, Paul Fenech, Keith Muscat, Mauro Miceli, Christine, ??

Justin Fenech took note of the suggestions put forward.

## **06/10 – embellishment of Gnien F X Ebejer**

met architect Dieter Falzon re issuing of tender fro the embellishment of Gnien F X Ebejer. The architect had to prepare some amendments so as to reduce the total cost to the UIF funds available of € 100,000.

## **08/10 - meeting at the ministry for the Ageing and people with a disability proposal for a Sensory Garden at Gnien F X Ebejer**

The Ministry had launched a competition among Local Councils whereby Local Councils had to submit plans re projects being undertaken by the Local Council so as to make the locality more accessible for people with a disability. Our Council submitted a proposal which had been short listed and we were asked to make a presentation of our proposal. Architect Dieter Falzon, Hugh Zammit and myself

attended a meeting during which I explained our aim and our firm commitment to make our locality more accessible for people with a disability, thus improving their quality of life. Architect Dieter Falzon made a very good and detailed presentation of the project. We must now await for the outcome.

### **14/10 – new one way systems and zebra crossing**

Mr Alfred Curmi and myself met the contractor of signs and road markings so as to discuss the proposed traffic changes that have been approved by Transport Malta as well as the new zebra crossing in Swieqi Road.

Triq il-Hemel will become one way up from Triq is Sirk to Triq il-Gwielaq. Triq il-Ghajn will become one way in from triq il-Hemel to triq is Sejjiegh. These changes have allowed us to increase the parking spaces and reduce the dangers posed by cross road Hemel/Gwielaq/Ghajn.

The road markings are already in place and the road signs will be put up on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October. I have asked the contractor to put up a sign which notifies drivers of the changes that have been made, similar to the ones that had been put up when triq il-Migbed was turned into a two way.

I urge the Executive Secretary to obtain quotation for the installation of the zebra crossing in triq is Swieqi.

**17/10 and 18/10 – attended the seminar organised by the AKL at the Dolmen Hotel for Councillors and Executive Secretaries.**

**20/10 – meeting with the Council's accountants.**

Mr Alfred Curmi, Hugh Zammit and my self met the Council's accountants. During this meeting we analysed the Council's Financial Statement to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2014. In a nut shell, the accounts show that once the Council pays Architect Camilleri € 42,000 as per Court Order for useless plans that had been prepared by him over 10 years ago for the development of private dwellings owned by third parties on a plot of land owned by third parties, will put the Council in financial difficulty. As a result of which, the Council may have to give up the resurfacing of Triq Marbat.

I must stress that that Mr Camilleri should have presented the bill to whoever ordered the plans and not to the Local Council. The only losers in this case are the residents of Swieqi who are being denied of €42,000 out of their already very limited annual budget. This is a very sad time for Swieqi and I must say it is a big shame on whoever brought this useless hardship on the Locality. negotiations with the architect Paul Camilleri so as to obtain a discount are still going on. I hope to conclude the negotiations within a week.

## **New services within the Community**

### **Aerobics for overweight people**

On 3<sup>rd</sup> November, the Health Department will start organising Aerobics lessons for overweight people. The lessons will be given twice weekly in our Community Hall.

### **Post Office**

The tender for the Services of a Post Office is about to be issued.

## **Traffic Management**

### **Santa Katerina/Triq is Sebh/ Madliena Rd/Mekkek**

Transport Malta has accepted to implement the new one way system whereby entry into Swieqi from Naxxar Rd will be from Santa Katerina and Triq is Sebh. The narrow stretch of Madliena rd towards Mekkek will become one way. Exit from Swieqi will be from Triq il-Mekkek. These changes will be on an experimental basis. Last Saturday an official from Transport Malta met with our Mr Curmi, Mrs Abela and the Mayor of Gharghur so as to discuss the changes proposed.

## **Triq in Nofs, Triq il-Qawsalla**

We have applied to Transport Malta to have triq il-Qawsalla turned into a one way, entry from triq is Siegh and exit into Xiber. We have also applied to have the upper part of Triq in Nofs to be turned into a one way up ( from Kwarta to Lebrun) since this road is too narrow.

## **Road works**

### **Triq il-habba**

Triq il-Habba in Victoria Gardens was resurfaced last Saturday. What remains to be done in this road is the shifting of electrical wires from 3 poles.

### **Triq il-Kwarta/Stasija**

It is a pleasure to note that works on Triq il-Kwarta and Stasija have started, and therefore these roads will not remain a dead end. It is a pity to note, however, that TransportMalta did not inform the Local Council that the works were about to start, and so we could not inform the residents.

### **Triq it Talja**

We are informed that even triq it Talja is going to be surfaced. This is an offshoot from triq il-Kwartin.

## **Triq V Menville**

It must be noted that various signs have been put up in Triq V Menville. However we have not been able to obtain information as to what type of road works are going to be carried out.

## **Outstanding Road Works**

### **Triq il-Qasam – planters**

Works on Triq il-Qasam have not been completed. 4 planters have to be installed in the corner of Tiben, Fauxina, Imghazel x 2. The contractor is still waiting for the architect to give him the plans.

### **Triq L-Inginier and Triq Marbat**

The L A for the roads mentioned above have still not been issued, despite the various promises that they will be issued shortly !! This is very unfair particularly on the residents of Triq l-Inginier. WSC have let us down big time.

Works in the middle part of Triq Tal Franciz and Triq Giokondu are also scheduled.

## Triq it Terz – Dead End

To date we have not been successful in having this road made accessible. Works had started on the last remaining unbuilt plot which happens to be right in the middle of the blocked part. However it appears that works have stopped. I have been receiving various complaints from residents about this blockage. From what I gather there may be 'family' problems.

For various reasons it is imperative that this road be opened and made accessible, since it will improve the flow of traffic and decrease the overload from triq il-Keffa.

## Out Door Gym

I regret to inform that 8 months after its inauguration, the Council has not yet been paid for the cost of the outdoor Gym.

*Lumba - Lumba lessons are starting on  
30<sup>th</sup> October in the Council Hall.*

Noel Muscat

23.10.14