



**Mdina Local Council**  
**Administrative Report 2012**

## **1.0 Introduction**

This report is reviewing the period between 01st January 2012 and 31st December 2012 which is almost end of term for the 6<sup>th</sup> Council.

In the past year, one can notice with satisfaction that, notwithstanding our limitations, 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 Gardens upkeep. During this year tenders had to be re-issued for the Upkeep of the Parks and Gardens after the contract had to be terminated after a number of default notices, penalising the contractor. The Public Convenience contract was also terminated for the same reasons. A new contract was signed for the cleansing of roads as well as for the collection of domestic waste .Both contracts expired on 2012.

During this year we continued with our programme to add decorative Lanterns around Mdina and changed dangerous ones. The Council this year had to face a number of vandal acts with the destruction of a recently mounted climbing frame installed in the Playing field, which is now being substituted after difficult negotiations with our insurance to acquire compensation. We also suffered more damage, struck by lightning in a storm last September which destroyed our flag pole, CCTV system control panel and some Office equipment. All damage due to storm was re-installed and a claim to our insurance was submitted. Unfortunately a number of palm trees had to be chopped off in Howard gardens due to an infestation of the Red waiver bug.

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.

Funds were obtained to purchase and construct gun undercarriages and to restore two old cannons to later be placed in a prominent area to enhance Mdina.

The Council made an agreement with the department of Lands to lease, an area suitable to be developed into an eco/car park. The Council announced a call of expression of interest with the idea for future tendering for the project with the concept of a Private Public Partnership. This will ease the problem of parking around Mdina and help the Council with the financing of this project.

Cultural and social activities played an important part in our agenda; this included our medieval festival, Medieval Mdina which every year is increasing its popularity, an Annual BBQ for residence at the end of summer which is well attended and also the Christmas lunch. A number of cultural outings have also been organized for our Residents. This year a number of Concerts were also planned in collaboration with various entities. At the end of this year, Dr J. Zarb Adami and Mr P. Mizzi were nominated and awarded the prize of “Gieh l-Imdina” for their contributions to our City Mdina and Malta. Furthermore for the second consecutive year Mdina was the also the setting for the Mdina Grand Prix and in which was another success.

Government Departments and Agencies continued to support and assist the Council, both in a number of funds granted and in addition to direct interventions, especially the Restoration Unit. (MRRA) who continued the restoration of the bastions in Magazine Curtain area and started the restoration plus cleaning of other areas. The ditch renovation project to embellish the ditch is moving in a fast and professional pace. This area will be transformed into beautiful public gardens.

The Council will continue to seek funds for the two pending projects, the development of an area known as it-tomba to be upgraded into a themed park, and the building of a Cab Horse (Karozzini ) stand next to the car park outside the Main Gate. We have applied for funds from Government schemes and EU funds, but up till now our efforts were not successful.

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, 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> .....	12 Present	0 Excused	0 Absent
Fredrick Azzopardi – <i>Councillor</i> .....	10 Present	2 Excused	0 Absent
Jane Attard - <i>Councillor</i> .....	10 Present	2 Excused	0 Absent
Camille Scerri – <i>Councillor</i> .....	12 Present	0 Excused	0 Absent
Paul Spiteri – <i>Executive Secretary</i> .....	12 Present	0 Excused	0 Absent

One has to notice that attendance by Residents to Council meeting was minimal. 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, but all responsibilities were shared amongst all the Councillors, thus no sub-committees were set up. A Cultural committee functioned during this year , mainly meeting to discuss Cultural Activities, especially the organisation of the Medieval Festival.

The office is administered by Paul Spiteri, he is assisted by a clerk, Clare Camilleri. Emmanuel Camilleri, an IPSL employee complete the staff structure of the office. The office during this year,

continued to apply an extended hours policy and remains open the whole day during the week in Winter, till 14.00hrs in Summer, while opens half day on Saturdays all year round. During this year the Access Passes were once again issued with a computer generated program which made it more possible to keep a good record and be more efficient. (Copy of the report is attached )

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 started to implement a new contracts entered this year as regards the collection of domestic waste, the street cleansing, emptying of Litter Bins 7 days a week and washing of the main doors of Mdina. The Council renewed the agreement with GreenPak to collect recyclable waste once weekly without any extra cost and in near future it will be collecting glass separately as well. In summer the washing of the streets is done , as well an extra emptying of litter bins . 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. .We continued as well to spray all Palm trees with the insecticide against eh Red weaver bug, which unfortunately attached and killed a good number of Palm trees in our area.

