

Pembroke Local Council

Business Plan

2007 - 2010

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1.0 Introduction and Situation Analysis

This Business Plan outlines the Pembroke Local Council's main objectives for the three years 2007 up to 2010. This year is the third year of office for the fifth Council for Pembroke. During the coming year the Council will conclude projects that have been on the program for this Council and possible start with the implementation of others.

The main infrastructural project for this year is the embellishment of the open space and the upgrading of the recreational/playing area in St Patrick's. This project will use up most of our surplus funds carried forward for this year 2007. Embellishment works around Block 6 St Andrews have started and would be finished by the middle of April 2007. This will complement the work done at Block 7. The Council had proposed embellishment works of the open area between Triq Ruzar Briffa, Triq Camillo Sciberras and Triq Mikiel Ang Grima with HSBC and also with the 34U program. We are hopeful that this area is turned into a lovely garden with trees to be enjoyed by all as is happening to the area around Triq Luigi Billion and Burma. Regarding the embellishment of the entrance to Pembroke the council has prepared a simple plan to upgrade this area. But on the advice of our Architect, we have to wait for a reply from the Authorities to see what is insight for this area with reference to the proposed new arterial roads designated for the area.

Our heritage is also another important item on the Council's agenda. The underground rooms of the Pembroke Battery that were to be converted into a historical British era museum are still not ready. Sadly the works on the battery have stopped. The idea of a historical museum is still on hold but hopefully it will be concluded together with the restoration of the Madliena Tower in time to do the heritage route in the coming months. Problems of water seepage in the battery rooms have not been solved and in this case the Watre Services Corporation have to find a way to solve this problem.

Resurfacing of the roads is also one of the Council's primary aims apart from the other responsibilities of the Council. During this term the Council was in no position to do resurfacing works on roads, nor on new pavements. Hopefully, after the completion of the St Patrick's area, most of the surplus funds of the Council will be diverted to this aim. In this respect the issue of Triq il-Mediterran was tackled once and for all with the help of the Central Government. Other roads that need to be resurfaced are Margerita deBrincat and Gabriel Henin.

Most embellishment works have continued around St Patrick's, St Andrews and St George's. The St George's area is to be upgraded by the Housing Authority as more housing units are erected in the immediate future. The works by the Housing Authority around blocks 9 and 10 St Andrew's are finished and only a low percentage of embellishment works is still pending. The patching of roads, another delegated responsibility of the Council, will eventually continue although this will decrease whenever we resurface a road and that cost is diverted to other work. During the last few weeks we have done patching around all of Pembroke and non-urban roads as required in time for the summer months.

With the help from Minister Pulliccino and his Ministry together with the Council the upgrading of the open space behind the St Michael's school will become a reality. Plans for this embellishment have been concluded. We should also see that parking spaces are formed on the side of Australia Hall and better traffic management around the schools implemented. During this year, the issue of our Primary School will be concluded and works are expected to start by October 2007... The Council must keep on insisting with Central Government, so that together with the boat owners, the slipway project is concluded as was promised during the elections of four years ago. Other recreational and embellishment project proposed which will include a Bocci pitch, is the area situated between Triq Manuel Buhagiar and Triq Burma which will compliment the recreational/playing field in William Harding.

Apart from the fact that the annual budget allocated to the Council is never enough, we are proud that most of the projects mentioned in last year's report, are now completed. The last budget was distributed wisely to cater for all the commitments that the Council had projected but sadly enough we are facing once again shortage of funds to cater for new lighting after many promises that this vote will increase. All our presentations to the Ministry for more funds have been in vain. Another problem facing the Council is the state of the play equipment. In the report commissioned by the Council most of the equipment is not certified to EU standards and needs to be replaced.

Keeping in touch with the residents is of paramount importance to the Council. We have to carry on meeting different groups of residents to discuss with them issues that concern them and their area. This exercise will continue in the coming months. In my opinion this is the binding tie that will insure a healthy environment of discussions and new ideas for the present and the future residents of our community and for Pembroke itself.

