



IL-MUNXAR

This meeting was held on the 30th September 2019 at 6:00pm at Il-Munxar Local Council Administrative Office, Triq Profs. Gużè Aquilina, Il-Munxar.

Present for this meeting:

Mr Damien Spiteri - Mayor

Ms Carmela Parnis - Deputy Mayor

Mr Joseph Cauchi - Councillor

Mr Anthony Grech - Executive Secretary

There was one person present from the public.

The Local Council plan is spread mainly over 4 main priority areas which include mainly 20 ideas. The 4 priority areas are:

- a. Activities
- b. General Maintenance
- c. Infrastructural Projects
- d. Cleanliness and the Environment

A. Priority area number 1 Activities

1. Social activities

These of course include a number of activities which are organised on an ongoing basis, ranging from fitness classes, outings to Malta and other places of interest and festivals held within our locality, etc. In fact we have already held a number of such events.

2. Cultural activities

Activities in relation with our cultural heritage. These include activities like the Ix-Xlendi Ceramics Festival, St Paul Feast in Il-Munxar and the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Feast in Ix-Xlendi. In fact, already during our legislature Il-Munxar Local Council for another consecutive year has held the 'I love Ix-Xlendi' programme of events which included weekly shows during the summer months as well as the traditional Fjakkolata event. This year the Local Council has also invested a lot in the organisation of the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Feast in Ix-Xlendi and in activities related with the Gostra.

3. Activities held abroad

The Local Council is committed to seek funding opportunities in order to offer opportunities for its residents to go abroad and visit different cultures.

4. Sport activities

The Local Council is committed to assist the local sport organisations as well as organise a number of sports related activities targeted both at the youths, adults and the elderly. In fact the Local Council has already managed to organise a number of keep fit classes during the summer months as well as a presentation on healthy lifestyle by professional trainers.

B. Priority area number 2 is General Maintenance

5. General Maintenance

This Council is fully committed to safeguard what we have and as such general maintenance is taken very seriously by the administration. In fact, a good number of funds are invested on an ongoing basis on maintenance.

C. Priority area number 3 is Infrastructural projects

6. Construction of new roads

These include the reconstruction of the services underneath the roads as well as the construction of appropriate culverts in order to address the issue of flooding. The Local Council has already started the construction of one of its main roads, being Triq Munxar.

7. The project of the regeneration of Il-Munxar Square

The Local Council is already holding discussions with experts on the matter and has already consulted with the Ministry for Gozo since its plan is to finish off the project during this legislature. These include the installation of decorative lights, the opening of the shelters and the construction of new pavements.

8. The project in relation to the rural road known as ix-Xatba Area

This includes the building of new rubble walls across all the street of the area of ix-Xatba leading to Tas-Sanap Cliffs. In fact, the Local Council has already submitted an application seeking EU funds for this project.

9. Construction of rubble walls along Triq il-Qsajjem

So Triq il-Qsajjem is the road leading from Il-Munxar to the upper part of Ix-Xlendi. This is a very ambitious project which the Local Council has already started working upon. In fact, we have already started discussions with the Minister for Gozo and with the Director General for the implementation of this project.

10. Restoration of Ix-Xlendi Tower

The restoration of Ix-Xlendi tower is another very important project. In fact, the Local Council is currently working with the relevant stakeholders in order to have this project started. The Local Council has also an ambition to arrange the path leading to the Tower and we have already started communicating with the architect in order to find a way to make the area more accessible.

11. Cantilever in Triq San Xmun

The Local Council is willing to discuss with the authorities in order to implement the construction of a Cantilever in Triq San Xmun. Its scope will be twofold, since it will act both as a belvedere as well as a safer walk path from where passers-by can walk safely.

However before such a project to commence, there must be a total reconstruction or restoration of the wall beneath Triq San Xmun because it has deteriorated. As such, the Local Council has already sent its concern to the relevant department in order to liaise with them and work on the reconstruction or restoration of this wall.

12. Assistance to the local Parish

The Local Council has already met with the local Parish Priest and a number of infrastructural projects were discussed which the Local Council might assist upon. These are basically related to centres which are to be used by residents mainly the youths and the elderly.

13. The Monument of Profs. Gužè Aquilina

The Local Council has started discussions with the Ministry for Gozo in order to construct and install a monument of Professor Gužè Aquilina in Il-Munxar. Aquilina was a resident of Il-Munxar who is considered to be the father of the Maltese language because of his contribution towards the Maltese language. In fact, Il-Munxar playing field was named for this individual.

14. Priority parking spaces for the residents of Ix-Xlendi

The Local Council is concerned about the fact that residents in Ix-Xlendi find it very difficult to park their vehicle especially during the summer months. As such, the Local Council will discuss with local authorities whether a system of priority parking can be implemented in the locality.

15. Ix-Xlendi Valley

The cleaning of Ix-Xlendi valley had been on the papers for a number of years. This valley was cleaned with the full assistance of the Ministry for Gozo just a couple of weeks ago. As a Local Council we will study all the possibilities in order to safeguard this place.

