



Hal Balzan Local Council

Annual Administrative Report

2010

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1.0 Mayor's Introduction

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The report covers the year between 1st January 2010 and the 31st December 2010.

Dr. J. Zammit Montebello
Mayor

2.0 The Council

2.1 The Council**Position****Meeting Participation**

Dr. John Zammit Montebello	88%
Mr. Joseph M. Galea	100%
Dr. Trevor DeGiorgio	94%
Mr. John Cassar	100%
Mr. Guido Borg	100%

The Council held 16 meetings during the financial year ending 31st December 2010. Meetings were held regularly, as far as possible three weeks apart on a Wednesday at 5.30pm.

Employees:

Ms Maria Zammit	Executive Secretary
Ms Mariella Casha	Part-time Clerk started work on the 18 th August 2008.
Ms. Doriette Farrugia	Part-time Clerk started work on the 18 th May 2009.

Seconded workers:

Mr. Charles Azzopardi	Labourer (from the Department of Works and Construction)
Mr. Joseph Desira	Titular (from IPSL) was transferred to another council on the 10 th January 2008 but came back with this council on the 31 st January 2008.
Mr. Hector Camilleri	Slinger (from IPSL) started on the 10 th January 2008.
Mr. Adam Dalli	Slinger (from IPSL) started on the 21 st January 2008.
Mr. Mario Cini	From Community Work Scheme started work with us on 18 th October 2009.

3.0 Financial and Operations review

3.1 Financial Review

Income:

The government allocation for the year amounted to €245,892 whilst other government income amounted to €5413.

The LES Joint Committee did not distribute any funds this year.

General income included income from the organization of aerobic classes amounting to €597, €111.84 from donations received in connection with the distribution of the book Hal Balzan, income from temporary permits amounted to €2305.61, €1.18 was received in bank interest, €42650 was received from outings for the elderly, €20 being a deposit withheld for damage caused to public property and income from the printing of notices amounted to €1553.64. We expect an income of €1,000 from WSC regarding road re-instatement works. The remainder €13.98 is income from other sources.

Expenditure:

Operations and Maintenance

Due to the increase given to Members of Parliament, the Mayor's honoraria was increased by €2559.79 which was not budget for. Social security contributions were €86 more than the sum budgeted. During 2010 we paid efficiency bonuses for the previous year amounting to € which were not budgeted for during 2010.

Utilities shows an overspending of €1826.71 as water and electricity incurred higher costs and we underbudgeted for telephone charges. €50 budgeted for fuel other than transport was not utilised.

Materials and supplies shows an overspending of €503.24.

Repair and Upkeep was under-spent by €40,639.56 as large area patching in Three Churches Street and resurfacing of Dr. Zammit Street was not carried out due to delays by the contractor in providing the performance bond and estimates. Road markings were carried out by our workers so we saved funds. Transport Malta failed to issue the necessary permits so we did not spend the money on traffic signs.

Office Services shows an under-spending of €564.97 on stationery, subscriptions and other items but we spent more on postage.

National/International Membership shows an under-spending of €900.

Information Services show an underspending of €974.25 as the newsletter was only issued once.

Hire of transport amounting to €48 was not budgeted for.

Contractual Services show an underspending of €983.96 on insurance, €61.49 on bank charges, €12,220.31 on waste disposal, €49,277.28 on refuse collection, €1369.19 on bulky refuse, €2235.53 on bins on wheels as these are being emptied by Greenpak free of charge. We overspent by €818 on cleaning service during the village feast as the contract was expired and thus the contractor was not liable to clean free of charge and we spent €700 more on street sweeping as the contract allocated in October was more expensive. We underspent €443.16 on streetlighting. We did not budget for cash delivery services for the amount of €228.30.

Professional Services were overspent by €1859.95 because our application for ERDF funding to upgrade church square was costlier than we budgeted as the application and designs had to be altered. We paid €177.64 for the use of Evolution for accounting purposes. We also overspent by €493 on other services which include the wi-fi at the office and email accounts for all councillors which we had not budget for.

Community and Hospitality was underspent by €1732.75. Conference expenses were underspent by €300. Jiem il-Gonna acquired its own funding from a special scheme funded by the Central Government. The aerobic classes we organized paid for themselves.

There were no incidental expenses, thus the budgeted €250 was not spent.

3.0 Financial and Operations review

Capital Expenditure

Office furniture was underspent by €282. Urban Improvement Funds were not utilised due to our pending ERDF application for funding. Urban Improvement was overspent by €863.26 because we purchased doggie litter bins which were not budgeted for. Equipment was overspent by €550 because we purchased pc monitors which were not budgeted for..

3.2 Operations Review

Major Projects

Wesgha Professur Guze Aquilina Project

The Council requested the Joint Office through the Local Council's Department to devolve the land at Wesgħa Prof. Guze' Aquilina to the Council for the construction, through a public/private partnership of a sports/recreational complex with underground parking and the construction of maisonettes including the Local Council Administrative building. The outline development permit was approved by MEPA in May 2004.

