

## **LOCAL COUNCIL MEETING**

**26.06.14**

### **MEETINGS HELD**

**16<sup>th</sup> May** – Met Hon J Caruana and discussed the setting up of a Day Centre as well as services that could be offered by the local council to the ageing and people who suffer from some form of a disability.

I explained the progress that had been registered with the previous parliamentary secretary, Hon Franco Mercieca, and I emphasised the importance of setting up this Day Centre in the locality. I also offered, that if necessary, the Day Centre would offer services on a 'Regional Basis'.

She was very pleased about the fact that we introduced swings for children who suffer from some form of disability and also about the fact that we participated in the competition that was launched by her department for local councils with the aim to introduce projects/take measures to make the life of people who suffer from some form of a disability easier.

She informed me that she would be meeting Ms Maria Bernardette Psaila, who is the person in charge of the setting up of Day Centres and would revert back to us.

**26<sup>th</sup> May** – meeting at Water Services Corporation re signing of agreement for the resurfacing of Triq l-Inginier.

**26<sup>th</sup> May** – met architect John Papagiorcopolo, the architect of the Parish Church, so as to explain the alterations that were required by the Department and asked him to prepare a quotation.

**29<sup>th</sup> May** – attended an activity presided by the Hon S Buontempo at Birgu. During this activity funds due to us for the resurfacing of Triq il-Qasam ( € 100,000 ), and funds towards the purchase of books for our public library were distributed.

**2<sup>nd</sup> June** – meeting with Superintendent Simon Galea and Inspector Trevor Micallef. In attendance, Hugh Zammit, Justin Fenech and Alex Chetcuti. We discussed the ‘security’ issue and also the operation of the new Police Station in Swieqi. Hugh Zammit had to write to the Superintendent so as to formally ask for more police patrols in the locality and also to specify the times during which these patrols were required.

**3<sup>rd</sup> June** – met architect Dieter Falzon re tiling works in Triq il-Qasam and planned program of works.

**4<sup>th</sup> June** – met the managing director of Blues Ltd, re possibility of setting of ‘notice boards’ in Swieqi. Blues Ltd is the company that has installed the ‘notice boards’ in St Julians. He said that he was interested to instal at least three of them ( in triq L-Ibrag, triq il Qasam and triq is Swieqi ). However, he cannot do so before MEPA issue some new directive.

**5<sup>th</sup> June** – Met Ms Catherine Tabone , CEO in the Ministry for Culture, and discussed with her the possibility of setting up a regional Art and Culture Centre in Swieqi. She informed me about funds that me obtained for the organisation of cultural activities, ERDF and PPCD funds.

She also suggested that I meet Mr Marion Azzopardi who is in charge of the ‘Outreach Program’ – school of music and life long learning. I have tired to contact him, but I have not received a reply as yet.

I am awaiting appointments with Ms Isabella Camilleri Aquilina – re funds that may be obtained by local councils and Mr Karsten Xuereb, CEO of V18. The latter is a resident in our locality !

**6<sup>th</sup> June** – met Mr Joe Portelli, the developer of the ex Forum Hotel, and we discussed the embellishment of Triq I-Uqija. I informed him that I’d like the whole ‘Pjazza’ to be tiled. He liked the idea, but said that this may be too expensive. I insisted that this embellishment would help to increase the value of his own property. I shall be meeting with his architect on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July.

**9<sup>th</sup> June** – met James Harrison, a resident in Triq I-Uqija and I discussed with him the plans for the ‘Pjazza’. He liked that project and he had to inform the rest of the residents and shop owners about the project.

**11<sup>th</sup> June** – attended the annual presentation of the Swieqi Overseas Rugby Team

**19<sup>th</sup> June** – met members of the Old Cars Club and discussed the possibilty of organising an exhibition of old cars to coincide with the opening of triq il-Qasam. They are very interested, but they would prefer if this were to coincide with Swieqi Fest. they charge € 300 and want us to provide coffee and drinks for their staff. About 30 cars will participate. However they cannot guarantee attendance in the event that it rains.

## **Other matters :**

### **Road Works :**

**Triq il-Qasam** – completion of tiling works

**Triq I-Inginier** – resurfacing – WSC still to issue LA

**Triq Marbat** – resurfacing – works to start during September

**Triq tal Franciz, triq Habba** – chased for information re target dates when the roads are going to be resurfaced, however Ms Conti, the architect in charge, would not give me a definite date.

**Re Triq il-Keffa / triq it Tiben and triq il-Giebja.**– I have written to the Hon J Mizzi informing him about the urgency of resurfacing the above mentioned roads, particularly triq il-Keffa and I asked him so that the resurfacing of triq il-Keffa will be included in next year's budget. All that I received was a reply which said 'noted'. I will write to him and to the prime minister once again.

### **Triq Stasija corner with triq il-Kwarta –**

Architect Conti informed me that she will be working to have this section of the road opened.

### **Opening of Triq it Terz**

Still no definite reply re opening of this road. I plan to inform the media about this situation.

**Development within the locality** – the demand for further development in the locality is on the increase. We need to take a stand re development that is taking place in the locality. the present state of the roads and the problematic ‘exits’ from the locality are an issue that must be tackled forthwith. We are also going to face tremendous parking problems. We must also make sure that the upper part of Ibrag, Madliena and Victoria Gardens will be spared from such overdevelopment. I suggest that we employ ‘experts’ to guide us.

### **Day Centre – quotation + request.**

The quotation for works that need to be carried out in the Church Hall so that the Day Centre could be set up totalled € 36,000 ( incl vat ).

The Department informed me that the quote was too high for their budget, and asked us to inform them how much we were prepared to contribute.

In all honesty, when one considers that we are offering the premises, and also the Council’s limited funds, I do not think that it is fair that we should be asked to contribute financially. What’s more we have offered the ministry that if they want they could set up a ‘Regional Day Centre’.

As a sign of good will, I propose that we contribute € 5000. In my opinion savings can be made if the Department would not impose the very high standards that they are requesting, such that the neon light be changed because they should include a cover !

**Post Office** – terms seem to have been agreed upon. However Maltapost are insisting that the Dept of Lands change the contract so as to include that a section of the premises could be used by Maltapost. I am waiting for a reply from the Dept of Lands.

**Relocation of the Local Council to triq il-Keffa** – this should be done during the first week of July.

### **Feed Back re meeting with the Cabinet.**

We received feedback from the OPM re issues that I had brought up at the meeting held with the cabinet.

### **Forthcoming meetings**

3<sup>rd</sup> July – meeting with the new Administrative Committee of Madliena.

3<sup>rd</sup> July – Locality meeting with the Hon Manwel Mallia, minister for the Interior.

3<sup>rd</sup> July – Locality meeting re Triq il-Migbed and other matters.

4<sup>th</sup> July – meeting with residents in triq l-Uqija.

**Noel Muscat**

**26<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