16. Ix-Xlendi Masterplan

As you may know the Ministry for Gozo is implementing Ix-Xlendi Masterplan. This is mainly based on three areas being the regeneration of Ix-Xlendi boathouses which have been already concluded, the regeneration of the dry standing area and the regeneration of the parking area.

The new Local Council was aware and not happy at all with the fact that very limited consultation took place on such a huge project. As such after just a couple of days, the new Local Council set up a meeting with the Minister for Gozo which was held way back in August. In fact, Ix-Xlendi Masterplan was the first issue discussed between the newly appointed Il-Munxar Local Council and the Minister for Gozo. During this meeting the following proposals were put forward by the Local Council:

1. The first point which was discussed was the fact that a number of trees were expected to be uprooted. The Local Council put forward its concern on this and urged the Minister to safeguard our environment. We made it a point that although we were concerned about the lack of parking spaces in the locality however this could not be solved at the detriment of the environment. We put forward our concerns that both health wise and aesthetically our locality and residents will suffer. As all of you might know a number of palm trees were uprooted way back in the beginning of the year and these were replanted in Ix-Xewkija. We made it a point that we do not want this to continue to happen and that we need the trees to be left in Ix-Xlendi.
As a Local Council we are committed to continue keeping an eye on this project and do everything possible in order to keep authorities in check;
2. The fact that the main road is going to be too close to the present boathouses and therefore this will make it a bit difficult for the fishermen to make full use of their property;
3. Another point mentioned was that there must be a study in order to upgrade the drainage system since this is not keeping up with the increase of individuals residing within the locality;
4. Also, the issue of the dumping of waste was discussed and it is being thought of having a small area to be used for the collection of commercial waste in order to limit illegal dumping.

D. Priority area number 4 is Cleanliness and the Environment

17. Cleanliness within the locality

The Local Council is taking very seriously the cleanliness of the locality. As the new administration entered office we started to work on a new plan with respect to the cleaning of our locality. The situation was a drastic one and hence we immediately took a number of measures to mitigate such issues. One of which is the fact that the skips within the main parking area in Ix-Xlendi were removed since these were serving as a dumping area.

More human resources have been added to clean the streets of Il-Munxar and Ix-Xlendi.

Also, we tried to come up with the most appropriate garbage collection schedule for the summer months. I can say that this has worked well in Il-Munxar, however in Ix-Xlendi we still had a lot of illegalities. Unfortunately, as you may know, this year the Minister of the Environment has prohibited each and every Local Council from collecting the black garbage bag on a daily basis as it used to be. This has happened since there is a strive from Government to try and decrease the use of the black bags since the Maltese landfills are almost full up. As such for Ix-Xlendi we could not collect the black bag on a daily basis as per previous years but we managed to secure a daily collection of different bags for Ix-Xlendi. We have also increased the number of bins in the Bring in Site in the main parking area which during this period are being emptied twice daily.

In collaboration with the Public Cleansing Department we have also installed various additional bins across Ix-Xlendi Bay which are emptied on a daily basis and sometimes even twice daily. Of course, as you might appreciate, these need a lot of human resources.

As you might know the Local Council offers also a number of additional services with respect to collection of waste. Apart from the collection of domestic waste, the Local Council offers a weekly service which is free of charge with respect to bulky refuse. Additionally, on a weekly basis, the Local Council offers a skip which is situated in Triq Ta' Marżiena in Il-Munxar which the residents can make use of. Also, electrical items can be left at the Local Council and thereafter the Local Council will arrange everything for their disposal.

The Local Council is also aware of the number of cigarette butts which are being dumped especially along Ix-Xlendi coast. Beach cleaners are doing their utmost to clean this on a daily basis. Also, the Local Council is going to invest in a couple of ashtrays which are going to be installed as a pilot project.

As you might appreciate a lot is being done in order to keep the locality clean. As such I cannot tolerate illegal dumping within our locality or residents which do not stick to the garbage collection schedule. It is useless to grumble, everybody must do its part and I urge you to report to the Police, even on an unanimous basis any illegal dumping.

18. Planting of trees and maintenance on present trees

The Local Council has a contract with ELC Ltd and with a private contractor in order to do the necessary maintenance to the plants we have in the locality. The Local Council is working also to plant more trees and in fact has been given assistance from the Ministry of the Environment whereby more trees will be planted in Gnien Ragalna.

19. Collaboration with Wasteserv Malta Ltd on educational campaigns

The Local Council will be collaborating with Wasteserv Malta Ltd on educational campaigns regarding waste collection and these are going to start this October.

20. Clean-up events

The Local Council is committed to organise various clean up events in order to keep our locality clean and also instil a culture of interest towards the environment within the local community. In fact, a couple of weeks ago the Local Council has organised a clean-up event and although the participation was really poor we managed to gather two full skips in just a couple of hours. I urge all residents to take part in these initiatives.

The meeting ended at 6:45pm.