

Council meeting 09.08.12 – Report

Triq Josef Kalleja

The surfacing of Triq Josef Kalleja has been completed.

During the first two weeks works proceeded smoothly. However once the 4 course brick boundary wall was being built, hell was let loose. The residents were up in arms and simply did not want this wall to be built. I received numerous phone calls about the said boundary wall.

On 16/07/12 a spontaneous on site meeting was held in the evening with about 30 residents. They expressed their disappointment at the fact that the road was only 6 meters wide. I sent an e mail to Hon Gatt and an sms to perit David Vassallo and perit Lorraine Cassar about the problem.

Next morning the residents actually blocked the entrance to the road and stopped the contractor from proceeding with his works. The contractor packed up his machinery and left from site.

I arranged an urgent meeting with TM CEO, Mr Simon Grima and took a group of 5 residents to this meeting at TM offices in Santa Venera. The CEO and architects David Vassallo and Loraine Cassar explained in detail why the road is only 6m wide and the reason why the boundary wall was built that way.

The CEO stressed that if the contractor was not going to be allowed to proceed with his works, then he may not return on site for a very long time since he had several other jobs to carry out. TM was going to fork out the costs of the day's works that had been lost.

In the evening another on site meeting was held. This time even more residents attended. Councilors Mario Fava and Alex Chetcuti were present for the meeting. CEO Simon Grima also attended.

After a 2 hour meeting it was decided that that works would progress with the condition that alternatives be found to replace the brick wall. agreed also that TM will assist the council o submit a PC application for the widening of the road.

On 18/07/12 I met residents who live in Triq Josef Kalleja, next to the hill, and they expressed their concern at the fact that the area next to their houses was not going to be surfaced. Asked the architects about the possibility that they surface this area as well. architect cassar told me that she had to prepare the costings, and if it is found that she has funds left she would repair this area as well. we are still waiting for these costings.

Agreed with the waste collection contractor to start collecting the waste on a daily basis. Asked the executive secretary Hugh Zammit to make sure that the recycling waste collection service be introduced in Triq Josef Kalleja.

On 20/07/12 I met Jesmond of the road markings to agree on what road markings should be painted. He suggested that I involve TM. On 25/07/12 councillor Mr Curmi and myself met Mr Josie Brincat on site. A formal application was sent for the installation of double yellow lines on the left hand side of the road (next to the valley) and single yellow lines next to the garages. A 'no entry sign for residents only...' will be put up next to where the brick boundary wall starts. We are still awaiting a reply.

Swieqi day (Swieqi Fest)

Various meetings were held with councilors Justin Fenech, Mary Anne Abela, Carmen Said and Mario Fava about this event. Met Mrs Lucia Balzan, who runs Giggles nursery, and is prepared with the organization of the childrens' picnic.

Agreed to organize a Youth Fest on the Friday 7th September. A Sports Day on Saturday 8th September and family fest on Sunday 9th September.

Choice of venue to be decided. F X Ebejer garden or Trqi Il Qasam.

Details to be discussed during this meeting.

Civic centre

On 15/07/12 works on the project commenced. We only got to know that works on the project had started from residents and face book. On 27th July I attended a meeting at the ministry for rural affairs and development. Mr Mathieu Cilia and architect Ms Claire Vassallo explained the project , work schedules etc. they also informed me that the ministry will require that the council will pay for the finishes of the interior (the council premises). They will prepare the costs and will let us know.

They also want to know from the council how they plan to divide the area available (office space etc). I asked whether it would be possible to have the plan made in such a way as to allow flexibility and change of use. We also drew the attention of the foreman to make sure that the contractors cleaned up the road regularly.

Security

On 03/08/12 a meeting was held at the local council between a group of 6 residents representing triq santu wistin, triq is Swieqi, triq is sidra and triq il keffa and the assistant commissioner Vassallo, superintendent Stephen Gatt and another police official. Councilors Justin Fenech, Rene Rossignaud as well as executive secretary Hugh Zammit were in attendance.

Residents aired their frustrations and problems caused mainly by rowdy students, revelers from Paceville. Assistant Commissioner Zammit listed and explained. We asked Mr Zammit to set up a task force, and to provide patrols. ideally 2 policemen should be dedicated solely to Swieqi so that they will not get involved with Paceville problems.

Assist. Commissioner Zammit informed us that a follow meeting will be held after Santa Marija.

Triq il Gizimin/ Triq Joaef Kalleja – steps or road ?

On 30/07/12 I went to the lands department where I met Mr Raymond camilleri, director estate management, so as to obtain as much details as possible about the ownership of the land that joins triq il gizimin with triq josef kalleja.

Met architect Dieter Falzon and went on site so as to verify matters.

A meeting was held at the council premises with residents from triq josef Kalleja and triq il Gizimin so that the council listens to what the residents had to say.

It was evident that the majority of the residents were in favour that the pathway remains in the form of a road and not steps. Residents living close to the road expressed their concern about the danger that this road posed, about the level of water that flows down.

Architect Dieter Falzon to obtain and present technical details as to whether a road could actually be formed.

Cleanliness

I keep receiving regular reports and complaints about dog pooh from all over the locality. There also exists a problem with people who take out their garbage at the wrong time, especially during week ends. This is even more pronounced in certain areas, especially where foreigners reside. We need to

take immediate action. We must work to organize the 'neighborly spirit' campaign. Ideally this should be organized during end of September/beginning of October. We must also introduce bins in which where dog pooh may be disposed of. Therefore we need to identify where we plan to install them and how many are required.

Obtained copies of the plans and prepared a copy for each councilor. On 08/08/12 councillor Mary Anne Abela and my self met architect Vassallo on site.

Noel Muscat

Mayor