



# Għaqda Residenti Sliema

**Sliema Residents Association**

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## **Press Release : Sliema Residents Association meeting with the Sliema Local Council L-Għaqda Residenti Sliema tiltaqa mal Kunsill Lokali ta' tas-Sliema**

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On Tuesday 12 January 2010 the Sliema Residents' Association (SRA) and the Sliema Local Council (SLC), headed by the Mayor, Mr Nikki Dimech, held a cordial and meaningful meeting at the SLC offices, whereby a number of issues submitted by the SRA relating to current conditions experienced by Sliema residents were discussed.

The SRA expressed its concern regarding the air pollution levels in Sliema caused by construction activity compounded by the heavy and continuous traffic flows in the locality. The SRA reiterated fears that air pollution in Sliema is adversely affecting residents' health and quality of life. The Association therefore proposed and urged the SLC to consider hiring portable air quality monitoring equipment, available in Malta, to monitor independently in real-time, the levels of hazardous substances (like microscopic 'particulate matter' and Nitrous Oxides) at various locations in Sliema.

Given the hazardous air pollution levels in Sliema, the SRA repeated its requests to the SLC to assign wardens to book blatantly polluting vehicles and to urge the relevant Authorities to deploy environment-friendly buses on local bus routes without further delays.

Sliema's precarious traffic problems were inevitably on the agenda; the SRA expressed its dismay that the holistic Sliema traffic management plan, agreed in principle by the last SLC (over two years ago) has not yet materialised. Even the piecemeal, localized traffic management proposals submitted in 2008 are far from implemented.

In view of ADT's failure to draw up the long overdue and much needed regional traffic management plan, SRA urged the SLC to consider issuing a call for tender for the drawing up of a plan for Sliema to provide effective solutions.

The SRA expressed its view that the recent development planning permits within Sliema are anything but sustainable, despite MEPA's own policies to the contrary. The Association argued that it is imperative to recognise the adverse health risks associated with air pollution, and the correlation of construction activity with harmful PM levels, to enforce 'sustainable development' controls in the locality.

The SRA raised the arbitrary changes made by MEPA to the Sliema Urban Conservation Area with particular mention of the Villa Bonici site which is the last green lung of Sliema.

The Councillors present expressed their commitment to discussion of the concerns and proposals submitted by the SRA in subsequent council meetings. Ongoing liaison and information sharing was agreed upon by both parties. The SLC plans to upgrade its official website shortly and will link this to the existing website [www.sra.org.mt](http://www.sra.org.mt) of SRA.

Best regards

## The SRA Committee

Nhar it-Tlieta 12 ta' Jannar 2010, l-Ghaqda Residenti Sliema (SRA) u l-Kunsill Lokali ta' tas-Sliema (KLS) immexxija mis-Sindku s-Sur Nikki Dimech, kellhom laqgħa kordjali f'l-ufficcju tal-Kunsill li halliet toghma tajba maz-zewg entitajiet. F'din il-laqgħa l-Ghaqda Residenti Sliema ressqet numru ta' problemi li jirrelataw mal-hajja ta' kuljum tar-residenti gewwa din il-lokalita'.

L-SRA esprimiet it-thassib serju tagħha fir-rigward tat-tniggis ta' l-arja f'tas-Sliema, liema tniggis huwa ggenerat mill-attivitajiet pjuttost kontinwa tal-kostruzzjoni kif ukoll mit-traffiku qawwi w kontinwu li jghaddi minn din il-lokalita'. L-Ghaqda hi mhassba li dan it-tniggis qed jaffetwa hazin hafna sew lis-sahha tar-residenti kif ukoll il-kwalita' ta' hajja tagħhom. Għaldaqstant, l-SRA hegget bis-shih lil KLS biex jikkunsidra l-kiri ta' apparat li jkejjel l-ammont ta-tniggis f'l-arja fi zmien attwali, liema apparat jezisti go Malta. Dan l-apparat huwa differenti minn dak li normali juzaw l-'Air Monitoring Unit' tal-MEPA peress li minbarra li dan jagħti rendikont attwali tat-tniggis f'dak il-post partikolari fejn ikun installat, jista jitmexxa minn post għal iehor b'facilita', u hekk jista' jkun magħruf fejn huma l-agħar postijiet għat-tniggis f'tas-Sliema.

