



Citta Notabile

Mdina Local Council
Administrative Report 2020

1.0 Introduction

This report is reviewing the period between 01st January 2020 and 31st December 2020 during the 8th legislature.

In the past year, one can notice with satisfaction that, notwithstanding our limitations and notwithstanding the pandemic of Covid-19 as from march onwards, we managed to reach a desired and acceptable standard of efficiency and effectiveness although we would have done much more if we had the right financial resources. As in previous years a large part of the Council's financial budget went to cover contracts concerning Cleansing, and Garden's upkeep.

The Council this year once again we had to face a number of vandal acts with the destruction of a equipment, street furniture mainly in the Playing field, and public gardens which is not always covered by our insurance policy.

Other types of maintenance interventions where also engaged this year, with a constant program for the upkeep of street furniture and light fittings, as well as preventive maintenance operation launched to maintain safety issues.

During the year, the Council continued insisting with the authorities regarding the lease of the area suitable to be developed into a car park. The Council has committed itself to convert the field situated near the Stazzjon into a parking area under the form of a private partnership project. Unfortunately, there was no progress in this regard and every day that passes, the problem in the area is on the rise every year with the increase in tourists visiting the city besides the frequent events being organized in Mdina. With regards to the Council premises, we are still waiting for a lease agreement from the Lands Department and is beyond our control.

Another commitment by the Council was for the refurbishing and installation of new equipment in the playground which is not only frequented by the residents but also by Tourists and public when visiting Mdina. The council had already applied with the Planning authority through the DPF funds for this project. However, the Ministry for Transport, Works and Capital Projects has intervned to help out the Council and will be undertaking these works. It is projected that works will cost around €250,000. In this regard



the council would like to thank the Hon. Minister Dr. Ian Borg who intervened personally for these works to be carried out by his Ministry.

The running of Casino Notabile after its restoration, has been entrusted to Mr. Clifford Galea as the Curator of the premises and during this year various cultural and philanthropic activities have been held. This year we took care to do the cleaning and maintenance of its interior and upgraded its facilities.

This year due to the Covid-19 restrictions no cultural and social activities were organised for the residents. Hopefully 2021 will be better for all of us.

The Community Policing was introduced in Mdina and has proved to be quite successful.

Other Ministries, Government Departments and Agencies continued to support and assist the Council, both in a number of funds granted and this year in addition to direct interventions, especially from the Restoration Directorate, the Ministry for Tourism has committed itself to upgrade Howard Gardens and also to do its utmost to restore Ghajn Hammam which although being a private property, we are obliged to do whatever it takes to take care of our historical monuments for the present and future generations.

In reviewing last year's working progress on behalf of the Council, we feel we've reached satisfactory results, and although our operation is limited by various factors, amongst which our biggest hurdle is no doubt financial restrictions, we were able to reach our projected targets. This was the result of full cooperation from all the stakeholders including our residents, of all Councillors, and all staff, whilst this encourages us to even work harder in the coming years.



Peter Sant Manduca

Mayor



2.0 The Council

2.1 Meetings

During this year 12 meetings were held with the following attendance:

Peter Sant Manduca – <i>Mayor</i>	12	Present	0	Excused	0	Absent
Joseph Debono – <i>Vice Mayor</i>	10	Present	2	Excused	0	Absent
Maryanne Sultana– <i>Councillor</i>	11	Present	1	Excused	0	Absent
Alfred Barbaro Sant - <i>Councillor</i>	12	Present	0	Excused	0	Absent
Camille Scerri – <i>Councillor</i>	9	Present	3	Excused	0	Absent
Mark Mallia - <i>Executive Secretary</i>	12	Present	0	Excused	0	Absent

One has to notice that the attendance by Residents to Council meetings was quite encouraging. During the meetings held apart from the standard items like correspondence and approval of payment schedules, the Council discussed matters concerning the day to day operation, adjudication of tenders and quotations, as well as other matters arising from time to time.

Apart from the official Council Meetings, we had various other meeting with Government departments, agencies and other authorities. Meetings as well were held with other private entities. The subjects for such meetings were various and mainly concerning future interventions or actions requested by the Council.

2.2 Set Up

As in previous Councils, no Council members were given a particular responsibility.

The office is administered by the Executive Secretary he is assisted by a clerk, Clare Camilleri working on reduced hours and Francesco Scicluna working on a Full-Time job since 1st June 2019, complete the



staff structure of the office. During this year the Vehicle Access Passes were once again issued with a computer-generated program which is connected to the Guards & Wardens who are the operators of the system

A number of Circulars were issued to communicate and inform the residents about various activities notices about Power cuts and Closing of roads, amongst others. This apart from the direct contact between our Residents and Councillors/ Council Staff, an opportunity that is unique for our Council.

2.3 Activities – routine interventions

The Council agreement with GreenPak to collect recyclable waste once weekly without any extra charge With regards to the collecting of glass the Council had to directly hire a private contractor as all recycling companies found that it is not financially viable to introduce it in Mdina. On a monthly basis the washing of the streets is done and emptying of litter bins is done on a daily basis. Non urban areas are cleaned not on a routine programme but when the need arises and eventually we made several intervention in rural areas like Triq Gharreqini with the removal of weeds and cleaning of the whole area. .

The upkeep of Howard Gardens includes the upkeep of the Gardens, including gardening and cleansing, as well the watering of plant pots in the city. This year through LESA funding the Council installed 33 new bins in the garden

The Cleansing Department this year assumed again the management of the Public Convenience in Howard Gardens.

The street light system is continuously maintained throughout the year, after there was a change in the contractors, not only to overcome wear and tear, but also to fix vandalism acts, especially in Howard Gardens. Eventually an exercise was taken to consolidate the bullet lights to avoid easy vandalism.



2.4 Activities – Infrastructure

During the year the Council continued to maintain the Playing Field with various interventions. The Restoration Directorate continued with its routine intervention where this year restoration works were carried out on Torre dello Standardo and Kappella ta' San Niklaw.

Other small interventions included (i) the change of broken slabs from the paved street flooring(ii) the installation of traffic signs and new traffic mirrors; (iii) restoration on rubble walls in the various areas outside the walls; (vi) the cleansing of the valley bed next to olive gardens. Many of the interventions were possible with the assistance of the government departments.

2.5. Projects

The Council had instructed its architect to submit a report with studies on the restoration of the pavement inside Mdina which was submitted to Infrastructure Malta for their consideration and intervention. We have been informed that in 2021 these works will be carried out.

The Council has submitted an application for the introduction of two electric cars to give a service to the residents in need of this service in conjunction with the Rabat Local Council regarding the Permanent Sustainable Mobility Measure Competition. This application was approved and this new service will be introduced in 2021.

The Council is doing its utmost with the responsible authorities for the introduction of an electric charging pillar inside Mdina. However, this might not be easy to introduce as the actual ones being installed around Malta are of a commercial nature.


3.0 Conclusion

This report cannot be complete if one does not mention as well the numerous interventions done by different central Government Departments. The Police force who put our mind at rest with their preventive



measures and their daily traffic management. In this regard the Council expects a better service from LESA who seem to do their best to help out but cannot cope with the demand and supply of their service. Last but not least the service providers who rendered a good service in keeping our city clean and in good shape.

In reviewing the past year operations of the Council, one can realise that throughout the year the Council is involved in different interventions intended to improve the environment and the infrastructure of the city, in work intended to improve our service to the community, in events that highlights the glorious history of our city, and communicate with all stakeholders to assure that these interventions are beneficial to all the community and visitors of our City, We sincerely hope that this is not only our perception.



Mark Mallia
Executive Secretary