1.0 Introduction and Situation Analysis

Mayor

2.0 Mission statement and Values

2.1 Mission Statement To continue to strive to create the right atmosphere and to develop the infrastructure to the best needs of our residents whilst keeping in mind that unlike other localities, Pembroke is purely a residential area. This will not be in conflict to encourage business opportunities, which would be identified as beneficial to the local residents especially when such business could generate part of the required funds to restore and maintain our Historic Heritage. We will also seek to control the present development by co-operating with the Planning Authority, thus:

- a) Representations will be made whenever it is felt that certain projects will ill effect the residents or the community at large.
- b) We also forward suggestions so that certain buildings of historical or characteristical value are included in the list of Protected Property.
- c) The Planning Authority Enforcement section will be summoned to intervene whenever the need arises.

Finally, the participation of the residents will be encouraged so that they will have a say in all decisions taken since, sooner or later, these will affect their way of thinking.

2.2.Values

The Values for the forthcoming years are: -

- a) To maximise the benefits of our community as a whole whilst respecting the needs of individuals and of specific sectors.
- b) To Respect the environmental and cultural heritage of this community.
- c) The just and open administration of all Council business.
- d) To instil more civic pride in each and every resident.

To promote through education a co-operative and tolerant society.

3.0 Objectives, Expected Results and Strategies**3.1 Short term objectives and expected results (2007/2008)**

Objectives	Expected Results
1. To establish a modern and environment friendly town planning policy for the whole of Pembroke and embark on its implementation in phases.	1. The existing open areas, especially Government owned areas and picnic areas, will be identified and embarked for landscaping and to improve sports facilities to enhance healthy recreational grounds for the residents and their families. This policy will also help to link the various existing units such as St Patrick's, St Andrews, and St George's into one whole area - Pembroke.
2. Encouragement of resident's awareness in various areas.	2. Increase police / local warden's protection to curb abuses especially in places which are highly frequented by people such as barren areas.
3. Continue with the resurfacing of roads, consisting of black top and reinstatement of existing underground services.	3. To ensure better flow of traffic and to improve the safety of the community.
4. To maintain expenditure within budget and at the same time ensure the best value for money for all services we buy.	4. Each and every financial year will end on a positive note.
5. We will do our utmost to employ or contract the right people for each and every task in the hope to improve customer care and increase efficiency.	5. Daily complaints should decrease which signify quick commitment to rectify such complaints and indirectly enhanced quality of service.
6. The introduction of locality maps in various parts of the locality and locality informative leaflet	6. Improvement to locate different parts of the locality.
7. To re-introduce separation at source for household refuse in Pembroke.	7. Success from the scheme as was the case when it was implemented for some years.

*3.0 Objectives, Expected Results and Strategies***3.2 Long Term objectives and expected results (2007 - 2010):**

Objectives	Expected Results
1. Motivate staff to execute the administration of the Council beyond acceptable levels.	1. Motivated staff will render more not only in quantity but also in quality of service.
2. Identify sources of new income to finance the proper maintenance of numerous soft open areas and possible ways and means to safeguard same areas.	2. Minimise complaints and also secure a healthy environment. Involve residents to show environmental awareness and participate in the upkeep and look after of such open areas.
3. To maintain and improve the road surface in Pembroke according to priorities.	3. Meet the dire expectations of the residents of Pembroke and further minimise complaints.
4. Continue with Town Planning Policy for Pembroke.	4. Offer alternative opportunity to the residents to seek healthier recreational areas created through landscaping and sports centres. It is anticipated that the Central Government will approve the necessary financial assistance.
5. Landscaping of the valleys and open areas.	5. This will impede the further destruction of the valleys and open areas while helping to embellish the area and providing the right environment to counter balance the effect of building development.
6. To intensify the campaign to revise the boundaries of the locality.	6. Approval of our request will stop the funny situation existing at the moment.

Objectives, expected results and strategies (cont.)

3.3 Strategies

The strategies to be adopted by the Council are aimed to provide a healthier environment by protecting *green belts*, and maintain to high standards all the soft open areas. Residents should be encouraged and helped to participate in this protection and care.

Keeping in mind that Pembroke is a relative small Council, but growing every year due to new housing projects, we will try to embark on joint ventures with surrounding Councils in order to cut costs and at the same time create a sense of belonging.

We believe that we are the voice of our residents and partners to surrounding Councils and therefore strictly believe in the process of dialogue whilst maintaining the prerogative to manage and to make decisions in the best interest of the community.

