

Council Meeting – 20th March, 2014

Report of Meetings Held

21.02.14 –meeting with architect Chris Cachia from Transport Malta.

After our meeting with the Hon Joe Mizzi re works that need to be carried out in our locality, we were referred to architect Chris Cachia, who is in charge of roads within Transport Malta.

During my meeting with architect Cachia I enquired about the possibility of having triq il-Keffa, Triq it Tiben and triq il-Giebjja resurfaced.

I was informed that none of these roads were included in the list of roads that will be resurfaced this year and they will definitely no works will be carried out on any of these roads unless they get an instruction from above.

I also enquired about the possibility of having Triq it –Terz, triq Stasija and triq tal Franciz opened for regular traffic.

Re triq it Terz he suggested that we talk to MEPA and we have set the ball rolling. One of the owners has admitted owning the land, however one of the presumed owners is stating that he never bought the land ! so MEPA are now trying to identify who the owner of part of the land is.

Re triq Tal Franciz, (the section from triq il-Mizura till triq V Menville) he informed me that this road was included in the list of roads that have to be built this year. However he was not in a position to tell me when the works were going to be carried out.

Re triq Stasija, he said that I meet up with architects Conti and Cassar. I have asked them for a meeting on site.

Architect Cachia informed me that other roads that triq il-Fjorin and triq il-Habba in Victoria Gardens were scheduled to be surfaced.

22.02.14 – meeting at the Dolmen re changes to the Wardens system

Mrs MaryAnne Abela and myself attended a meeting during which the proposed changes to the Local Wardens were discussed. It may be interesting to note that when Mrs Abela suggested that a local warden would act both as a traffic warden and an eco warden, a suggestion with which I agreed 100%, it was shot down and the reason being that an eco warden had to be specialised in his job !

26.02.14 – meeting with the Hon Leo Brincat

I met Hon Leo Brincat so as to discuss the possibilities of receiving assistance from his department to embellish the locality, especially with the planting of trees.

I also asked him to help us change the brick boundary wall built by Transport Malta in triq Josef Kalleya with something that suits the place, such as a rubble wall or with metal bars similar to those on the St Julians front.

he promised to look into the possibility.

I also informed him about our 'Go Green Campaign', but he informed me that this was the responsibility of Hon K Mizzi.

26.02.14 – devolution of the Civic Centre

On this day the Devolution agreement was signed in the presence of Parliamentary Secretary, Hon Michael Farrugia and the keys were presented us . attached is a copy of the agreement.

The lease is for 15 years and the Annual rental charge is € 5155 payable in advance.

26.02.14 – Regional Art and Culture Centre - meeting with the Hon Jose Herrera (Michael Cohen).

On the day Hon Herrera was running late and so the meeting was held with Mr Michael Cohen. I presented the attached report and explained the importance of this Centre, especially with regards to V18 and the government's commitment towards increasing awareness and participation Art and Culture which apparently is very low especially amongst youngsters.

He immediately arranged a meeting with Ms Annabelle Attard, who is in charge of Culture, whom I met on the 4th of March. She said that the ministry was keen on having regional art and culture centres, and although they had not decided on which localities will host these centres she said that Swieqi may fit in in their plans. She was particularly keen on enticing young people/children so as to create awareness and interest for the V18 project. We spoke of various forms and set ups and agreed to launch this by Swieqi Fest.

26.02.14 – meeting with Joseph Portelli – developer of the Forum

I met the developer of the Forum so as to check re embellishment of triq l-uqija - time frames etc . he informed me that works may have to be delayed until they demolish Villa l-Orangerie which has been purchased by the developer and will be developed. This time works will have to be carried out from triq l-Uqija. I also enquired whether he was prepared to spend the money on some other project that the local council may have rather than on the embellishment of triq l-Uqija and he said that he would be willing to consider any proposal.

27.02.14 – day centre for the elderly - meeting with Ms Bernardette Marie Psaila

I met MS Bernardette Marie Psaila from the ministry of the elderly so as to show her the premises which we were proposing as being suitable to house the Day Centre.

I showed her the hall in the new Civic Centre, two the Church Halls and premises owned by the Church in Triq I-lbrag.

She ruled out the hall in the Civic Centre because the toilets are on the outside and this is not acceptable according to their standards.

