

Local Council Meeting

28th April, 2014

Meetings held

21st & 22nd March – attended mayors' and vice mayors' meetings at the Dolmen hotel

25th March – Harga Anzjani – visited the National Aquarium in Qawra

A large number of people attended this activity.

27th March – Day Centre - meeting on site with Mr Mark Cutajar from the Dept of Health and Safety and Ms Maria Bernardette Psaila from the ministry for Active Ageing. Discussed the requirements for the setting up of the Day Centre, thus :

A dedicated/lockable kitchenette with specifications

A dedicated office

Suitable toilets for the handicapped and old people

The Parish Priest has acceded to the above requirements. We are now waiting for a meeting with the board.

Since that day, the Parliamentary secretary for Active Ageing, Hon Franco Mercieca, has resigned and the Hon Justyne Caruana has been appointed in his stead. I have already asked Hon Caruana for a meeting and am presently waiting for an appointment.

27th March – inauguration of the 'social services customer care' by the Hon Marie Louise Coleiro Preca

This important service is now being offered in our locality every Thursday from 9am to 1 pm.

27th March – meeting with the new superintendent of the St Julians Police Station, Simon Galea.

2nd April – met architect Manuel Zammit from Polidano Bros re reinstatement of triq Marbat

We discussed the possibility of having the road completed by the end of November and that 50% of the payment will be made during this year and the other 50% will be paid during 2015.

We have to obtain the necessary permits from the various entities, such as WSC, GO, Vodafone, Melita Cable etc. the Executive secretary to follow up.

3rd April – annual Locality Meeting

It was disappointing to note that a very few people turned up for this meeting.

4th April – meeting with Dieter Falzon and Mr Marc Stafrace from Nike International re advertising space under the tunnel. Agreed to change the format of the adverts and that part of the space would be allocated to the local council for its own advertising space.

7th April – Embellishment - met councillor Alex Chetcuti so as to identify areas in triq l-lbrag and Swieqi road which could be embellished with the planting of trees.

9th April – meeting with the Commissioner of Police and Assistant Commissioner Ray Zammit.

The issue of security in the locality was discussed as well as the recent slashing of tyres and damages caused to motor vehicles. It was confirmed that the police station will be opened on 28th April. We stressed the importance of having regular police patrols especially in particular areas, especially near the tunnel in Swieqi road, which is the main entrance into Swieqi for revellers returning from Paceville.

10th April – Council Meeting

Architect Dieter Falzon presented his report about level of works in Triq il-Qasam. He explained in detail the difficulties that were encountered due to the fact that no gutters were built and the different levels in the road. Great care was taken so that the rain water flows down the road without any of it entering in houses. In his opinion the quality of the works carried out were 90% satisfactory.

10th April – meeting on site with architect Conti from Transport Malta re Triq li Stasija.

We discussed the possibility of making triq li Stasija accessible and also triq il-Kwarta accessible to Triq li Stasija.

She confirmed that she will be working to make triq il-Kwarta accessible to the lower part of triq li Stasija which leads to triq il-Mizura.

Re accessibility of triq li Stasija she will be talking to her superiors.

Other matters

Puncturing of motor vehicle tyres –

On 22nd March a number of vehicles that were parked in Swieqi road (next to the tunnels) had their tyres punctured with what may have been a pen knife. Some vehicles even had two tyres punctured and this caused an extra hardship and expense to the poor owners.

A shopkeeper in the area told me that at least 10 vehicles were targeted.

Since then cars parked in triq il-Hemel were targeted on three different occasions and so were cars parked in Triq l-Gharbiel. on this occasion a man was seen on a CCTV camera puncturing two wheels of a vehicle.

This is a terrible moment for the locality. It must be noted that these people are armed. Moreover one must keep in mind that a few weeks ago a man was found wounded in triq Il Ghajn, and people in the area are feeling unsafe and very tense.

Action taken

The police were alerted and it must be noted that police patrols have increased and yesterday a couple of youths were arrested in triq il-Hemel.

Also, I noticed that triq il-Hemel and part of triq il-Ghajn were poorly lit. I asked the contractor to replace the lights which had a short 'arm' with others that had a longer arm/piston and instal more powerful lights. Within one day 4 of these lights were replaced and new installations were installed in triq il-Ghajn, in triq il-Gwielaq and in triq il-Hemel.

Civic Centre

A number of councillors and the council's staff members went on site so as to give their opinion as to how the space in the Civic Centre should be allocated.

Another meeting was held with the council's architect.

It was decided that the rooms on the right (by the side of the police station should be allocated as follows :

One room to be offered to Malta post and the combined room to be allocated for use by the community.

The rooms to the left will be allocated as follows :

The larger room on the inner side will be used as the mayor's room and the council's meeting room.

The room next to it will be allocated to the Executive secretary.

The other room will be used by the secretaries.

Due to the limited space available, It is planned that in the hall a reception area will be set up and it will serve as a work station for one or two of the secretaries.

We have asked an interior designer to plan this reception.

Quotations have been obtained for the installation of the telephone lines and internet, blinds, air conditioning and an 'anti porta' besides others.

It is planned that the local council will start operating from the new premises by 29th June 2014.

Negotiations with Malta Post

Maltapost are planning to offer a complete service and this will also include the encashment of Central Bank cheques.

I asked Maltapost to pay for the maintenance costs of the toilets and/or the public garden, however this was turned down since they maintained that their service was considered as a service to the community. We agreed that they finance the furnishing costs of the hall and they pay for the annual cleaning costs of the whole premises.

We were proposing to offer a three year agreement, however they are not prepared to sign such a short term agreement on account of the substantial initial costs that they will be incurring. They want to sign a ten year agreement. I suggest that after the third year we ask them to pay say a € 500 contribution towards the maintenance of the public toilets.

Tiling works in Triq il-Qasam

Some of the shops have asked us to postpone the tiling works till after Mothers' Day. It is important that the Executive secretary keeps MEPA informed about this delay.

Triq il-Wizna

There exists a possibility that we may have not utilised the full € 370,000 that were allocated to finance the works in triq il-Qasam. I have enquired whether the money saved could be used to upgrade the pavements in triq il-Wizna and carry out some patching in the road. The council's architect has to present a report.

Police Station

Today we inaugurated the official opening of the Swieqi Police Station. May I take this opportunity to heartily thank all those who worked so hard for this dream to come true, and this includes previous local councils and administrations.

It was interesting to hear the Hon Minister quote official statistics of the various crime rates in the locality. I personally never knew that these were so high. This proves how right we all were to insist on the importance of having a police station situated in the locality.

It was also heartening to hear the Hon Minister confirm that foot patrols will be intensified. I believe that we are on the right track to increase security in the locality.

The telephone no of the police station is 21378166

Noel Muscat

28.04.14