We will convince residents to be more aware of prevailing circumstances and will urge them to help the Council in our major commitment and participate in our aim of **safeguarding the environment**.

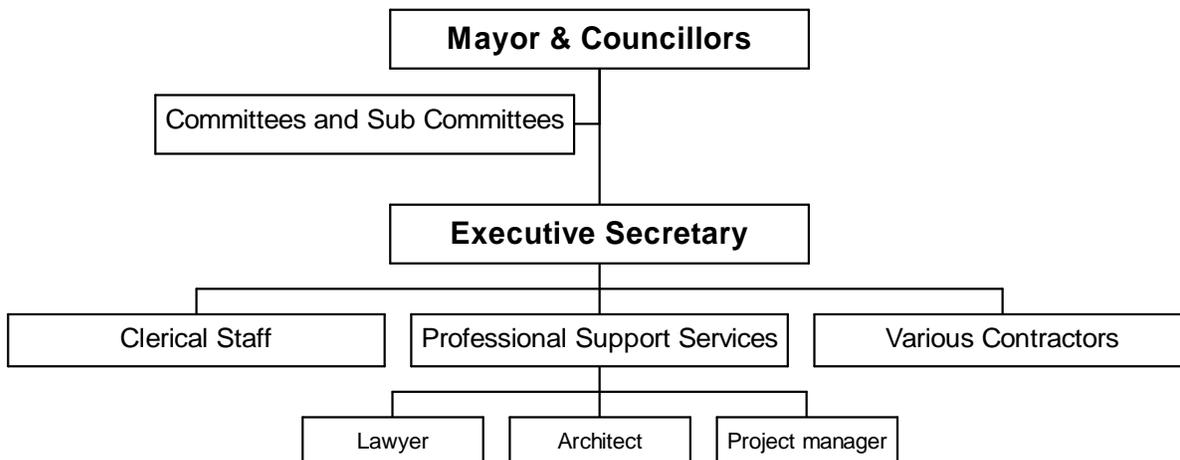
The contracting-out method will be used whilst additional help will be sought from the central government. Sponsorships from the private enterprise will also be sought and encouraged.

With reference to Town Planning it is important to embark on the implementation exercise as proposed in the North Harbour Plan (Pembroke's Section), although this has not yet been published officially.

With reference to the embellishment of the valley and the open areas it is anticipated that the Council will find both the moral and financial support of the Central Government and the respective entities concerned coupled with the co-operation of the public who will then be encouraged to plant trees to commemorate special events such as: births, marriages etc.

4.0 Operations Analysis

4.1 Organisation



The organisational structure, which at present is dealing with the day-to-day business has been in effect for the last twelve months and has reached its goal to have an administrative employee available at defined hours during the day to meet resident's expectations and thus be in a better position to deal more effectively with day-to-day business.

The above is the result of the attending hours of the Council Executive Secretary currently operating on a full time basis two full time clerks supporting the Executive Secretary and the regular attendance and help of the Mayor and certain Councillors.

All policy making are still headed by the Council and supported by the permanent committees, which once functioning will help in the Council's business to make it more effective and enhance supervision and allows quick and reliable feedback to all concerned.

The Secretary is the executive, financial, and administrative head responsible to execute the Council's business.

The clerks carry out reception, telephone handling, and other various clerical duties.

The supporting professional staffs include a Lawyer, an Accountant and an Architect / Project Manager.

Operations Analysis (cont.)

4.2 General Activities

During the financial year 2006/07 the Council received quite a number of complaints. These were all handled with efficiency since the Council has in its employment the full complement.

The Council intends to continue with the training of its staff and Councillors so that the best level of management could be reached.

Apart from all the problems, many a time the Council decisions are left unheeded due to the bureaucracy that still reigns in government departments / authorities.

Our efforts to fulfil the scope of a Local Council are not solely focused on ordinary organisation and administration of services sold or bought, but again we hope to embark on major capital projects as will be identified further on.

Our Main activities will be to.....

Execute efficiently our designated responsibilities. Ensure that our streets are daily cleaned, re-introduce again refuse separated at source and collected on time, embellish our numerous open areas, to improve or at least maintain our roads and pavements to the highest acceptable level according to our funds.

Pembroke is a locality, which boasts of Historical Buildings and which, due to negligence on the part of the present owners, are slowly but surely being destroyed. In the past we tried our best to convince the present owners to do their utmost and start restoration works without further delay; unfortunately our pleas fell on deaf ears!

