

SPEECH - NOTES

**HYBRID PARKS ATELIER
PROGRAMME: INTERREG IV C
LEAD PARTNER: SCHLOSS DYCK GERMANY**

POST-SPEECH

PERIT RODERICK SPITERI (MAYOR)

MR CHRISTIAN GREUSSEN (LEAD EXPERT GERMANY).

**Minister: Dr Konrad Mizzi B.Sc., M.A.(Notts), Ph.D.(Notts), M.P.
MINISTRY FOR ENERGY AND THE CONSERVATION OF WATER**

**DR MALCOLM BORG (LOCAL EXPERT/CONSULTANT PAOLA LC) (NO SPEECH)
VENUE: HOTEL EXCELISOIR
TIME: 8:15 – 9:30**

CHARLES DEGUARA VICE-CHAIR PAOLA HERITAGE FOUNDATION

LADIES AND GENTLEMAN

COLLEAGUES, MAYOR, COUNCILLORS, DELEGATES AND EXPERTS

Hybrid Parks is an essential contribution to Paola's future plans. As a foundation we have sustained the Local Council in the past few years in various projects and initiatives. In fact the Paola Heritage Foundation which is young and established in 2009 developed through the involvement of Paola citizens in the Urban Support Group and in the compilation of the REPAIR Action Plan launched in 2010.

Paola Heitage Foundation was generated with one main mission in mind.

...as per Article 4 of the Statute; 'To protect,conserve and promote the Heritage, cultural,natural and archaeological of Paola and all assets which are tangible and intangible which represent Paola as a locality and gives it a

sense of place'.

Our first project was the World War II Shelters in Santa Ubaldesca which were cleaned and we have also commissioned a Conservation Management Plan and currently monitoring water seepage to guarantee future conservation and access to the public.

The next project in our set priorities through our statute was the Heritage Trail which was compiled by our members and was developed in sync with the Paola Local Council. This was an important stage in showcasing the locality's identity but most importantly it is crucial in creating a cultural tourism package for Paola which has unfortunately been overseen or underestimated. We have distributed a copy for you in your packs.

In Paola we have 2 World Heritage Site from the Hal-Saflieni and Temple Period respectively and as a town we are part of that ensemble of Local Councils which are within or around the harbour fortifications. This 28 kilometre ring of fortifications is part of our identity and portrays what and who we are today.

Hybrid Parks for the Foundation a sister project. The Foundation is currently participating in the AT FORT Project also in the Interreg IVC programme with the Dutch New Water Line as a Lead Partner. The fortifications are not only a cultural asset in this case but a site to adaptively re-use wisely as green or open space. Next week we are launching the AT FORT Atelier also in this hotel with experts from 8 partner countries discussing the adaptive re-use of space. What is interesting is that as in the case of the earmarked projects for Hybrid Parks the adaptive reuse of disused and misused fortifications fits well with the strategy being proposed for Corradino Lines. High on the list of priorities as proposed in the Action Plan and the

Strategy which is being drafted for public consultation is the concept of park and the exploitation of space for social and public activity. In the midst of an industrial park our challenge is to unblock the potential of the site which at its core is a fully fledged and thriving sports centre – one of the most important in the Maltese Islands and management by another Voluntary Organisation the Hibernians Sports Association. This activity area or park is a vital link in the redevelopment of Paola and is an opportunity to continue to promote sports and culture in our town and in our country.

We hope that through our projects and through these programmes we can engage in a health discussion and significantly contribute to research. We hope to secure further funds so as to actuate what is written policy to an effective project on the ground.

Thank-you