



## **SWIEQI LOCAL COUNCIL**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

**2012**

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## **Mayor's Message**

Six months have passed since the newly elected council was sworn into office. We have been busy addressing the needs of the locality and preparing to launch a number of new initiatives with the aim of strengthening civic involvement and responsibility in our locality. It has not been easy tackling all the issues we have encountered but nevertheless the Council has kept working and lobbying in order to improve the lives of our fellow residents.

Here follows a short report on the work of the Council and your Councillors.

## **Contact with Residents**

Constant contact with residents is our top priority. We generally receive a number of complaints and feedback via the phone or through email but we believe that the Council should be proactive. This is why we have taken to the streets in order to discover issues on our own initiative and in order to speak to residents face-to-face on site. We aim to keep this strategy ongoing throughout the whole term.

Of course, receiving feedback and complaints from you is still important. To facilitate this, the Council has started a pilot project where all complaints are now being registered in a centralised system. We are aiming to introduce an online complaints system by the end of the year.

## **Active Citizenship**

The Council also believes that active citizenship is an important element in the running of any representative organisation. We have so far established four working groups, involving a total of eighteen residents, addressing the following topics: Youth; Sport; EU Funding; Public Order & Security. We aim to establish the following additional working groups in the near future: Families & Children; Elderly; Expatriates; Culture and the Arts; Environment; Education; and Local Businesses & Self Employed. If you would like to help the council set the agenda in any of these topics and, together with other fellow residents, aid us to provide results, then please feel free to contact us.

### **Road Development & Maintenance**

The laying of Tarmac in Triq Josef Kalleja has finally been completed. The Council has met residents on site and has lobbied for their concerns. There is still more to be done in this road and the Council will do its utmost so that residents may be able to live in peace, in a healthy environment, and with the least hassle possible. Triq Josef Kalleja is only the beginning. The council has been lobbying with the government and the relevant authorities in order that solutions may be found for Triq il-Keffa, Triq il-Qasam, Triq ir-Ratal, Triq il-Marbat and Triq it-Tiben, amongst others. The Council believes that the state of many roads in Swieqi is unacceptable and has therefore set this issue as one of its main priorities.

### **Traffic Management**

The Council has been working on a report that has now been sent to Transport Malta. The report includes an extensive list of issues related to Traffic Management in our Locality and for which the Council is pressuring Transport Malta to provide a solution for. In the meantime, in order to safeguard drivers and pedestrians, we have introduced or refreshed road marking in a number of streets.

On a positive note, thanks to the feedback received by Arriva from the Council and residents, route 233 has been established and residents now have direct access to Sliema. Having said this, the Council is still receiving a number of complaints with regards to buses arriving late or not at all. Another concern is the fact that Madliena is not serviced at all. The Council will keep on lobbying Arriva so that these issues may be solved.

## **Law and Order**

The Council has met up with the police and wardens on several occasions, with the sole aim of improving law and order in our locality. We have received numerous complaints from residents and we have stressed with the relevant authorities that our locality is in need of better policing in order that residents may live in a peaceful environment. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August, the Working Group for Public Order and Security, met up with the Police and expressed the issues that have been plaguing them for the last couple of years. The dangers caused by illegal parking were also raised and will be addressed.

## **Campaigns**

The Council is currently working on a campaign called “Neighbourly Spirit”. The campaign will address three of the main concerns raised by residents: (i) dog owners not cleaning up after their dog (ii) protruding shrubs from front gardens (iii) residents not respecting waste collection times. The campaign will aim to educate residents on the laws related to these issues; provide residents with the facilities so that it will be easier to conform to the law; and last but not least, introduce the necessary enforcement mechanisms so that the law may be respected.

### **Swieqi-Fest**

Swieqi Fest was composed of four events held between the 7th and the 9th of September. On the 7th a Youth Festival was organised with three performing bands: MsLeads, Skarlet and Crosswalk. On the 8th in the morning, we organised a number of sport and fun activities next to the Ibrag Church, including the traditional Swieqi 5k run, 5k walk and 1.3k fun run; a number of cycling races; zumba, basketball and chess. In the evening of the 8<sup>th</sup>, an acoustics performance featuring Christabelle Borg, Kristina Casolani and Kurt Calleja, was co-organized with the local organisations in Swieqi: ZAK Ibrag and Swieqi United FC. On the 9th, a kids area was set up, which included a petting zoo, a bouncy castle, arts and crafts, a magician, face painting amongst others. Open-air Mass was held at 7pm. The Spiteri Lucas Band, featuring Ludwig Galea, Debbie Scerri and Ivan Spiteri Lucas entertained the crowd throughout the evening. The Local Council would like to thank everyone who helped, councillors, staff, helpers, Rev Father Tony; ZAK Ibrag, Swieqi United FC, Athleta Pembroke Athletics Club, Greens Cycling Club, Malta Basketball Association, as well as our sponsors, Corner Foodstores, Papillon, Farsons, Greens, Bank of Valletta, the Hon. Minister Dolores Cristina and the Ministry of Education, the Hon. George Pullicino and the Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs, Ministry for Home Affairs, Malta Tourism Authority and the Hon. Robert Arrigo. Feedback from residents was good and we look forward to organising more events in our locality.

### **Skola Sajf**

Skola Sajf was a great success with over 40 kids taking part. The Council received great feedback from parents and the kids' concert held at the Parish Hall was packed with people. A special note of thanks goes to Mrs Said; to the teachers who did a great job; and to the Rev Father Tony who offered both halls and three classrooms for the organisation of Skola Sajf.

### **Immunisation**

An application has been successfully made to the Department for the Promotion of Health so that elderly residents could have the service of immunisation and doctor's certificate done in the locality. The application was acceded to and we are currently accepting bookings.

### **Work in progress**

- The Council is looking into refurbishing the F.X. Ebejer garden in order to make it more attractive to families and of upgrading Triq l-Uqija. The Local Council is always on the lookout on ways how we can better embellish our locality.
- Work on the Civic Centre has commenced and the Council will be following the works being conducted from beginning to end.
- The Council is also looking at starting a "Go Green" campaign which will provide residents with the necessary advice on how to reduce energy consumption and how to create green energy. The campaign will also bring together a group of experts that will aid the Council turn our locality in a best-practice example when it comes to Green Energy.
- The Council is also looking into the possibility of setting up an Arts Centre in Swieqi.
- The Council is working with the Malta Basketball Association in order to set up a basketball nursery. The Council is also looking at helping establish an athletics club.

To conclude I would like to thank the Councillors and the Local Council staff for their work. I believe that if the Council gains further momentum, if we keep on working hard and if we increase our effectiveness and efficiency, then we can truly make a difference in Swieqi.

Noel Muscat  
Mayor