Existing infrastructural needs (mainly roads, culverts, and street lighting) are being dealt with by requesting the required support from the responsible Departments and Corporations, again amidst the reigning bureaucracy!

The Councillors, as chairpersons to five committees, will continue to work hand in hand to overcome the oncoming problems related to the challenge to change Pembroke and keep a balance between the environment and development and keep in mind that this locality needs to be developed into a modern and carefully planned residential area.

Kevin Borg
Executive Secretary

5.0 Financial and Performance Forecasts**5.1 Three-Year Financial Forecast**

ACCT NO.	DESCRIPTION	FORECAST	FORECAST	FORECAST	FORECAST
		2007 - 08	2008 - 09	2009 - 10	2007 - 2010
		Lm	Lm	Lm	Lm
2	Income				
0000	Government	130,381.00	143,419.10	157,761.01	431,561.11
0020	Bye-Laws				
0090	Investment				
0100	General				
	TOTAL	130,381.00	143,419.10	157,761.01	431,561.11
1	Expenditure				
1000	Personal Emoluments	25,971.00	26,490.42	27,020.23	79,481.65
2000	Operations and maintenance	115,406.69	116,555.51	118,876.12	350,838.31
7000	Capital Expenditure	28,132.54	420,660.00	296,660.00	745,452.54
	TOTAL	169,510.23	563,705.93	442,556.35	1,175,772.50
	SURPLUS/DEFICIT	(39,129.23)	(420,286.83)	(284,795.34)	(744,211.39)
	BROUGHT FORWARD	39,129.23		(420,286.83)	39,129.23
	CARRY FORWARD		(420,286.83)	(705,082.16)	(705,082.16)

Notes:**5.2 Notes and Assumptions****Income**

- a) We are assuming a 100% population growth, according to the Housing Project entailed in the North Harbour Plan, in the next two years and thus we anticipate a minimum of 10% increase in the Annual Financial Allocation, i.e. a 10% increase in 2007/2008 over 2006/2007, and another 10% increase in 2008/2009 over 2007/2008.
- b) Currently investigating new opportunities for contributions receivable from commercial organisations and others.

Expenditure

- a) Increase in Personal Emoluments due to anticipated wages / salary increase of 2 % per year. Expect slight increase in Operations & Maintenance Expenditure due to price increase (1 % in 2007/2008 & 2 % in 2008/2009).
- b) Since the current financial allocation is sufficient to cater for the day-to-day running of the locality, we hopefully anticipate that due to our control on spending the Council's capital projects will be entirely financed through the allocation from the Central Government and other assistance programmes from various departments.

Financial and Performance Forecasts (cont.)

5.3 Three Year Income Forecast

ACCT NO.	DESCRIPTION	FORECAST 2007 - 08 Lm	FORECAST 2008 - 09 Lm	FORECAST 2009 - 10 Lm	FORECAST 2007 - 2010 Lm
2	Income				
0000	Government				
0001	Annual	130,381.00	143,419.10	157,761.01	431,561.11
0002	Supplementary				
0003	Special needs				
0004	Public/government delegations				
0015	Other				
		130,381.00	143,419.10	157,761.01	431,561.11
0020	Bye-Laws				
0021	Community services				
0036	Contravention of bye-laws				
0056	Sponsorships				
0066	General services				
0090	Investment				
0091	Bank interest				
0096	Government securities				
0100	General				
0110	Donations				
0120	Contributions				
	TOTAL	130,381.00	143,419.10	157,761.01	431,561.11

Notes:

Financial and Performance Forecasts (cont.)

