



**Mdina Local Council**  
**Administrative Report 2013**

## **1.0 Introduction**

This report is a review of Mdina Local Council activities covering the period from 01st January 2013 until 31st December 2013 for the term of 6<sup>th</sup> Council, and the first 8 month of the 7<sup>th</sup> Council

Although elections were to be held during this year Council post were contested by only 5 candidates so it was decided to cancel elections. Those candidates, who already served on the Council, remained in office promoting continuity. With regret it was announced that Mr Fredrick Azzopardi resigned from the Council for personal reasons. The experience and enthusiasm he has always shown as Councillor will be missed, however Ms Maryanne Sultana, who was co-opted for his post in the Council should competently shoulder the responsibilities he had.

As in previous years I am proud to say that although we have our financial limitations, we have managed to maintain the good image of our City, as can be judged from clean streets, good upkeep of our soft areas and gardens while offering the best service to the community.

The main three contracts that we have in place, that of the Public Cleaning, waste collection and maintenance of the Gardens and soft areas, take up a substantial part of our fund. This notwithstanding during this year we continued maintenance works on the street lights system , including the installation of new decorative lanterns where street lights were missing; repairs and installation of new playing field equipment; the installation of traffic signs and new markings; maintenance work on the CCTV systems both in the city and in the Gardens mainly to improve security for our Residents; and continued to do repairs and maintenance work on our streets, manly road paving.

The Council successfully organised yet another Medieval Festival as well as other events, such as Cultural Outings, talks on Council premises and a Christmas Lunch. As part of Mdina Day we organised a BBQ in Mesquita Square. Our Service to the community, through our administrative office continued at the same high levels thanks to the effort of Council Staff.

The Council has done its utmost to solve the problems related to vehicular traffic in Mdina, including parking issues. An area for a new car park has been earmark, but although we have an official

encroachment, we are still awaiting authorisation to sign a PPP agreement. Through the Regional committee we will be installing CCTV Cameras to control abusive access in the very near future.

All this has been possible with the support of a large number of people, including all the Councillors individually and as a team, all the staff at the Administrative office, a number of Ministers and their respective departments, the business community in Mdina and above all the residents who cooperate with us and support our initiatives.

Many thanks

Peter Sant Manduca

Mayor

## 2.0 The Council

### 2.1 Legislation

During the year we had the end of term of the 6<sup>th</sup> Legislation and the election of the 7<sup>th</sup> Legislation. Eventually the Election did not take place since there were 5 candidates who contested and they were elected. The composition of the Council as well did not change from one legislation to the other since the members remained the same. This gave a great sense of continuity.

### 2.2 Meetings

The 6<sup>th</sup> Legislation during this year held 3 meetings with the following attendance;

Peter Sant Manduca – <i>Mayor</i> .....	3 Present	0 Excused	0 Absent
Joseph Debono – <i>Vice Mayor</i> .....	3 Present	0 Excused	0 Absent
Fredrick Azzopardi – <i>Councillor</i> .....	3 Present	0 Excused	0 Absent
Camille Scerri – <i>Councillor</i> .....	3 Present	0 Excused	0 Absent
Paul Spiteri - <i>Executive Secretary</i> .....	3 Present	0 Excused	0 Absent

The 7<sup>th</sup> Legislation during this year had 11 meetings with the following attendance:

Peter Sant Manduca – <i>Mayor</i> .....	11 Present	0 Excused	0 Absent
Joseph Debono – <i>Vice Mayor</i> .....	11 Present	0 Excused	0 Absent
Fredrick Azzopardi – <i>Councillor</i> .....	3 Present	0 Excused	0 Absent
(From 3 meetings)			
Jane Attard - <i>Councillor</i> .....	9 Present	2 Excused	0 Absent
Camille Scerri – <i>Councillor</i> .....	11 Present	0 Excused	0 Absent
Maryanne Sultana – <i>Councillor</i> .....	7 Present	1 Excused	0 Absent
(from 8 Meetings)			
Paul Spiteri – <i>Executive Secretary</i> .....	11 Present	0 Excused	0 Absent

In May 2013 Mr Fredrick Azzopardi resigned from the Council and Ms Maryann Sultan was co-opted by the Council After consultation with the Labour Party, whom Fredrick Azzopardi represented.

During the Council meetings which were held all at the Council Hall, attendance from Residence was once again missing. During some meeting the intervention of certain stakeholders was required and they were invited to attend.

Apart from the official Council Meetings, we had various other meeting with Government Ministers, and officials, 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.

### 2.3 Set Up

The Council decided not to give a particular responsibility to any Member, 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 Council administrative office is managed by Paul Spiteri , he is assisted by a clerk, Clare Camilleri, Emmanuel Camilleri, an IPSL employee ,and in August 2013 Danika Attard joined in as an assistant clerk under a scheme by ETC. Lukas Busk joined in as well for a couple of weeks as part of

his internship. 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 between 08.30 and 11.30 am on Saturdays all year round.

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.

An agreement was signed so that in the next weeks the Council meeting will be streamed on line. The Council updated as well its Web Page, the Medieval Festival Web Page and its Face book, and uploads all documents on the Local Government Web Page.

Another agreement with MTA was signed so that it continue to manage the Tourist Information at the entrance of Mdina

#### *2.4 Activities – routine interventions*

In July a new contract was signed for the Collection of Domestic waste. While in March an agreement was signed with GreenPak regarding the collection of separate waste. As in previous years the cleansing of the street is covered with a contract. Extra emptying of bins on a Sunday was as well implemented this year. The Council constantly as well did intervention to make sure that the City remains clean, especially after events, over and above the normal sweeping contract.