Minhabba l-periklu għas-sahha tar-residenti kawzat mit-tniggis ta' l-arja (benzene u NOx li diga qabzu l-limiti stabbiliti mill-Unjoni Ewropeja), l-SRA regghet fakkret lill-Kunsill Lokali fil-proposta tagħha li għandhom jittqegħdu 'wardens' biex jirraportaw dawk il-vetturi li jkunu jdahhnu w ukoll, biex il-Kunsill jinsisti ma l-awtoritajiet ikkoncernati biex ma jithallew li jintuzaw vetturi tat-trasport pubbliku li jniggsu l-arja għal-tas-Sliema kif hemm jintuza fil-present.

Ma setghax jonqos li tigi diskussa ukoll il-problema prekarja tat-traffiku f'tas-Sliema fejn l-SRA esprimiet it-thassib serju kif, minkejja li akatar minn sentejn ilu l-Kunsill precedenti kien qabel fil-principju li kellu jsir studju w pjan komprensiv rigward l-imanigġjar tat-traffiku għal tas-Sliema kollha, sal-llum dan l-istudju w pjan għadu ma sehħ. Mhux biss izda l-proposti dwar manigġjar tat-traffiku li saru w tressqu fl-2008 għal-partijiet zghar ta' tas-Sliema jidhru li baqgħu fuq xi xkaffa.

Minhabba d-dewmien esagerat biex l-ADT tippublika l-istudji tagħha li kella tagħmel għal tas-Sliema, l-SRA talbet lill-Kunsill Lokali biex tikkunsidra tohrog 'sejha għall-offerti' biex kumpaniji privati jissottomettu l-offerti tagħhom biex isir l-istudju w pjani tant mehtiega biex jigu ndirizzati b'mod shih il-problemi tat-traffiku ta' tas-Sliema.

L-SRA sostniet ukoll il-fehma tagħha li l-permessi għal bini li qed jingħargu mill-MEPA huma theddida għas-sostenibilta' ta' din il-lokalita, bi ksur jew tghawwig ta' dak li hemm miktub fl-stess 'policies' tal-MEPA. L-Ghaqda Residenti Sliema izzid illi hu mehtieg li jkunu magħrufa sew r-riskji w periklu għas-sahha tar-residenti assocjati mat-tniggis ta' l-arja u l-incidenza jew konnessjoni ta' dan ma' l-attivitajiet ta' kostruzzjoni w zvilupp, biex hekk ikun hemm il-kontrolli mehtiega għal zvilupp sostenibbli f'din il-lokalita'.

L-SRA ddiskutiet ukoll certu tibdil arbitrarju li għamlet il-MEPA fir-rigward ta' 'Urban Conservation Area' b'riferenza specifika għal kaz ta' Villa Bonici, l-agħar pulmun f'tas-Sliema

Il-Kunsilliera prezenti wegħdu l-impenn tagħhom li ser jiddiskutu dawn il-proposti mressqin mill-SRA f'laqgħat ohra li għandhom isiru fil-futur qrib. Iz-zewg nahat qablu ukoll biex jaqsmu kull informazzjoni li jkollom fuq diversi temi għal beneficcjuri tar-residenti. Il-Kunsill Lokali ta' tas-Sliema qed jippjana biex jirringa s-sit elettroniku tiegħu, w la darba dan ikun lest, accetta li ssir 'link' bejn din il-'website' u dik ta' l-Ghaqda Residenti Sliema li hi [www.sra.org.mt](http://www.sra.org.mt)

Tislijiet,  
Il-Kumitat ta' l-SRA