



Mdina Local Council
Administrative Report 2018

1.0 Introduction

This report is reviewing the period between 01st January 2018 and 31st December 2018 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 a tender was issued for the collection of mixed household and organic waste in Mdina.

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.

Other types of maintenance interventions were 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.

This year thanks to the Ministry for Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change, the Council has benefited from an agreement under Recurrent Vote 15, Programmes and Initiatives of the 2018 Budget in which the Council was allocated the sum of € 30,000 for a project entitled “ Greening Urban Areas” Through this project the Council invested the money in the embellishment of Howard Gardens and Playground through the purchase of plants and shrubs.

During the year, the Council continued insisting with the authorities regarding the lease of the area suitable to be developed into a car park. Unfortunately, there was no progress in this regard and every day that passes, the problem in the area is on the rise every year with the increase in tourists visiting the city besides the frequent events being organized in Mdina. With regards to the Council premises, we are still waiting for a lease agreement from the Lands Department and is beyond our control. However the Council has decided this year after consultation with our advocate to set a cut-off date according to law with regards to the renting accrual of the premises being added every year and which was the main issue

why the Council was in a deficit position. This was hindering our financial position due to the accumulation of this yearly rental for these last 25 years.

The running of Casino Notabile after its restoration, has been entrusted to Mr. Clifford Galea as the Curator of the premises and during this year various cultural and philanthropic activities have been held.

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 attended and also the Christmas lunch. A number of cultural outings have also been organized for our Residents. Furthermore, for the third 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).

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 including our residents, of all Councillors, and all staff, whilst this encourages us to even work harder in the coming years.

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Peter Sant Manduca

Mayor

2.0 The Council

2.1 Meetings

During this year 13 meetings were held with the following attendance:

Peter Sant Manduca – <i>Mayor</i>	13 Present	0 Excused	0 Absent
Joseph Debono – <i>Vice Mayor</i>	12 Present	1 Excused	0 Absent
Maryanne Sultana– <i>Councillor</i>	13 Present	0 Excused	0 Absent
Alfred Barbaro Sant - <i>Councillor</i>	11 Present	2 Excused	0 Absent
Camille Scerri – <i>Councillor</i>	13 Present	1 Excused	0 Absent
Mark Mallia - <i>Executive Secretary</i>	13 Present	0 Excused	0 Absent

One has to notice that attendance by Residents to Council meeting was second to none. During the meetings held apart from the standard items like correspondence and approval of paymentschedules, 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 the Executive Secretary he is assisted by a clerk, Clare Camilleri working on reduced hours and Emmanuel Camilleri, an IPSL worker, complete the staff structure of the office. 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 the system

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 agreement with GreenPak to collect recyclable waste once weekly without any extra cost and in the near future there is the intention to start collecting glass separately as well continued to be a huge success. 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. .

The upkeep of Howard Gardens 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.

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

The Council officials were 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 various international groups together with 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 (Town Crier) 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. The Police force who put our mind at rest with their preventive measures and their daily traffic management. In this regard the Council expects a better service from LESA who seem to do their best to help out but cannot cope with the demand and supply of their service. Last but not least the 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.

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Mark Mallia

Executive Secretary