She also ruled out the premises situated in Ibrag road and settled for the hall beneath the Church , the same one where the Local Council organises locality meetings.

On 14th March we met again in the presence of Department officials and the Parish Priest so as to see the works that were required and these are :

- 1) A kitchenette that will be enclosed and will be used solely by them
- 2) Office space
- 3) Toilets that are accessible for people who make use of wheelchairs.

None of the above are currently available, but the Parish Priest agreed to have them set up.

We now have to fix an appointment with officials from 'environmental Health and safety' so that they will confirm suitability of the premises etc. we are planning a meeting on Thursday 27th March.

28.02.14 – meeting at Transport Malta re Coast Road works

I attended a meeting during which details re works that are going to be carried out on the coast road were given. the road works will be starting from the area close to the road that leads to Madliena Cottage.

03.03.14 – applications within the locality - meeting with Architects Anton Valentino and Edgar Rossignaud

I met the above mentioned architects so as to see whether they would accept to scan through the ‘applications within the locality’, and they accepted.

04.03.14 – meeting with Anabelle Attard – from the ministry of Culture

06.03.14 – police station - meeting with the Assist Commissioner Ray Zammit

We met the Assistant Commissioner Ray Zammit and other police officials so as to show them the premises that have been allocated for the police station and to see what furniture was required.

He asked me whether I was aware that the station will not be opening for 24 hours and I replied that I haven’t got a clue since nobody from the ministry has officially contacted the Local Council about the opening of the Police Station.

On 7th March, Not Justin Fenech and myself presented a petition which organised by certain residents both on facebook and door to door to Minister Mallia’s secretary and to the Commissioner of Police. To date I am not informed whether we received an acknowledgement of the petition presented.

07.03.14 – triq l-ingenier - meeting at the Dept for Local Councils

Not Justin Fenech, Hugh Zammit and myself attended a meeting at the Department for Local Councils so as to confirm whether what we were negotiating with Water Services Corporation was correct and acceptable. We were referred to discuss this with the Department of contracts, whom we met on 10th March. They suggested that we confirm whether all was in order with the Auditor General. Hugh had to set up a meeting with the Auditor General.

10.03.14 – meeting with Joe Gafa from Maltapost

One of the services that should ideally be offered from the new Civic Centre is the postal service. At present our residents have the very limited service of a mobile post office on Friday mornings. Otherwise, residents have to travel to San Gwann or Paceville so as to avail themselves of this essential service. I met Mr Joe Gafa and another official from Maltapost so as to see what their requirements are.

He informed me that they wished to offer the whole range of services offered by them, and this includes the encashment of cheques, besides others. In order to offer this service they requested one of the rooms , preferably the one next to the police station. I asked him to put forward a proposal and what they would offer in return of us giving up this space. He promised that I would have their proposal by this week.

I personally feel that the best form of compensation would be, say the maintenance of the garden and the premises and a contribution towards Swieqi Fest. Another suggestion may be that they finance some of the additional furniture that we will need to install. However he informed me that they cannot afford to pay commercial rates since this was considered as a basic service that is required by the community.

I suggest that council decides whether it is prepared to offer so much space and what sort of compensation we should receive.

12.03.14 – meeting with Dr Raphael Fenech Adami

Not j Fenech, Hugh Zammit and myself met Dr Fenech Adami in the presence of Mr Blake and another individual who are claiming that the contractor caused damages to their property when carrying out the road works. It was being suggested that the Council goes to arbitration. However it appears that we cannot go to arbitration. Not Fenech will explain.

12.03.13 – press conference Athleta Pembroke re Swieqi Pembroke races on 06.04.14

14.03.14 – meeting at MEPA re U I F Funds for Swieqi Road

The agreement for the funds was signed. Works on triq il Qasam can now proceed. Probably these will continue after Easter so as not to disrupt the shops during this festive period.

20.03.14 – koferenza ta l-Ahbarijiet mill ministeru ghal li sport

To day the parliamentary secretary for sports organised a news conference in Gnien F X Ebejer so as to announce that it is the government's intention that every locality will be served with an outdoor gym.

Other matters ;

Play school in triq il-Kwarta

Social services – when can we launch it officially ? what is the possibility that Hon M L Coleiro Prca will launch the service ?

New council premises – allocation of space

Conference on Drugs to be organised during November.

Noel Muscat

20.03.4