The upkeep of Howard Gardens is one of the contractual agreement that we had renewed during 2011 and which became effective after March 2012. Unfortunately this contract was terminated in October 2012 due to a number of defaults notices issued to the contractor. Eventually and new call was made and a new contract will start from 01 March 2013, This includes the upkeep of the Gardens, including gardening and cleansing, as well the watering of plant pots in the city. The Cleansing Department this year assumed again the management of the Public Convenience in Howard Gardens , after the contractor was handed a number of default notices and the contract terminated. The new contract with CSD is very advantageous for the council with favourable terms.

The street light system is continuously maintained throughout the year, not only to overcome wear and tear, but also to fix vandalism acts, especially in Howard Gardens. This year as well the Council installed new decorative Lanterns to add street lights in different places.

#### 2.4 Activities – Infrastructure

During the year the Council continued to maintain the Playing Field with various interventions. Unfortunately an act of vandalism saw the new climber installed in 2011 being destroyed, and we had to remove it. We had lodge a claim with our insurer, which took some time to conclude, but now there is an active call for new equipment which should be installed in a couple of weeks.

In the year in review we managed as well to get special funds to conclude the project which we have restore two decorative cannons, and we will purchase the undercarriage. This project should finish within March 2013..

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 Activities – International and EU Funds

This year we once again did not managed to seek EU Fund although we tried to find partners and assistance from different agencies. We did managed to participate as partners in a project by the City of Kekaval, Latvia in which a number of Maltese reanectors accompanied from members of the Council participated in a Medieval Festival in Latvia

We did not had any concrete activity with Zaragoza, while a delegation from the Council was invited to participate in an activity in Cellere. The twinning agreement with Lecce \*although there is no formal agreement) was re activated this year and we are partners in a project with EU Funds.

Through our connections this year we hosted two groups of students, one from Italy and another from Spain. This projects where completely financed by the visitors.

This year as well we continued our participation in the Covenant of Mayors which is an association between different communities in the EU that together commit them self to safeguard with action the environment. We as well are members in the ECAD, European Communities against Drugs, and the European Walled Cities Association which delegates were guest of our City during their visit in Malta. Through the MAGF , Majjestrat Action Group Foundation, of which we are full members, we had applied for fund for the building of rural roads in various parts of the outskirts of Mdina.( No reply received uo till now)

A good number of personalities visited Mdina during the Year , and the Council extended its hospitality to these personalities.

## 2.6 Activities – Social and Cultural

The Medieval Festival, which is organised by the Council, has now established itself not only in the local calendar of Cultural events but this year we once again, with a greater number, experienced a good number of enquiries from abroad. The popularity of this event have increased and this was not only beneficial to enhance the Medieval image of our city, but as well boosted economic activity for our business community. This year we had the participation of groups from San Elpigio a Mare, Marche Italia, a group of sbandieratori from Priori, Sicily , Ireland, the Medieval Music Band from Germany as local groups. Concerts, children's area, exhibitions and talks formed part as well of this year's Festival.

As part of Mdina Day a BBQ was organised for the first time in one of the Squares of Mdina, in which a good number of Mdina residents with their families attended. A Christmas Lunch was as well organised in December in which Gieh l-Imdina was presented to Dr J Zarb Adami and Mr P Mizzi. During the Mnarja festivities the Bandu ( Town Crier) is as well organised in collaboration with the Council.

In December the Council participated in the Crafts Festival organised by MAGF, The Council had a Stand and we gave opportunity to Craftsmen to participate. Eventually we had one participant.

During the year 5 Cultural outings were organised for our Residents, visiting various different places of interest

During this year as well the Council offered the service of a Nurse for the inoculation for the Jab against Influenza.

### 3.0 Conclusion

This report cannot be complete if one does not mention as well the numerous interventions done by different central Government Departments, especially the Restoration Unit of MRRA , which continued with its projects in the restoration of the Bastions and has embarked in the project of the embellishment of the ditch. The Police force and Wardens who put our mind at rest with their preventive measures and their daily traffic management. Our 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 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.

Paul Spiteri  
Executive Secretary