In the negotiations with Joint Office for the devolution of the land it was agreed that the Council acquire a full development permit from MEPA with regards to the administrative building before the land is devolved to council so that the permit would bind the contractor winning the tender to build according to permit conditions.

The Council submitted a full development application to MEPA but when we were requested to acquire the no objection from the owner of the land, with regards to the extension of the project onto the road, it was discovered that the road had never been expropriated by the government and that the land still belonged to the Good Shepherd Sisters because it had never been included in the list of property which was handed over to the Government by the Archbishop's Curia. The Sisters now expect financial compensation from the government but the government indicated that no such compensation will be given and thus we had to revise the plans and downsize the project. Eventually the Good Shepherd Sisters filed a petition to the courts to request compensation for the land. At the time of writing a court case is ongoing.

When considering what options were available to it the Council considered requesting the area to be rezoned for terraced houses and the option to retain the villa area but to request a change in area coverage proportions. The Council decided to withdraw the full development application which was submitted and to request a Planning Control permit from MEPA for a change in area coverage proportions so as to maximise land use and make the project more viable to be carried out under the public/private partnership scheme. We were in the process of submitting such an application when due to lack of the necessary funds and an order by the Local Government Department to refrain from spending monies on capital projects until the playing field project was totally paid for, we had to withdraw the application and no further work progressed on the matter. At the moment of writing the project is at a standstill awaiting the court decision.

In the meantime a meeting was held between the Mayor, Councillor Dr. T. Degiorgio and the Parliamentary Secretary responsible for the Joint Office whereat it was decided that the government issue a letter of intent to the local council so that we can move forward. We are awaiting developments at the time of writing.

Urban Improvement Funds – Embellishment of Church Square area

The Council requested EU funding through the ERDF to finance the reconstruction of pavements of church square, Pjazza Bertu Fenech, Dun Spir Sammut Street and Guze Bonnici Street. We are still awaiting for a reply with regards to our application.

Last year it was reported that the pavement on the residents' side of the square has a minor flooding problem, the complaint was that water is coming out of the pavement during heavy rainfall. The council investigated the complaint and it resulted that the problem was an internal house connection fault at the address of the complainant.

When funding is approved and the work commences in Church Square, we will be in a position to solve the water flow problem from the street as we intend to lower the road level so that the resulting pavement will be of adequate height to prevent water riding the pavement as was promised to residents in the past.

The Council intends to submit another application to MEPA through it's Urban Improvement Funds for implementation of part of this project if we acquire funding through the ERDF.

Urban Improvement Funds – Balzan Valley with Main Street Junction

The Council requested MEPA's aid to finance through its Urban Improvement Scheme, the reconstruction of pavements in Balzan Valley at the junction with Main Street. Hal Balzan Local Council will be getting up to €10482.18 under this scheme. The DNO permit for the works with reference number 1224/08 was issued in 2009.

MEPA's EIPP Fund

Hal Balzan Local Council submitted an application for funding under MEPA's EIPP Fund to restore the statue of St. Mary. We are still awaiting feedback on our application. In spite of various reminders sent to MEPA we still have not received a reply.

Storm water Relief System

The Central Government is working on plans to construct an underground tunnel between Mosta and Msida to relief the streets from flood waters. We were involved by MEPA in the consultation process, the EIA study for the National Flood Relief Project in December 2009. The pilot holes for testing the rock were carried out during 2010. We have not yet been informed when the works on the implementation of the project will commence.

During 2010 the Council started collecting a petition from residents so as to present it to the Central Government so as to emphasize the need for the work to start as soon as possible.

Installation of Gazebo in Ġnien Joseph A. Stellini

During 2010 the Council applied for special funds for the placing of a gazebo within the playing field. Funds amounting to €6000 were allocated by the Central Government for this project and the rest of the funding was paid out of council funds. The gazebo who's lighting source is a photovoltaic panel was an initiative taken by the council to complete the playing field project and also to encourage the use of renewable energy in the locality.

Other ProjectsCircular Bus Route within the region of the Birkirkara Health Centre

The Council's proposal to have a circular bus route to the Birkirkara Health Centre was approved by the Minister and it was expected to commence the service in April 2004.

A circular bus route service between Dingli and Paceville which includes the University of Malta was commenced during 2004. Route bus 580 which passes through Balzan Valley and route bus 810 which passes through Bir Bal Street on their way to Mater Dei Hospital, both can take residents to the Birkirkara Health Centre until a more favourable agreement can be reached, perhaps with the passing of the Public Transport Act which is in the pipeline.

The Council continued to insist that the circular bus route be implemented and the Public Transport Reform which is to come into effect on the 3rd July 2011 is expected to provide this service. The new public transport is expected to provide smaller vehicles and direct routes to other localities including the Birkirkara Health Centre.

