

This is my third report addressed to the Director of Local Government in respect to the Business Plan for the locality of Swieqi from 2010-2013. It would have been my last term but in the recent local government reform it was announced that some councils would have their term in office extended to another two years. Our next Council elections are in March 2012.

I am proud to state that sustainable achievement has been made since my last report 2009-2012. However, it would have not been possible to achieve such goals if it wasn't for the efforts of the office team who worked continuously to ensure that Swieqi Local Council continues to grow.

I am proud to report that in my third year in office the council financial situation is much healthier than the one I inherited in 2007, I can now report that the audit report 2009 indicates a surplus of 63221 Euros.

Although the plans and drawings for the recreational facilities which incorporate the new council administrative office were completed and submitted to Mepa, the application was refused since the building proposed in the plans was much larger than the existing footprint. However, the council is still continuing with the devolution of the tennis court and club house.

When such devolution is achieved there would start to be charges for tennis games. Such income would make good for all the maintenance required which would include paint, tennis nets etc.

The council is now concentrating on building the new Council Administrative offices in Triq il-Keffa. Drought plans and drawings had already been approved by the council.

The Central Government is working on the expropriation of the land, which sustain the public sector.

As I stated in my last year's report, most of the 23 roads reported for resurfacing were completed except Triq il-Habba in Victoria Gardens and Triq Josef Kalleja in the lower parts of Swieqi. No doubt that the council would continue the pressure with 'TM' Transport Malta to finish all the 23 roads.

With great pleasure I would like to report that an additional 22 roads in the locality of Madliena would be resurfaced by the end of this year. The whole project would cost no less than 980.000 Euros. The Central Government is making good for all funds.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Hon. Chris Said for all his work and efforts in persuading the Cabinet to make good for such high expenses.

The tender for such works had recently been awarded.

Coordination meetings with WSC, Enemalta Corporation, Go plc, Melita Cable and Vodafone are scheduled for Wednesday 14th April 2010.

This year the council had submitted 3 applications for the Central Government funds.

- a) Funding to make good for Police rounds during the late and early hours of the mornings. Those measures could bring to an end all noise caused by foreign students on their way back to their host families after spending a night entertainment in Paceville.
- b) Funds to make good for the cleaning of roads mainly in the lower parts of Swieqi. Foreign students and Maltese youths alike dispose of their take away packets and bags in our streets. Most of them do not even have the courtesy of using the litter bins provided in most street corners especially Swieqi Road.
- c) Funding for solar lighting in Triq l-Inginier, Madliena.
- d) Funding for the restoration of the Madliena Chapel, Fort Madliena and the Victoria Lines.

Like in my prior two years, this year also I organized cultural events and outings for the elderly. These include:

A visit to Selmun Palace followed by a Buffet breakfast at the Pergola Hotel
Tour to the Maritime Musuem
Visiting the Malta Experience Exhibition
Visiting the Heritage Gozo
Celebrating Mass at Tal-Providenza Siggiewi

Following the success achieved last year, this year I again will be organizing Skola Sajf. This event is attended by not less than 50 youths from five to eleven years. Preparations are already in hand.

Last year Swieqi council submitted an application for EU funds to host 40 citizens from Taormina. The application was approved and funds were allocated, however our Italian counterparts failed to continue with the project, stating that they are not able to make good for the 25% costs .

To summarize I am very pleased to submit such a positive report of progress in my capacity as Mayor of Swieqi. The report reflects our commitment to the residents and a genuine desire to become increasingly effective by a continuous pattern of development. The progress made allows the residents to feel well cared for. These successes are a team effort and the hard work and dedication of the councillors must be recognized and applauded. The councillors are supported very well by, a thoroughly well organized, dynamic and caring council staff, who works extremely hard to ensure outcomes are positive and that the views are listened to and taken note of. The council staff is led by a very experienced and responsible Executive Secretary who leads his team with flair and energy.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Director and all personnel at the Department of Local Government for all the help they have given to Swieqi Local Council during the year.

Noel Muscat
Mayor

Hugh Zammit
Executive Secretary

2.0 Mission Statement and Values

2.1 Mission Statement

To actively pursue and rigorously enforce the campaign to protect the environment from existing threats whilst restoring the residential character of the locality. An integral part of this mission is to consider and balance the needs of the residential and commercial communities.

2.2 Values

Impartially

The mission will be implemented with due attention to equality of rights which promote impartiality, honesty and fairness across the services provided.

Transparency

The Council will exercise transparency and a sense of justice in all administrations of funds and business.

Consciousness

The Council places improving the quality of life and preserving existing standards at the core of its philosophy.

Quality

Quality Control is embedded in The Council's practices and policies to safeguard and protect the standard of local life.

3.0 Objectives, Expected Results and Strategies

3.1 Objectives

BUILDING OF COUNCIL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

The Building of new Community Centre at Triq il-Keffa is now completed. The Council is awaiting devolution formalities; as soon as these are finalized, the Council's Administrative offices would be transferred to the new building. Discussions for new furniture and new IT equipment had already started and an Adhoc Committee would be formed.

NEW COUNCIL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES, COMMUNITY CENTRE AND RECREATIONAL CENTRE

The Council Administrative offices project together with the recreational facilities for the local community in Triq il-Keffa would also host a health centre (Berga), a sub-post office and a mini police station. These would serve as one-stop shop for our residents.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

All signs and markings in the locality are refurbished at least twice a year. Road signs are also changed frequently due to vandalism, mostly caused by foreign students and youngsters who visit Paceville especially during the weekends.

ENVIRONMENT

Enhancement of our locality by refurbishing, replanting and maintaining public gardens and valleys to an exemplary standard.

TREE PLANTING

The Council would encourage the planting of trees in the locality, however this is becoming a problem since the locality lacks open spaces and unfortunately no public land is available.

BUILDING OF BOUNDARY WALLS

The Council is always chasing after private land owners to build the 8 courses boundary wall surrounding the plot of land. However most times, owners do not cooperate in such case the Council would have no other option except to report such cases to the authority (MEPA).

3.3 INFRASTRUCTURE

An ongoing programme ensuring all locality roads have smooth surfaces without pot holes, promote safety and well being of the road users.

At present resurfacing works are carried out at Triq il-Qasam. Resurfacing works are planned to be completed by the end of March 2014. Triq il-Keffa and Triq it-Tiben are also planned by the Council to be resurfaced however since the expense of resurfacing is extremely high and the Council allocation would not permit for such enormous expenses; discussions with Central Government with regards to financial help would be inevitable.

EXPECTED RESULTS

Promotion of effective road safety reflected by reduction in resident's complaints while also saving financial resources on temporary road patching.

PUBLIC ORDER

It is a priority to continually strive to promote a safe and friendly locality for residents to enjoy.

STRATEGIES

- Regularly cooperation and coordination with the joint committee for public order and law enforcement and the police i.e. monthly meetings with The Inspector and Superintendent from St Julian's Police Station.
- Review provision of CCTV in Lower Swieqi to include considering installation near the four bin sites, Sant Andrea and F.X Ebejer public gardens. These security measures would decrease considerable the vandalism in our public gardens and recreational area.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Increased security to locality community.
- A decrease in vandalism as this remains an ongoing issue.