

## **SPEECH - NOTES**

**HYBRID PARKS ATELIER  
PROGRAMME: INTERREG IV C  
LEAD PARTNER: NEW DUTCH WATERLINE**

**PREVIOUS SPEAKERS:  
MR RONNIE CALLEJA (CHAIRMAN FONDAZZJONI WIRT PAOLA),**

**POST-SPEECH  
MR PETER ROS (LEAD EXPERT NDWL).  
DR MALCOLM BORG (LOCAL EXPERT/CONSULTANT PAOLA LC) (NO SPEECH)  
VENUE: HOTEL EXCELISOIR  
TIME: 8:15 – 9:30**

**PERIT RODERICK SPITERI MAYOR**

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LADIES AND GENTLEMAN

COLLEAGUES, COUNCILLORS, DELEGATES AND EXPERTS

AT FORT is a welcome project and we have sustained and supported it from the start. It is one in a series of projects that in the past year the Paola Heritage Foundation in collaboration with the Paola Local Council has embarked on. In 2011-2012 Paola Local Council launched the REPAIR Action Plan which is an integrated and strategic plan to rehabilitate and regenerate the core of Paola Local Council.

Together with Paola Heritage Foundation represented here by Mr Ronnie Calleja and Mr Charles Deguara we also developed a Heritage Trail or Walk which sees the integration of the various heritage assets and landmarks of the locality. Paola is blessed with a unique situation in Malta – although a very busy transport hub with negative impacts the locality has three critical assets two of which are of World Heritage Status. With the Hypogeum at Hal Saflieni, Kordin III Temple site and the Corradino Lines and Prison which is on the Tentative List the Heritage Trail is unique

in combine cultural heritage of a critical level. The trail will in time increase the importance of the asset and the fortifications. The site is important in the context of local history and will definitely increase the value of Paola's tourism package.

The Foundation has diligently developed a Strategy which although in Draft will be ready for consultation in second quarter of this year. The proposal also sees the possible participation of Nature Trust. We already have contacted and discussed with them the adaptive re-use of the Ditch as it is now not only an asset of cultural value but amazingly in the middle of an industrial site we have nature and endemic species taking over. Whilst preparing for the reports last year we had a very good response from the public and the VOs The Foundation and the Council worked together to have a reaction for proposals in a public meeting. The local Scouts and Guides are welcoming our proposal for a possible camping area and system for outdoor activities. Interreg IV C like all research programmes which are significant for the Foundation is giving us the possibility to explore new design, new planning systems and create benchmarks on a European level.

In Paola two years ago we initiated a system of democratization by design, where our citizens voted for a preferred plan and for a design option. This priority project will also hopefully go through the same process and create a sense of belonging. The fortifications or Lines are being designed as a Park adjacent to an Industrial Park which is already in construction stage. The Heritage Trail is clue to the success of the project as it will lead tourists from the UNESCO Hal-Saflieni Temples to the East and the Corradino Lines and Prison to the West. It is less than a kilometre and the Local Council is supporting the idea of semi-pedestrianized areas to support this route.

Environment is one of the pillars of the REPAIR Action Plan which is also an important element in the current National policy. Apart from developing plans in the area of gardens and parks Paola Local Council through its Plan is seeking alternative energy as a means to shoulder the responsibility and to lower the Carbon footprint. This year the Paola Local Council joined and is now signatory to the UN Global Cities convention which has as one of its priorities climate change.

We hope that through our projects and through these programmes the research undertaken will create a positive change in the right direction. Harnessing this research and project by the Foundation will hopefully bring our citizens to participate further in the proposal. I welcome the Paola Heritage Foundation's great effort in not only participating but also launching these initiatives for the good of our locality.

Thank-you