Financial and Operations Review (cont.)

Influenza Vaccination

During the past year the Council, for the sixth year running, provided the influenza vaccine to elderly residents so as to make the service available in the locality.

Balzan residents over the age of 55 years were given the possibility of receiving the influenza vaccine from the Balzan Clinic on the initiative of the local council. The vaccine was administered to 124 persons during 2010 and to 177 persons during 2009, this means a decrease of 30% over the previous year. The vaccine was administered after arrangements were made with the Primary Health Centre. The vaccines were given during November 2010. These were provided free of charge.

Idmejda Street Pavement and Other pavements

The work on the storm water system for Idmejda Street was not be carried out as the agreement reached with the Good Shepherd Convent Sisters for the disposal of water was not confirmed by the new administration of the Good Shepherd Sisters. The Good Shepherd Nuns were requesting that arrangements are made to capture the water from Idmejda Street and channel it so as not to flood their property but this was not even done when Bir Bal Street was resurfaced during 2007. A meeting was held with the Roads Department representatives way back in 2005 but have not received any feedback since. We were expecting their proposals before commencing the work on the pavements in idmejda Street. A meeting was held with representatives of Transport Malta this week (18th January 2011) when it was proposed that a soak-away be constructed to drain the water that floods Idmejda Street. We hope to receive a reply in the near future.

Financial and Operations Review (cont.)

ServicesNew lamps approved and installed

No new lamps were installed during 2010 but three applications were submitted for new lamps in Good Shepherd Avenue, Kannizzata Street and Dun Gwann Zammit Hammet Street. The Council has received Enemalta approval for the placing of the lamps in Dun Gwann Zammit Hammet Street and Good Shepherd Avenue but not for the one in Kannizzata Street. Problems arose over the fixing of the lamp to house facades in Dun Gwann Zammit Hammet Street so no progress has been made so far as Enemalta does not wish to issue the permit for the opposite side of the road, where we already have residents who have accepted the fixing of the lamp on their façade.

Street lamps were delegated to Council and the council started replacing street lamps in the month of February 2004 after an isolator was installed on each street lamp. During the 9-months of 2010, 28 lamps were reported as needing repairs, of these we had to replace the complete lantern of 3 of these.

New Traffic Signs and Road Markings

During the previous year (2008/9) the Council applied for a number of new signs but due to an enforcement against the Council at the time, many pending requests for permits are still awaited. During 2010 a number of permits were issued with regards to those applications. During 2010 the Council requested a number of permits but due to the backlog of applications we have not been given a reply to a number of our requests, some are still pending from 2008/2009.

The requests submitted by council which are still pending are a request to turn St. Gabriel Street into a one-way street, a request to place No Entry Coaches Sign at B. Bontadini Street, the extension of un/loading during school hours for St. Francis Street, the painting of a number of 1m double yellow lines next to garage doors to facilitate access and a request for the extension of pavement at Old Railway Road in front of St. Claire.

ADT/Transport Malta installed pelican lights after a request from the Council soon after the completion of resurfacing of Bir Bal Street, a few metres from the junction with St. Francis Street. We still receive complaints though, that the number of road accidents in the area merit that traffic lights be installed instead of the pelican lights as drivers exiting St. Francis Street have difficulty in crossing as drivers do not give way. ADT has still not approved the installation of traffic lights at this junction. The Council is still following up on the request because resident's complaints are persistent.

New requests sent during 2010 which were approved were for traffic management area near Big Ben parking in Balzan Valley, 1m double yellow lines in various streets to facilitate access to garages, un/loading bay in Mithna Street, road hump in Three Churches Street, No Entry Heavy Vehicles for Dr. Zammit Street, the painting of parking bays in Mithna street, children crossing sign for Idmejda Street, a box junction for De Paule Avenue, chevrons for Bir Bal Street. Pending requests that were sent during 2010 were for slow down sign and noo waiting signs for Antonio Bosio Street, parking of light vehicles for part of Zekkuk Street, the placing of a priority sign at Guze Bonnici Street c/w Wigi Ebejet Street, the placing of a road hump in St. Valentine Street, an un/loading parking bay at Balzan Valley c/w Three Churches Street and Parking Bay for persons with special needs in Idmejda Street between St. Valentine Street and the paved area near Melita Gardens Restaurant.

Council workers are refreshing road markings and repairing traffic signs when necessary so as to minimise the cost of works.

Re-instatement of Pavements

The deterioration of pavements along the years because of works carried out and normal wear and tear, make it necessary to re-instate a number of pavements during next year if funds are available. During this year our workers maintained small sections of pavements in various parts of the locality but no pavements were totally reconstructed.

It is the council's policy to request a €232.94 deposit on application for the granting of a permit for a crane to work in the locality, to cover any damage that might be caused. The deposit is only refunded if public property is left in it's

Financial and Operations Review (cont.)

original condition. We had to retain the deposit on a number of sites during the past year for damage caused to the road and pavement.

