

1.0 Introduction

This report is reviewing the period between 01st January 2011 and 31st December 2011 which is almost half term for the 6th Council.

In reviewing 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. As in previous years a large part of the Council's financial budget is used for the issuing of contracts concerning Cleansing, and Gardens upkeep. During this year tenders were issued for the Upkeep of the Parks and Gardens as well as for the Cleaning of the Public Convenience. Procedure for evaluating the Tenders submitted and the adjudication of a new contract was eventually effected in 2012 .

Some of the projects that we started this year included installation of more decorative lanterns to add more light in our streets; the removal of the old rusty climber in the playing field substituting it with 2 modern climbers made of wood; the substitution of broken floor paving slabs in various areas ; and the restoration of 2 Old canons, amongst others. We continued as well to plant new trees in Howard Gardens and in the outskirts of the city.

Different type of maintenance interventions was not missing this year, and a constant program is done for the upkeep of the street furniture and light fittings, as well as preventive maintenance to safeguard safety issues.

Cultural and social activities formed as well part of our agendas, including the Medieval Festival, which every year is increasing its popularity, the Annual BBQ, the Christmas Concert, the Christmas Lunch. As well as a number of Outings for our Residents. These year a number of Concerts were also organised in collaborations with various entities.

Government Departments and agencies continued to support and assist the Council, both in some funds as well as in direct interventions, especially the Restoration Unit who concluded to works on phase 1 of the bastions, started the works on Magazini Bastions as well started the ditch project.

The signing of a twinning agreement with Zaragoza last year did not produced the desired results up till now, this year we have signed a Friendship Agreement with the town of Cellere in Italy. Both Zaragoza and Cellere were present in Malta in November 2011 with a high delegation headed by their respective Mayors.

During this year as well w have finalised all the necessary Mepa Permits for the Horse Cabs Shed, which project could start when the necessary fund as are available. We have as well submitted a Themed Park project at it-Tomba for EU funds,

In reviewing last year we feel we've reached satisfactory results, and although our operation is limited by various factors, amongst which our biggest hurdle is a financial one, 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 encourages us to even work harder in the coming years.

Peter Sant Manduca
Mayor

2.0 The Council

2.1 Meetings

During this year 11 meetings were held with the following attendance:

Peter Sant Manduca – <i>Mayor</i>	11 Present	0 Excused	0 Absent
Joseph Debono – <i>Vice Mayor</i>	10 Present	1 Excused	0 Absent
Fredrick Azzopardi – <i>Councillor</i>	11 Present	0 Excused	0 Absent
Jane Attard - <i>Councillor</i>	10 Present	1 Excused	0 Absent
Camille Scerri – <i>Councillor</i>	9 Present	2 Excused	0 Absent
Paul Spiteri – <i>Executive Secretary</i>	11 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 was established in October , mainly 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 being issued with a computer generated program which made it more possible to keep a good record and be more efficient.

The Council, during the year. Issued a number of Circulars to communicate and inform the residents about various activities and notices, apart from the direct contact with the Councillors, an opportunity that is unique for our Council.

2.3 Activities – routine interventions

The Council continue to implement the contracts entered in 2009 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 signed a new agreement with GreenPak to collect recyclable waste once weekly without any extra cost. 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. A campaign was started as well to spray all Palm trees with the insecticide against eh Red weaver bug, which unfortunately attached and killed some of teh Palm trees in our area.

The upkeep of Howard Gardens is one of the contractual agreement that we had to renew during 2011 and which became effective after March 2012 due to objection that we received after adjudication stage. This includes the upkeep of the Gardens, including gardening and cleansing, as well the watering of plant pots in the city. The Cleansing Department terminated as well the contract to man and take care of the PC in Howard Gardens, The Council issued new call for Tenders which where submitted by the

beginning of 2012. Due to restricted budget the terms and conditions for this contract had to be reviewed and the Council had no option but to reduce the service offered.

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 4 new decorative Lanterns to add street lights in different places.

2.4 Activities – Infrastructure

The playing field area was embellished. An intervention was taken to remove the rusted climber equipment and substituted it with 2 modern wooden climbers. Maintenance works on the other equipment, including changes of swing seats, painting of all the other equipment and change of some of the safety flooring was as well done during this year in review..

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) the installation of warning sign on the bastions; (iv) the restoration of 2 old cannons which will be placed in prominent places; (v) restoration on rubble walls in the various areas outside the walls; (vi) the change of plant pots in the city .

2.5 Activities – International and EU Funds

The signing with Zaragoza of the Twinning Agreement last year did not give a lot of concrete results during this year. The Council as well made a Friendship agreement with Cellere in Italy hoping that this will give some results during 2012. IN November 2011 a delegation from both Towns were invited to attend for the Twinning Festival that had to be organised by the DLG. After accepting our invitation this Conference was cancelled in the last minute and the Council had to fork out the expenditure to host the delegations. The Council took the opportunity to discuss a number of issues with the high delegations headed by their respective Mayors. This we hope will open a number of opportunities for future cooperation .

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. Through the MAGF , Majjestrat Action Group Foundation, of which we are full members, we have submitted a project for EU funding under Call 313 to build a themed leisure park in the area known as it-Tomba forming part of Howard Gardens.

The Council as well had various discussion with different stakeholders regarding funding from the EU. The problem is that no Co-financing is available on certain funds available so the Council has problem to finance it own part.

A good number of personalities visited Mdina during the Year , and the Council extended its hospitality to these personalities. We hosted as well delegates from Conferences like the Committee of regions, and Lions Club Mdina .

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 have 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. The Festival included floral decorations, re-enactments with the participation of foreign groups from San Marino, Reggio Calabria, Germany, UK, Bologna and Ireland, as well as local groups. Concerts, children's area, exhibitions and talks formed part as well of this year's Festival.

The Council through the year organised as well 2 concerts, one in September and the other one in Christmas time. The Charismas concert was held at the Carmelite Convent while the Jazz Concert was held in Bastion Square. The Mini gig concert was also held this year.

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. During the Mnarja festivities the Bandu (Town Crier) is as well organised in collaboration with the Council.

During the year 4 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. The Council as well is subsidizing Pilates Classes which takes place ones weekly at the Council's Hall.

The Council as well participated in the TV Program "Confini" which promoted our city.

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, whose personnel is working hard to preserve the historical buildings that characterises our City. Not to mention the launching of the Ditch project which will give our City an open space that up till now was not utilised. The Police force and Wardens who put our mind at rest with their preventive measures and their daily traffic management. Our service providers who rendere 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