5.4 Three Year Expenditure Forecast

ACCT NO.	DESCRIPTION	FORECAST	FORECAST	FORECAST	FORECAST
		2007 - 08	2008 - 09	2009 - 10	2007 - 2010
		Lm	Lm	Lm	Lm
1	Expenditure				
1000	Personal Emoluments				
1100	Mayor's allowance	2,385.00	2,432.70	2,481.35	7,299.05
1200	Employee salaries and wages	19,185.00	19,568.70	19,960.07	58,713.77
1300	Bonuses	2,196.00	2,239.92	2,284.72	6,720.64
1400	Income supplements				
1500	Social Security contributions	1,805.00	1,841.10	1,877.92	5,524.02
1600	Allowances				
1700	Overtime	400.00	408.00	416.16	1,224.16
		25,971.00	26,490.42	27,020.23	79,481.65
2000	Operations and maintenance				
2100	Utilities	7,580.95	7,656.76	7,809.89	23,047.60
2200	Materials and supplies	865.76	874.42	891.91	2,632.08
2300	Repair and upkeep	15,225.00	15,377.25	15,684.80	46,287.05
2400	Rent	525.00	525.00	525.00	1,575.00
2500	National / International memberships	500.00	505.00	515.10	1,520.10
2600	Office services	1,840.62	1,859.03	1,896.21	5,595.85
2700	Transport	1,663.00	1,679.63	1,713.22	5,055.85
2800	Travel	2,000.00	2,020.00	2,060.40	6,080.40
2900	Information services	1,575.73	1,591.49	1,623.32	4,790.53
3000	Contractual services	68,353.91	69,037.45	70,418.20	207,809.56
3100	Professional services	5,670.00	5,726.70	5,841.23	17,237.93
3200	Training	600.00	606.00	618.12	1,824.12
3300	Community and hospitality	8,856.72	8,945.29	9,124.19	26,926.20
3400	Incidental expenses	150.00	151.50	154.53	456.03
3600	Local Enforcement System				
		115,406.69	116,555.51	118,876.12	350,838.31
7000	Capital expenditure				
7001	Acquisition of property				
7100	Construction	3,660.00	33,660.00	33,660.00	70,980.00
7200	Improvements	8,847.54	31,000.00	31,000.00	70,847.54
7300	Equipment		13,000.00	2,000.00	15,000.00
7500	Special programmes	15,625.00	343,000.00	230,000.00	588,625.00
		28,132.54	420,660.00	296,660.00	745,452.54
TOTAL		169,510.23	563,705.93	442,556.35	1,175,772.50

Notes:

6.0 Capital Development

6.1 Three Year Capital Development Forecasts

Account No. Project No.	Capital Expenditure Project Description	2007 - 08		2008 - 09		2009 - 10		2007 - 08 to 2009 - 10
		Account Lm	Project Lm	Account Lm	Project Lm	Account Lm	Project Lm	Account Total Lm
7001	Acquisition of property							
7100	Construction	3,660.00		33,660.00		33,660.00		70,980.00
7110	Centru Civiku & Kummercjali				30,000.00		30,000.00	
7120	Bini Amministrattiv		3,660.00		3,660.00		3,660.00	
7200	Improvements	8,847.54		31,000.00		31,000.00		70,847.54
7210	Office / Street Furniture				3,000.00		3,000.00	
7220	Street Paving				15,000.00		15,000.00	
7230	New Street Signs				3,000.00		3,000.00	
7240	Urban Improvements		8,847.54		10,000.00		10,000.00	
7300	Equipment			13,000.00		2,000.00		15,000.00
7310	Electronic Equipment				5,000.00		2,000.00	
7320	Plant & Machinery							
7330	Motor Vehicles				8,000.00			
7500	Special programmes	15,625.00		343,000.00		230,000.00		588,625.00
7510	Road Resurfacing				30,000.00		30,000.00	
7520	Gnien 4 ta' Lulju				20,000.00			
7530	Pembroke Battery		625.00		10,000.00		10,000.00	
7540	Play area triq W Harding				25,000.00		25,000.00	
7551	Reservoir Covers							
7552	New Pavements				50,000.00		50,000.00	
7559	Car park Triq Falaise / Alamein				15,000.00		5,000.00	
7560	Locality Maps				2,000.00		2,000.00	
7563	Reconstruction of Pavements							
7564	Conservation Wied Harq Hamien				10,000.00		1,000.00	
7565	Restoration Madliena Tower				10,000.00		1,000.00	
7566	Restoration Fort Pembroke				20,000.00		20,000.00	
7567	Rest. Sandhurst C/Twr.				5,000.00		5,000.00	
7568	Upgrade of Pembroke Beach				15,000.00		5,000.00	
7569	Conservation Water Course Bridge				2,000.00		2,000.00	
7570	St Patricks Playing Field		15,000.00		10,000.00		5,000.00	
7590	New Trees				2,000.00		2,000.00	
7591	Masgar fi Triq Burma				1,000.00		1,000.00	
7592	Pasage L Billion / I Vella				1,000.00		1,000.00	
7593	Triq il-Mediterran				75,000.00		40,000.00	
7594	Upgrading Juno Flats area				5,000.00		5,000.00	
7595	Junction St Patricks				15,000.00			
7596	5 a side football pitch				20,000.00		20,000.00	
TOTAL New Projects:		28,132.54		420,660.00		296,660.00		745,452.54