Re-instatement of Roads

Workers seconded to the local council from the Central Government carried out patching works of an urgent nature so as to prevent damage to vehicles or an accident.

Hal Balzan Local Council decided to resurface Dr. Zammit Street between Balzan Valley and Pope Pius XII Street and part of Three Churches Street near the Chapels. The work was not carried out as the contractor did not provide a performance bond in time, then again, did not provide an estimate in time so the work will have to be carried out during the next financial year.

A number of streets need to be resurfaced urgently as their state has deteriorated considerably over the past years, these are: Dun Spir Sammut Street, Old Railway Road, Sir Antonio Micallef Street, Wesgħa Prof. G. Aquilina, Balzan Valley and Gherusija Street.

The state of some roads, will in the very near future entail their being taken up. The council does not have the necessary funds to re-instate roads through its budget. If the budget allocation is not increased or the central government does not intervene to re-instate them, we will soon be in a situation where the work will become an urgent matter and funds not available to carry them out. This especially so for streets whose road base is made up of soil. We strongly suspect this is so for Sir Antonio Micallef Street, Gulju Cauchi Street, Gherusija Street, Dun Gwann Zammit Hammet Street, Sigismondo Dimech Street, Balaguer Street, Wesgħa Prof. G. Aquilina, Kannizzata Street, Old Railway Road, Karenza Street, Paguni Street, Dr. Zammit Street, Guzeppi Frendo Street, Qarçilla Street and Patri Guze Delia Street.

Bulky Refuse Collection

During the year 2010 we had 1101 calls for the collection of bulky refuse whereas during 2009 we had 936 calls. One must remember that reporting for 2009 covered 9 months only, so on average this means that during 2010 the calls decreased by 12% over the previous year.

Cleaning and Other Services

The contract for street sweeping was allocated to Innovative Projects Ltd in October 2010. The new contractor is using a small sweeping machine so we expect cleanliness to improve.

The tender for domestic refuse collection was issued twice this year as the first time only one tenderer submitted his tender and since he did not provide a list of employees registered with ETC, the tender was considered invalid. The present contract with Mr. Michael Mizzi was extended under the same conditions until a decision is taken.

Since 1st October 2010 collection of garden waste is being carried out on Saturdays and domestic waste is not being collected on Tuesdays. The Council took this initiative (the first on the island), to collect garden (green) waste so as to minimize the amount of refuse deposited at Mgħatab since tipping fees for domestic refuse have risen to €20 / tonne (VAT excluded).

The Council allocated the door-to-door waste separation collection which is being carried out on Tuesdays and the collection from the two bring-in-sites to Greenpak. Greenpak carried out a door-to-door education campaign and distributed free green bags to all households in May and again distributed free green bags in August 2010 to encourage waste separation. 28 tonnes of separated waste were collected from bring-in-sites for the period January – June 2010. We do have a problem with dumping around the bring-in-sites especially the one in Wesgħa Prof. Aquilina. Enforcement by green wardens was requested to solve this persistent problem.

Financial and Operations Review (cont.)

Office ServicesLES Payments Collected at the Local Council office

During 2010 the Council received 1121 payments with regards to fines collected, of these 252 were for Balzan, whilst 869 were for other local councils.

During 2009 the Council received 994 payments with regards to fines collected, of these 225 were for Balzan, whilst 769 were for other local councils. The fines collected during 2010 were 12% more than the previous year.

Trading Licences

During the year 2010, 19 licences were renewed at the local council office whilst during 2009 no licences were renewed.

Government Rent Payments

During the year 2010 we received 25 payments with regards to government rents whilst during the 9-month period of 2009, we received 22 payments. This means an average decrease of 15%.

Permits for the placing of Skips and Bins-on-wheels

During 2010 the Council issued 77 permits for the placing of skips and bins-on-wheels whereas during 2009 93 permits were issued. This is a decrease of 17% over the previous year.

Permits for the placing of Cranes, and other activities

During 2010, 440 temporary permits were issued whereas during 2009, 768 permits were issued. This is a decrease of 43% over the previous year..

Local Enforcement by Wardens

During the year ending 31st December 2010 a total of 1632 tickets were issued, whilst during the previous year, 541 tickets were issued.

