



Hal Balzan Local Council

Annual Administrative Report

2017

1.0 The Council**1.1 The Council**Council Meeting Participation

Not. Ian Spiteri	100%
Mr Andre' Grech	87%
Mr Daniel Muscat	100%
Mr Desmond Zammit Marmara'	100%
Mr Joe Galea	100%

The Council held 15 meetings during the year.

Employees:

Ms Doriette Farrugia	Part-Time Clerk started work on the 18th May 2009 to 31st August 2011 Full-Time Clerk from 1st September 2011 to 31st October 2014 Full-Time Executive Officer as from 1st November 2014 to 13th September 2016 Executive Secretary as from 14th September 2016
Ms Mariella Casha	Part-Time Clerk started work on the 18th August 2008 to 31st October 2014 Part-Time Executive Officer as from 1st November 2014 to 30th September 2016 Full-Time Executive Officer as from 1st October 2016
Mr Lawrence Pace	Part-Time Clerk as from 13th February 2017

Seconded workers:

Mr Hector Camilleri	RSS Ltd (ex-IPSL) started working with us on 10th January 2008
Mr Anthony Bray	Community Workers Scheme (CWSEF) started working with us on 3rd January 2013
Mr Martin Fenech	RSS Ltd (ex-IPSL) started working with us on 2nd May 2016

2.1 Financial Review

Income:

The government allocation for the year amounted to €277,092.29. Other Government Income was €17,153.

Income from EU Financing amounted to €27,327.

Income from the Local Enforcement System amounted to €2,778.

General income was €12,545. Of this amount, €100 was income from tender documents, €10,168 was income from permits and the remainder €2,277 is income derived from sundry contributions.

Expenditure:

Operations and Maintenance amounted to €123,332. Of this amount €95,791 was spent on contractual services which were mainly in the collection of refuse, road and street cleaning.

Personal Emoluments amounted to €78,204.

Administration costs and other expenditure amounted to €57,606 (excluding depreciation which amounted to €81,740).

2.2 Operations Review

Influenza Vaccination

During 2017, as per previous years, the Council provided the influenza vaccine to elderly residents so as to make the service available in the locality.

Balzan residents over the age of 55 years were given the possibility of receiving the influenza vaccine from the Local Council's office. The vaccine was administered to 143 persons. The vaccines were given on Friday 27th October 2017. These were provided free of charge.

Services

Streetlighting repairs

Street lamps were delegated to Council and the council started repairing street lamps where during 2017, 28 lamps were reported as needing repairs.

New Traffic Signs and Road Markings

During 2017 the Council requested a number of permits from Transport Malta.

Council workers are refreshing road markings and repairing traffic signs when necessary so as to minimise the cost of works.

Re-instatement of Pavements

With the introduction of the services of a handyman, this year the Council has managed to carry out normal wear and tear works on a number of pavements.

It is the Council's policy to request a €232.94 deposit on application for the granting of a permit for a crane to work in the locality, to cover any damage that might be caused. The deposit is only refunded if public property is left in its original condition.

Re-instatement of Roads

The handyman and workers seconded to the Local Council from the Central Government carried out patching works of an urgent nature so as to prevent damage to vehicles or an accident.

A number of streets need to be resurfaced urgently as their state has deteriorated considerably over the past years, these are Old Railway Road, Balzan Valley, Sir Antonio Micallef Street and Gherusija Street.

The state of some roads, will in the very near future entail their being taken up. The Council does not have the necessary funds to re-instate roads through its budget.

If the budget allocation is not increased or the central government does not intervene to re-instate the other streets, we will soon be in a situation where the work will become an urgent matter and funds not available to carry them out. This especially so for streets who's road base is made up of soil. We strongly suspect this is so for Sir Antonio Micallef Street, Gulju Cauchi Street, Dun Gwann Zammit Hammet Street, Sigismondo Dimech Street, Balaguer Street, Wesgħa Prof. G. Aquilina, Kannizzata Street, Old Railway Road, Karenza Street, Paguni Street, Dr. Zammit Street, Guzeppi Frendo Street, Qarçilla Street and Patri Guze Delia Street.

Bulky Refuse Collection

During the year 2017 we had 1814 calls for the collection of bulky refuse whereas during 2016 we had 1840 calls. During 2017 the calls decreased by 1.41% over the previous year. This is being paid for by the Council.

Cleaning and Other Services

The contract for street sweeping was allocated to Premier Business Limited in October 2017.

Since 1st October 2010 collection of garden waste is being carried out on Saturdays and domestic waste is not being collected on Tuesdays. The Council took this initiative (the first on the island), to collect garden (green) waste so as to minimize the amount of refuse deposited at Magħtab.