6.0 Capital Development

6.2 Notes and Assumptions

The execution of each project is subject to the availability of funds and potential changes in the Council's Capital development priorities.

No quotations have been requested for Capital Projects however prices are always based on technical estimates obtained from consultants.

Notwithstanding all this, the Council's projections for 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 need a further allocation of funds or Government involvement of approximately Lm 717,320. These are needed to compliment and finish all Council's aspirations for the next three year.

Capital Development (cont.)

6.3 Details of Capital Development Projects***7110 Construction of a Local Commercial / Community Centre.***

This project is of high Priority for the Pembroke Local Council due to the fact that one finds a number of shops in the locality. During discussions leading to the North Harbour Plan, the Council had insisted with the MEPA that a Local Commercial / Community Centre should be included and constructed without delay. This project has been on paper since the beginning of the Council. We think that more than enough for this project to start. Hopefully this year 2007, we will be in a position to see the introduction of such a project.

7510 Resurfacing of Roads.

It is a known fact that the remaining Pembroke Roads lack a decent road surface. It is more than obvious that the current expenditure on road maintenance may be referred to as money going down the drain as practically some roads in the locality require patching at least three times a year. Existing roads requiring urgent resurfacing mainly Triq Gabrielle Henin, Triq Alamein, Triq Madre Margherita De Brincat, Triq Burma, Triq Normandy, Triq Juno, Triq ANZAC, Triq Falaise, Triq Tobruk, Triq Suffolk, Triq Sir Adrian Dingli, Triq Martin Luther King, Triq Giaocchino Le Brun, Triq Pietru D'Armenia, Triq George Portanier, Triq Lewis V Farrugia and all St. Patricks roads.

7540 Upgrading of Existing Play Area at Triq L-Imhallel W. Harding.

This project has been accepted and included in the Pembroke Action Plan by the Planning Authority. The Council has applied for a permit (PA 0399/97) to enable us to carry out urgent works to remove the danger that existed at the time, ie. a vehicular access to a private garage passes through this play area. This phase had been concluded. Phase two includes the general upgrading of the site, with added facilities, including new Play Equipment, Tennis / Multipurpose Court, Pathways, Gazebo's and planting of numerous Trees to enhance the Environment. MEPA is still evaluating the permits for this project.

This Council has asked for help from various Ministries on successive years for this project but to no avail, thus any help from the Central Government will be appreciated. The estimated cost will be approximately LM 50,000. Though having limited funds, the Council has removed the danger and completed Phase 1 of the project. Once the permits are issued the Council will start by closing off the area which at least will serve as a play area rather than a public car park as it is now with all the hardships that such a place creates.

7552 Construction of New Pavements.

Pembroke still lacks new pavements in many areas especially in roads that were resurfaced prior 1999.. The Council has a directive that whenever a street is to be resurfaced the pavements also will be done new. Services are put in the new pavement with the collaboration of the Corporations concerned.

Capital Development (cont.)

7554 Low Lying Areas.

Since some residences are located in a low-lying area, rainwater penetrating into basements is causing great hardship and financial burden to our residents. The Council has repetitively requested the Roads Department to carry out the required works but alas no active response has ever been received. The Council has requesting the sum of Lm50,000 in order to construct the necessary culverts to re-direct rain water from its present course. This hardship is suffered mostly by residents of Triq Dun Amabile Sisner. During last year the Council had presented even a case in Court on behalf of these residents.

7559 Car Park at Triq Alamein c/w Triq Falaise.

This site has been accepted and included in the Pembroke Action Plan by the Planning Authority as a car park to cater for the needs of the four Schools located in the area, namely Pembroke Bice Mizzi Vassallo Primary and Kindergarten, St. Michael's School, and St. Catherine's School. All these Schools do not have any parking facilities and the chaos that reigns in the area is unacceptable. The problem has been even increased after the introduction of Towing and Clamping area.