The type of tickets issued during 2010 were: 10 (0.6%) for cranes/deposited material/skips without the necessary permit from the local council, 85 (4.2%) - "licences not properly fixed on vehicles/not affixed to windscreen or for vehicles without the necessary licence or drove a motor vehicle without the registration plates or licence not renewed", 642 (31.8%) were for "Contravening Traffic Signs/carriageway markings/Traffic Lights", 156 (7.7%) "parking on pavements", 96 (4.8%) for "parking within 4 metres of a pedestrian crossing", 18 (0.9%) for "parking within 12m of a bus stop", 127 (6.3%) tickets for "parking within 5m from a corner", 73 (3.6%) for "not wearing a seatbelt", 190 (9.4%) for "illegal parking", 55 (2.7%) for "driving while wearing headphones/mobile phones", 393 (19.5%) for "parking in a reserved area without a permit/without disc", 56 (2.8%) for "failing to slow down and signal direction, or turning corner, or approaching crossroads", 22 (1.1%) for "failing to abide any order, indication or signal given or made by a Police or Local Warden, 15 (0.7%) for "threw down, dropped, left, spilled or deposited litter in a public place", 6 for "dog fouling/no doggie bag", 1 for "safety of children", 12 (0.6%) for "not keeping vehicle in a good state of repair/clean", 15 for "obstructing free passage/garage" and 44 (2.2%) for various other contraventions.

The type of tickets issued during the 9 months of 2009 were: 13 (0.02%) cranes without the necessary permit, 21 (0.38%) - "licences not properly fixed on vehicles/not affixed to windscreen or for vehicles without the necessary licence or drove a motor vehicle without the registration plates", 213 (36.6%) were for "Contravening Traffic Signs and carriageway markings", 67 (12.4%) "parking on pavements", 32 (5.9%) for "parking within 4 metres of a pedestrian crossing", 4 (0.7%) for "parking within 12m of a bus stop", 25 (0.46%) tickets for "parking within 5m from a corner", 2

Financial and Operations Review (cont.)

(0.004%) for “not wearing a seatbelt”, 84 (15.5%) for “illegal parking”, 11 (0.02%) for “driving while wearing headphones/mobile phones”, 10 (0.02%) for “parking in a reserved area without a permit”, 2 (0.004%) for “Parking a non permitted vehicle for a period exceeding the prescribed period”, 9 (0.17%) for “failing to show on demand by the Police, or the local warden or any other person authorised by the Local Council, the permit, licence or authorisation issued by the Local Council, 3 for “threw down, dropped, left, spilled or deposited litter in a public place”, 1 for “depositing or leaving refuse for collection In a public place at a time not reasonably approximate to collection time” 2

“left in place skip/bin on wheels after expiry date of authorization. The remainder, 23 (0.43%) were for other contraventions. 12 tickets were issued for “not carrying a doggy bag”, 1 for “not removing faeces”.

Customer Care

The number of complaints received during 2010 amounted to 859. Of these complaints 638 fell within the responsibility of the local council whilst 221 fell within the responsibility of the Central Government or some Authority. 73 complaints of the 859 complaints received during 2010 were still pending on the 31st December 2010, this means that 92% of the complaints were settled in the same year.

During the 9-month period of 2009 complaints received amounted to 625. This means that during 2010 complaints increased on average by 15% over the previous year. 549 of the complaints received during the 9-month period of 2009, that is, 88% were closed by the 31st December 2009.

Kartanzjan

During 2010, 103 kartanzjan documents were distributed whereas during 2009, 110 kartanzjan documents were distributed.

E-Government Services

The Council is providing an internet service to residents, free of charge during normal office hours at the local council office. Residents can access the Council website to obtain information about services being provided and information for students, photos etc about the locality and projects that were carried out. The service was upgraded to Wi-Fi and seating facilities provided. No records of usage is kept for the year under review but the service is not being used, probably because residents have internet service in the home.

During 2011 a Wi-Fi point is to be installed in the village square. Arrangement have already been made for it's installation but we are awaiting the Commissioner of Police's permission to use the electricity supply at the Balzan Police Station.

Supply of application forms

The Council provides a number of forms for the provision of services by a number of parastatal entities, the number of forms being provided is always increasing as the number of entities having websites is also increasing and forms are being downloaded from these sites. Unfortunately government departments and authorities, in their majority, do not supply us with pre-printed forms, and this is causing a drain on our resources, both human and financial.

The Council Newsletter

During the year 2010 the council newsletter was not published whilst during the previous 9 month period of 2009, the council distributed it's newsletter to residents once. The newsletter, an 8-page leaflet gives information on works and activities carried out by the council so to keep residents informed of what the Council is doing. The newsletter was bilingual - English and Maltese. We hope the newsletter will be published regularly during 2011.

Financial and Operations Review (cont.)

Other MattersIssue of Tenders for works and services

During the year 2010 the Council had to once again extend the duration of the contract for the "Collection and Separation at Source of Household and Commercial Waste" until the tender, which had to be issued twice, is allocated hopefully in early 2011.

Training

Staff attended training courses with regards to the new Local Enforcement System but unfortunately though more than nine months have passed, the system has not been launched and we can only use some of its reporting functions at the moment.

Initiative by residents

The Council appreciates the initiative being taken by residents who live in Wesgħa Ġiġi Gauci area who annually decorate the roundabout and streets of the area during the Christmas Season. The Council finances the use of electricity and the installation of the electricity meter as its contribution to the initiative.