The Council allocated the door-to-door waste separation collection which is being carried out on Tuesdays and the collection from the one Bring-in-Site to Greenpak. Greenpak carried out a door-to-door education campaign and distributed free green bags to all households to encourage waste separation.

We do have a problem with dumping around the Bring-in-Site.

Office Services

LES Payments Collected at the Local Council office

During 2017, the Council received 780 payments with regards to LES fines.

Trading Licences, Malta Tourism Authority and Land Rent payments

During 2017, 2 Trade Licences were renewed and 47 Land Rent payments were received at the Local Council's office. There were no Malta Tourism Authority payments.

Permits for the placing of Skips and Bins-on-wheels

During 2017, the Council issued 176 permits for the placing of skips and bins-on-wheels whereas during 2016, 123 permits were issued. This is an increase of 43.09% over the previous year.

Permits for the placing of Cranes, and other activities

During 2017, 570 temporary permits were issued whereas during 2016, 786 permits were issued. This is a decrease of 27.48% over the previous year.

Local Enforcement by Wardens

During the year ending 31st December 2017, a total of 1400 tickets issued by wardens in the locality of Hal Balzan were paid.

Customer Care

The number of complaints received during 2017 amounted to 127. Of these complaints 49 fell within the responsibility of the Local Council whilst 78 fell within the responsibility of the Central Government or some other Authority. All the complaints that fell within the responsibility of the Council received during 2017 were settled.

Credit of this success should be given to the handyman of the Council together with the seconded workers as they are settling most of the complaints and the necessary works to be done the next day.

E-Government Services

No record of usage is kept for the year under review but the service is hardly being used at the office, probably because residents have internet service in the home. During 2011 a Wi-Fi point has installed in the village square.

Supply of application forms

The Council provides a number of forms for the provision of services by a number of parastatal entities, the number of forms being provided is always increasing as the number of entities having websites is also increasing and forms are being downloaded from these sites.

The Council Newsletter

During the year 2017, the detailed magazine was issued on an annual basis.

Other Matters

New Council's Administrative Offices

During the first six months of 2017, internal alterations at the newly rented premises were completed. In June 2017, the Council has moved into the new Council's Administrative Offices situated at 7/9, Dun Spir Sammut Street and has started operating from the new office from 19th June 2017.

Enforcement Issues

Enforcement Issues are as usual by nature controversial. Residents want more enforcement especially with regards to parking in the vicinity of St Aloysius School during school hours, dog fouling, traffic regulations, noise pollution, circulation of heavy vehicles and dumping around the bring-in-sites.

Unfortunately, the Council hasn't got the executive powers to enforce and need to rely on the Hal Balzan Police Station which is not opening on a regular basis and is not helping in the effective enforcement as requested by the community on time and local wardens.

Those who demand enforcement think we are doing little whilst those on whom enforcement is done wish to be educated instead.

Organisation of Courses in the locality

Hal Balzan Local Council organised an Educational Skin care and Make-up course during 2017. This course was provided free of charge with the collaboration of Franks.

Applications for Special Funding by the Central Government

The Central Government issued several calls for applications to help Local Councils to fund particular projects through such schemes. Hal Balzan Local Council applied for funding for the activity 'Balzan

Arts and Festival" which this year has proved to be a success. We were given funds from the Department for Local Government to organise this activity.

Meetings and Activities

Outings for the Elderly

During 2017, 7 outings for the elderly were organised to help the elderly socialise.

The outings consisted of visits to a number of historic places in which they were served also tea/coffee amongst other things.

The outings are very popular with the elderly who look forward to them with enthusiasm.

Jum Ħal Balzan and Balzan Arts and Music Festival

Jum Ħal Balzan was celebrated on Sunday, 25th June 2017. The celebrations consisted of a Thanksgiving Mass held at the Ħal Balzan Parish church after the raising of the Ħal Balzan flag in the square, the presentation of the honour of Ġieħ Ħal Balzan and a reception at Fra Giuseppe Wine Bar.

The honour of Ġieħ Ħal Balzan was given to Dr Trevor De Giorgio, Mr Anthony Grech, Mr Joe Pulis and Ms Taryn Mamo Cefai.

For the third year the Council organised the 'Balzan Arts and Music Festival' which was celebrated on the 22nd September 2017. The activity included a variety programme with various established singers. Food and drinks were available. This activity was a success and will continue to be organised in the coming years if special funds are given by the Central Government as in previous years.



Doriette Farrugia
Executive Secretary