The upkeep of Howard Gardens is one of the contractual agreements that we had renewed during 2013 and which became effective after March 2013. This includes the upkeep of the gardens, plant pots another soft areas, including gardening and cleansing, as well the watering. The Cleansing Department this year kept the management of the Public Convenience in Howard Gardens. While the Council pays the attendants for extra opening hours, especially in summer. A substantial amount of funds are spent to fix the lighting system of Howard Gardens, especially due to Vandalism. This year we had as well to overcome a problem with an insect that attacked the hedges, and we had to plant new ones, with cost being covered by a government scheme.

After a report issued by the Malta Standards Authority regarding the playing equipment in the Playing field, the Council this year did some alteration repairs on the equipment as well substituted the climber with a modern and more safe equipment after the latter was vandalised. Some of the decorative lights were also changed.

## 2.5 Activities – Infrastructure

During this year with the help of Transport Malta we did the resurfacing of Triq il-Vapuri. With the assistance of the Works Division we embarked in a project to fix the hole of the flag poles in the streets and continued the repairs on the paved floor in Mdina. The Council as well continued to install more and replaced damaged decorative lamps... A continuous program on street signage was in place with installation of new sign/mirrors and fresh road marking. The cable for the CCTV at the entrance of Mdina was replaced as well.

During this year efforts were made to start up the new car park project and a call of interest was issued and concluded. Unfortunately we still waiting from the authorities to go ahead so that we enter in a PPP agreement so that the Car park is managed by a private company who will invest in the project all capital expenditure.

A pending issue as well is the Council request to move its administrative office to Banca Guratale which is more central and above all has access to a ground floor office rather going up what is equivalent three storey of stairs as it is the present situation.

The Council has as well made the request for devolution of the area known as “It-Tomba” to be able to enter into a management agreement with a private entity so that this area could be utilised better and can be another much needed source of income. Casino Notabile as well is being considered by the Council to be offered for a management agreement.

In a few weeks time a CCTV camera will be installed at the entrance of the two doors of Mdina. This will control access and make sure that only vehicles authorised may access Mdina. This year vehicular access has improved a bit, but there is much more space for improvement (Report on the issuing of Permits in 2013 is attached)

## 2.6 Activities – International and EU Funds

During the year the Council continued to seek EU fund for its project. Unfortunately we did not manage to get positive results although we had a number of applications. Most of the application was submitted through MAGF and concerned the Horse cab Shed and repairs on country roads.

The Council approved as well a Twinning agreement with Assisi, Italia, and we shall sign it in the coming weeks. We had no development with Zaragoza, while Lecce included us in an application for an EU Project.

The Mdina Local Council is main partner as well with the Tourism Department of the University of Malta in a project called Helland. This project aims, with funds from the EU, to disseminate tourist information through new media in a sustainable way. A meeting with all the business community and other stakeholders already took place.

With an agreement reached with the Institute EPLEEP A de Nimes-Rodlhhan-CFA du Gurd a group of students will in the coming weeks do an embellishment project in Howard Gardens.

A good number of personalities visited Mdina during the Year, and the Council extended its hospitality to these personalities. We had as well a visit of a group from Comune di San Biagio, Torino Italia and another group from Marche, Italia.

## 2.7 Activities – Social and Cultural

Once again the Council organised the Medieval Festival, which has now established itself not only in the local calendar of Cultural events but as well as an International Festival. This year we had 3 foreign groups participating, while some individuals joined in as well. As usual we are receiving a good number of requests from various parts of the world... Our limitation is financial, and so we have to limit you. The festival was coordinated as well through the Cultural subcommittee of the Council

As part of Mdina Day a BBQ was organised in Mesquite Square in which a good number of Mdina residents with their families attended.

During the Christmas period a Lunch was organised for the residents at Ta' Luigi Restaurant. During this lunch the Gish L-Imdina award had to be given to Mons Joseph Mercieca and Joseph Gauci, unfortunately due to both of them we not feeling well , the presentation had to be made on another days.

This Christmas with the assistance of the Church authorities in Mdina we did organise a procession with Baby Jesus accompanied by a brass band, in the street of our city

During the year 4 Cultural outings were organised for our Residents, visiting various different places of interest

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

The Council assisted in the organisation of two Classical Concert in Archbishop Square. The Council has as well assisting in the organisation of the Mdina Grand prix.

Our support to the Mdina Knights Football Club was not missing this year and our Hall was always available for free for them to use. We supported them as well by giving them for free as well a stand at the Medieval Festival where they could collect some fund. The Council hall as well was rented to other groups, mainly for exhibitions as well as dance meetings amongst others... The International Music Awards was as well organised in our Council Hall.

### 3.0 Conclusion

The report cannot end without mentioning the assistance the Council had from the Central Government through various Departments. One has to mention the excellent work done in transforming the Ditch into beautiful garden and walking area, and the restoration works done and still being done on the Bastions.



In reviewing the past year one notices that although we continuously struggle to survive the financial burden, at the end we manage to produce concrete results. We have made our claims to the Central Government, that the allocation granted is not enough to cope with all expenses involved in the day to day running of the City, and this limits us from doing other interventions that can enhance our City. One has to consider that no extra funds are given to us to make up of the great number of visitors that we have each day, especially in summer.

We thank everyone who contributed and cooperated with the Council in implementing its tasks, hoping that our work was effective and beneficial to our City. We thank all stakeholders involved, our contractors who rendered a service to the whole community, our families who in a way or other supported us. We thank all residents and business community that helped in a way or another to keep the image of our city. Thank you all and hope that in the review of the current year we will be able to say that we made much more.

Thanks

Paul Spiteri  
Executive Secretary