Enforcement Issues

Enforcement Issues are as usual by nature controversial. Residents want more enforcement especially with regards to parking in the vicinity of Stella Maris School during school hours, dog fouling, enforcement of the 20minute parking signs and dumping around the bring-in-sites. Whilst the first is easily enforceable the second is proving to be a bit tricky even now that green wardens are in our streets. Dumping around the bring-in-site of Wesgħa Prof. Guze' Aquilina is still a big problem.

Those who demand enforcement think we are doing little whilst those on whom enforcement is done wish to be educated instead.

Organization of Courses in the locality

Hal Balzan Local Council organized aerobic classes during 2010 and applications amounted to 42. During 2009 applications for aerobic classes amounted to 35. This shows an increase of 20% over the previous year.

to organize a course in Management for residents and non-residents of the locality with a target of doing the course if there were at least 25 applications. There were only 9 applications and the council decided not to organize the course as it wouldn't cover expenses involved.

Applications for Special Funding by the Central Government

The Central Government issued several calls for applications to help local councils with fund particular projects through such schemes. Hal Balzan Local Council applied for such funding to organize Aerobic Classes under the "Sports Initiative Scheme Application 2010" we were given funds to organize 3 sessions of aerobic classes and 1 pilates class but due to the fact that the funds were given late in the year, we were unable to find enough applicants to organize 1 session.

The council applied for funding for road maintenance under the "Special Funding for Localities with Special Needs" but no funds were allocated. We also submitted an application for the installation of a photovoltaic system for the local council office and for the preparation of a SEAP report under the "alternative energy scheme". We are still awaiting a reply at the time of writing.

Financial and Operations Review (cont.)

We applied for funding to restore the statue of St. Mary and for the placing of a gazebo in the playing field, a pedestal in Church Square and two bus shelters under the "Special projects in small localities scheme", funds were given for the resoration of the statue and the gazebo but not the flag pedestal and the bus shelters. The installation of the gazebo was completed by mid January 2011.

The Council also applied for funds under the ERDF to upgrade Church Square and neighbours streets but we are still awaiting a reply.

We applied for funds to organized for the second time "Jiem il-Gonna" under the "Events Initiates 2011" and were informed that funding has been approved. The last application at the time of writing was for funding under the "Sports Initiatives Scheme 2011" and we are still awaiting a reply.

Hal Balzan Local Council received funding amounting to €1000 for the restoration of the statue of St. Mary, €6000 for the installation of a gazebo and €523.20 to organize aerobic classes/pilates classes under the "Sports Initiative Scheme Application" during 2010. We were also informed that €2000 has been approved to organize "Jiem il-Gonna 2011".

Subcommittee Meetings

The sub-committee "Forum Lokalita" met four times but did not present any minutes of the meetings. "Forum Lokalita" is working on the organization of "Jiem il-Gonna" activity which is to be held on the 2nd April 2011. The only other subcommittee that met during 2010 was the Manutenzjoni u Attivitajiet subcommittee that met three times and presented minutes to two of the meeting that were held. The sub-committee for the Elderly met informally to plan the outings for the elderly. The other sub-committees of the Council did not meet.

Meetings and Activities

Outings for the Elderly

A number of outings for the elderly were organized to help the elderly socialise.

The outings consisted of visits to a number of places amongst them a buffet breakfasts in Bugibba, Sliema and Mellieha, the Golden Harvest Factory, Għadira, Villa Francia in Lija, the Lija Beveder, Gozo, Zabbar, Qrendi and Palazzo dei Baroni in Wardija.

Every outing starts with mass either in Balzan or at the place being visited. The outings are very popular with the elderly who look forward them with enthusiasm.

Jiem il-Gonna

Celebrated during the weekend of 19th and 20th March 2010 at Aurora Hall, Ġien Joseph A. Stellini and the residence of the Spanish Ambassador in Hal Balzan. This activity spread over two days was an initiative taken after special funding was acquired from the Central Government. A Thanksgiving Mass was held in the gardens of the Spanish Ambassador's residence in Sisner Street where over 200 people attended, this was followed by drinks sponsored by Her Excellency the Ambassador of Spain. An exhibition was organized at Aurora Hall with participants from the Lija / Balzan / Iklin Primary School and Stella Maris School. ITS also gave a cooking demonstration using citrus products in view of the title of the activity. The St. Gabriel Band Club and the Parish Choir took part in the Thanksgiving Mass whilst the Marija Annunzjata Band Club gave a concert in Ġnien Joseph A. Stellini. Local youths exhibited their musical talents in Ġnien Joseph A. Stellini. This first-time event was very successful and we hope to repeat and increase the success achieved during 2011 when the second edition of the activity is to take place.