Thus the Council prepared Plans for this car park and applied for Special Funds, again to no avail. The Council's plans are for 50 car-parking bays, which could be electronically managed by a card system, while a CCTV and Floodlighting Systems are also envisaged for Security reasons.

The project is divided into two phases, Phase One that includes Construction and Floodlighting costing approximately LM 20,000, while Phase Two, which includes the Pay System plus CCTV, will cost approximately LM 35,000 for which the Council will requested the Central Government's financial aid or from private partnership schemes.

7563 Reconstruction of existing Pavements.

Though Pembroke is relatively new, a good number of existing pavements have to be reconstructed. This is the result of negligent construction and at times these pavements were severely damaged by plot owners during construction of their dwellings.

7564 Conservation of Wied Harq Hamiem.

It is the Council's aim to preserve this valley together with St Julian's Council. During the past years this valley was neglected and frequently used as a dumping site. Both Councils would require substantial funds to effectively landscape and maintain this valley. During this year the Landscape Consortium will start to embellish the new road leading to the hotels. This initiative came about after Pembroke Council insistence that not enough funds are available for the Council to embark on such a venture.

Capital Development (cont.)

7565 Restoration of Madliena Tower.

The Council still insists that this Historical Tower should be entrusted to the Council in order to ensure its revival and preservation. On the other hand the Council may ask or insist that the San Andrea Consortium, which will be awarded the new White Rocks project, will eventually cater for this historical tower.

7566 Restoration of Fort Pembroke.

The Council is again hoping that sufficient funds be made available to restore this Historical Fort which presently is in the hands of the Verdala International School. This is a major restoration project whose result should appease the many Tourists (especially of British origin) that ever so often do visit Pembroke for its Military History - again it will be up to the Central Government to allocate the appropriate funds. The Council should inform the Lands Department about the state of this historical building so that action is taken to stop the deterioration process.

7567 Restoration of Sandhurst Clock Tower.

The Local Council has repeatedly asked for the restoration works on this Clock Tower, and hopes that students of the Education School of Building will carry out structural works. On the other hand, the electrical clock needs special repairs and constant maintenance, thus the Council is requesting financial assistance to be allocated for this use. The Council feels honoured to have Two Clock Towers of Historical value, which are also visited by numerous tourists visiting our islands.

7568 Upgrading of Pembroke rocky beach (Bajja zghira)

Pembroke Local Council would like to upgrade the small area, which unfortunately is the only area, which is accessible to swimmers. This area is highly frequented by residents during Summer. The Council's intention is to plant new trees, place a number of benches and to improve access. The project might even include upgrading the road approaching the area by providing a small parking area to ensure that the area will not remain a shabby area. During this year the Council will prepare plans for this initiative and present them to the authority for consideration.

7569 Conservation of Water Course / Bridge

This watercourse leads from Triq il-Mediterran to the open sea. For many years this area was illegally frequented by hunters and trappers. During the last year the Council together with the Lands Department, the Police and A.F.M. personnel cleared all the illegal hides and constructions on the garigue. The bridge is severely damaged and needs restoration, whilst the watercourse needs to be cleaned from debris and rehabilitated. The Council would ask the help of the Armed Forces of Malta to carry out such work together with the Italian Military Mission Staff and public works department staff stationed in Pembroke.

Capital Development (cont.)

7570 Upgrading of Recreational Area at St. Patrick's.

The Pembroke Local Council had submitted the proposed plans to the Planning Authority way back in 1995 (PA 2638/95) and applied for Special funds but to no avail. During discussions with the Planning Authority leading to the Pembroke Action Plan, the Council had asked for this project to be included and our proposal was upheld. After the publication of the draft Action Plan, the Council had reached an agreement with the Planning Authority to change the site for this Play Area due to the Council's suggestion for the new Housing sites.

Thus the existing play area, which has been neglected since the British Services left the Island, could be upgraded and once the new housing units are built, it is hoped that this recreational area would break the existing barrier between residents of the Area.

The project includes new play equipment, pathways, benches, and litterbins, lighting and planting of various trees. The Council estimates that this project would cost approximately LM 30,000, and surely aid from the Central Government would be needed and appreciated.