



Mdina Local Council
Administrative Report 2015

1.0 Introduction

This report is reviewing the period between 01st January 2015 and 31st December 2015 which is the continuation of the term of the 7th 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 and we had to take action to reduce the financial deficit. 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

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

During the year ,the Council made no progress with the Department of Lands on the lease of the area suitable to be developed into a car park., and we are still waiting for a lease agreement. The Councils situation is similar to the leasing of Casino Notabile, in which after adjudicating the Tender for the Management of the premises, an extension of the leasing period is being solicited by the Council. Meanwhile after delays due to administrative problems, the works on the restoration of the building of Casino Notabile has started, this thanks to local funds and supervision of the Central Government restoration unit.

The restoration unit as well finished the installation of the railings around Howard Gardens and the playing fields. Works have started as well by the same unit on the Horse Cab shelter in the entrance of Mdina.

Cultural and social activities played an important part in our agenda and this includes 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 attained 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. Furthermore for the second consecutive year Mdina was the also the setting for the Mdina Grand Prix and in which was another success.

Other 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. This area will be transformed into beautiful public gardens.

With EU funds under measure 125 ,we resurfaced the lanes in Gharreqini Rd and part of lane in Triq L-infetti.

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 11 meetings were held with the following attendance:

Peter Sant Manduca – *Mayor*12 Present 0 Excused 0 Absent

Joseph Debono – <i>Vice Mayor</i>	12 Present	0 Excused	0 Absent
Maryanne Sultana– <i>Councillor</i>	12 Present	0 Excused	0 Absent
Jane Attard - <i>Councillor</i>	12 Present	0 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
Mark Mallia - <i>Executive Secretary</i>	1 Present	0 Excused	0 Absent(from 1)

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.

During the year there was a changeover of the Executive Secretary and in December Mark Mallia took office from Paul Spiteri.

The office is administered by the Executive Secretary he is assisted by a clerk, Clare Camilleri. Emmanuel Camilleri, an IPSL worker, and Danika Attard , a scheme worker complete the staff structure of the office. The office during this year, continued to apply an extended hours policy and

remained 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 Vehicle Access Passes were once again issued with a computer generated program which is connected to the Guards & Wardens who are the operators of 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 system regarding the collection of domestic waste, and with the assistance of Waste Serve and our operators Green Pak, the collection of Organic waste twice a week have been implemented. Through the system small bins and informative material was also distributed to all households.

This year we continued with the contract for street cleansing, emptying of Litter Bins 7 days a week and washing of the main doors of Mdina. The Council renewed the agreement with Green Pak 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 the 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 continued during this year and 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 .

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 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.

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

We did not had any concrete activity with Zaragoza, but a delegation from the Council participated in a seminar under Norway funds, in Oslo.

The Council officials where involved on many occasions with the visit from Various dignitaries to our City.

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)

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 Marino, Rome, Giarratana ,

and a number of Maltese Medieval 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 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 (TownCrier) is as well organised in collaboration with the Council.

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 Hon Dr Ian Borg, who was instrumental in many projects done by the Restoration unit and for EU funding. 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 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