Jum Hal Balzan

Celebrated during the weekend of Sunday, 11th April 2010. The celebrations consisted of a Thanksgiving Mass held at the Balzan Parish church after the raising of the Balzan flag in the square. The presentation of the honour Ġieħ Hal Balzan to George Borgm the President of Balzan Youths Football Club was the main highlight of this day of commemoration.

Lejla Balzanija

Celebrated on the 9th July the activity included a variety program with the main attractions being Joe Cutajar. Other guests were Graziella Vella, Jonathan Vella, Daniel Muscat, Melanie, Jasmine Camilleri, Jennifer, Elvis Animator, Glynnies Bonnici, Gilbert and Mariona, Shania Caruana and Shamiani Curmi Grech. Food and drinks were available, together with bingo always make this evening a success.

Locality meeting

The Locality meeting, open to Balzan residents, will be held at Aurora Hall on the 2nd December 2010. During the meeting the Council will give feedback about the work carried out during the year and the proposals for the following year.

Reporting to Council

Annual Administrative Report for the 9-month period 2009

The Annual Administrative Report for the 9-month period 2009 (1st April 2009 up to 31st December 2009) was presented to Council on 21st April 2010.

The Annual Financial Report for the year ending 31st December 2010 was presented and approved by council during the meeting held on the 17th January 2011.

The Budget

The Budget for the year 2010 was presented to council on the 27th January 2010.

The Budget for the year 2011 was presented to council on the 15th December 2010 and approved during the meeting held on the 17th January 2011..

The Business Plan 2010-2012 and Business Plan 2011-2013

The Business Plan 2010-2012 was presented to council on the 27th January 2010.

The Businesss Plan 2011-2013 was presented and approved during the meeting held on the 17th Janaury 2011.

Quarterly Financial Reports

The Third Quarterly Report for the year 2009 was presented to Council on the 27th January 2010. The Financial Report for the year 1st Arpil 2009 up to 31st December 2009 was presented to Council on the 27th January 2010 but adjustments were made so the report was presented to Council once again on the 18th February 2010.

The Quarterly Financial Reports for 2010 were presented to Council on the 21st April 2010 for the 1st Quarterly Report, on the 21st July 2010 for the 2nd Quarterly Report and on the 3rd November 2010 for the 3rd Quarterly Report. The Fourth Quarterly Report will be presenting in 2011.

4.0 Income and Expenditure Variations**4.1 Consolidated Income and Expenditure Variations Schedule**

ACCT NO.	DESCRIPTION	2010 ACTUAL €	2010 BUDGET €	2009 ACTUAL €	BUDGET VAR €	ACTUAL VAR €
2	Income					
0000	Government	253,166.60	268,851.30	186855.75	-15684.70	66310.85
0020	Bye-laws	1,994.12	500.00	7019.49	1494.12	-5025.37
0090	Investment	1.18	0.00	1.68	1.18	-0.50
0100	General	4,441.45	3,930.00	3486.80	511.45	954.65
	TOTAL	259,603.35	273,281.30	197363.72	-13677.95	62239.63
1	Expenditure					
1000	Personal emoluments	60,741.88	55,640.49	46180.99	-5101.39	-14560.89
2000	Operations and maintenance	149,509.34	211,733.98	126964.34	62224.64	-22545.00
7000	Capital Expenditure	15,287.39	23,460.30	71579.05	8172.91	56291.66
	TOTAL	225,538.61	290,834.77	244724.38	65296.16	19185.77
	Balance	34,064.74	(17,553.47)	-47360.66	51618.21	43053.86

Notes: Bracketed figures signify unfavourable balances.

*Income and Expenditure Variations (cont.)***4.2 Detailed Income Variations Schedule**

ACCT NO.	DESCRIPTION	2010 ACTUAL €	2010 BUDGET €	2009 ACTUAL €	BUDGET VAR €	ACTUAL VAR €
2	Income					
0000	Government					
0001	Annual	245,892.00	245,891.00	186,855.75	1.00	59036.25
0002	Supplementary	1,861.60	0.00	0.00	1861.60	1861.60
0003	Special needs	0.00	0.00	0.00		
0004	Public/government delegations	0.00	22,960.30	0.00	-22960.30	
0015	Other	5,413.00		0.00	5413.00	5413.00
		253166.60	268851.30	186855.75	-15684.70	66310.85
0020	Bye-Laws					
0021	Community Services	426.50		0.00	426.50	426.50
0036	Contravention of bye-laws	0.00		3499.80		-3499.80
0056	Sponsorships	0.00		210.00		-210.00
0066	General	1,567.62	500.00	3,309.69	1067.62	-1742.07
		1994.12	500.00	7019.49	1494.12	-5025.37
0090	Investment					
0091	Bank interest	1.18		1.68	1.18	-0.50
0096	Government securities			0.00		
		1.18	0.00	1.68	1.18	-0.50
0100	General					
0110	Donations	708.84	350.00	153.88	358.84	554.96
0120	Contributions	3,732.61	3,580.00	3332.92	152.61	399.69
		4441.45	3930.00	3486.80	511.45	954.65
TOTAL		259603.35	273281.30	197363.72	-13677.95	62239.63

Notes: Bracketed figures signify unfavourable balances.

*Income and Expenditure Variations (contd.)***4.3 Detailed Expenditure Variations Schedule**

ACCT NO.	DESCRIPTION	2010 ACTUAL €	2010 BUDGET €	2009 ACTUAL €	BUDGET VAR €	ACTUAL VAR €
1	Expenditure					
1000	Personal Emoluments					
1100	Mayor's allowance	8,923.79	6,364.00	5,779.80	-2559.79	-3143.99
1200	Employee salaries and wages	36,812.64	36,149.81	36,415.89	-662.83	-396.75
1300	Bonuses	2,669.10	540.40	0.00	-2128.70	-2669.10
1400	Income supplements	2,463.34	242.24	305.15	-2221.10	-2158.19
1500	Social Security contributions	3,295.24	3,209.16	3,306.03	-86.08	10.79
1600	Allowances	6400.00	9,134.88	374.12	2734.88	-6025.88
1700	Overtime	177.77		0.00	-177.77	-177.77
		60,741.88	55,640.49	46180.99	-5101.39	-14560.89
2000	Operations and maintenance					
2100	Utilities	9,518.75	7,560.00	10,071.63	-1958.75	552.88
2200	Materials and supplies	2,903.27	2,400.00	4,026.84	-503.27	1123.57
2300	Repair and upkeep	2,928.78	45,487.00	10,914.00	42558.22	7985.22
2400	Rent	1,486.65	1,488.00	1,486.65	1.35	
2500	National / International membership	200.00	900.00	160.00	700.00	-40.00
2600	Office services	1,787.03	2,350.00	2,348.60	562.97	561.57
2700	Transport	47.82	0.00	28.94	-47.82	-18.88
2800	Travel	0.00	0.00	0.00		
2900	Information services	993.28	1,800.00	1422.59	806.72	429.31
3000	Contractual services	110675.26	139,561.04	82918.98	28885.78	-27756.28
3100	Professional services	12268.67	5,667.94	8087.61	-6600.73	-4181.06
3200	Training	0.00	0.00	0.00		
3300	Community and hospitality	6699.83	4,270.00	4559.60	-2429.83	-2140.23
3400	Incidental expenses	0.00	250.00	938.90	250.00	938.90
3600	Local Enforcement Expenses	0.00		0.00		
3600	Depreciation			0.00		
		149,509.34	211,733.98	126,964.34	62224.64	-22545.00
7000	Capital Expenditure					
7001	Acquisition of property	0.00		0.00		
7100	Construction	7999.83		55448.31	-7999.83	47448.48
7200	Improvements	1146.07	500.00	16130.74	-646.07	14984.67
7300	Equipment	551.00	0.00	0.00	-551.00	-551.00
7500	Special programmes	5590.49	22,960.30	0.00	17369.81	-5590.49
		15,287.39	23,460.30	71,579.05	8172.91	56291.66
TOTAL		225,538.61	290,834.77	244724.38	65296.16	19185.77

Notes: Bracketed figures signify unfavourable balances.

6.0 Bank Reconciliation Statement**6.1 Current Account HSBC**

	€
Bank statement balance	185,384.05
Plus deposits made by 31/12/10 not appearing on bank statement	232.94
Less withdrawals made but not appearing on bank statement	6,383.91
Net bank balance	179,233.08

6.2 Current Account HSBC Special Needs

	€
Bank statement balance	0.00
Plus deposits made by 31/12/10 not appearing on bank statement	
Less unrepresented cheques	
Net bank balance	0.00

	€
Bank book balance as of	179,227.02
Plus interest paid by 31/12/10	
Less charges paid by 31/12/10	
Net bank book balance	179,227.02

	€
Bank book balance as of	0.00
Plus interest paid by 31/12/10	
Less charges paid by 31/12/10	
Net bank book balance	0.00

6.3 Savings Account Bank of Valletta

	€
Bank statement balance	89.54
Plus deposits made by 31/12/10 not appearing on bank statement	
Less withdrawals made but not appearing on bank statement	
Net bank balance	89.52

6.4 Current Account Bank of Valletta

	€
Bank statement balance	46.79
Plus deposits made by 31/12/10 not appearing on bank statement	
Less unrepresented cheques/deposits not included in bank book	
Net bank balance	46.79

	€
Bank book balance as of	89.52
Plus interest paid by 31/12/10	
Less charges paid by 31/12/10	
Net bank book balance	89.52

	€
Bank book balance as of	46.79
Plus interest paid by 31/12/10	
Less charges paid by 31/12/10	
Net bank book balance	46.79

Ms. Maria Zammit
Executive Secretary

7.0 Local Government Auditors Report plus Financial Statements

7.1 Local Government Auditors Report