

## Action plan on Fort St Elmo 'in the coming months'



An action plan on Fort St Elmo will be drawn up and announced in the coming months, Infrastructure Minister Austin Gatt said today.

Speaking during the handing over of part of the Valletta fortifications for rehabilitation and management as a heritage park by *Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna* (see separate story), the minister said this part formed part of the government's plans to rehabilitate the harbour area.

Other projects will include the rebuilding of the bridge to the Valletta breakwater, which was demolished during the war. Talks on this project have been started with MEPA. The government also wanted to see the reconstruction of the Valletta lift and had launched the project for the redevelopment of City Gate and the site of the Opera House.

Dr Gatt said plans for the rehabilitation of Marsa Creek would be presented next month along with plans for an increase in berthing facilities for yachts.

Education and Culture Minister Dolores Cristina said Heritage Malta had presented her ministry with a list of 50 historic sites where a lot of work needed to be done. The government intended to invite NGOs involved in the cultural heritage to help in the rehabilitation and management of those sites.

Parliamentary Secretary Jason Azzopardi said the handing over of this property was part of a series of actions by the government to ensure that public property was put to best use for enjoyment by society.

See also:

<http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20090126/local/valletta-tunnels-to-become-part-of-heritage-park>

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## Comments

Daniel Russell (1 week ago)

@Jimmy Magro and TRW O' Neill

Well, this Brit would help out to get this fine building on its feet in any way he could! I love Malta and everything about it and to see it in this sorry state is such a shame when it could become a real asset for the people of Malta.

Why cannot the Government of Malta, Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna and the Fort St Elmo Foundation work together, like English Heritage works with local history societies. Being non political for a moment, isnt what Mr Magro wants to do a good thing for Malta and to revive this sleeping giant? An ideal site for a Maltese parliament perchance? Could Mr Piano be brought in to assist with the regeneration? or even better, a Maltese architect?

The Maltese people at the end of the day should have a say in what this magnificent building is re used for - Please Government of Malta, do not exclude them from the consultation and listen to all people regardless of politics to help save this wonderful building.

TRW O'Neill (1 week ago)

Well done! I am sure that certain Brit's would volunteer out of interest, to assist unpaid to help out on the project, not wishing to take wages from workmen, they could do certain tasks that are necessary in such a worthwhile refurbishing job.

Nigel Lawrence (1 week ago)

The same crowd has been "talking" about these projects for years- still nothing happens.

albert leone ganado (1 week, 1 day ago)

Can heritage malta or the education ministry inform us which are these fifty sites which have been identified as needing intervention. This is what transparency is all about.

Citizen joe borg wants a proper informed debate and a true consultation process with full information where every interested party can put forward his proposals, an agreed master plan with priorities is established and restoration or renovation procedures agreed upon well before being confronted with forwarded Mepa submissions and artist's impressions or worse still fait accompli.

Lessons should be learnt from the heated controversies and anger of the last few months re public projects. Citizen Joe does not want public projects to end up as parliamentary motions which form part and parcel of the game of political football.

Jimmy Magro (1 week, 1 day ago)

The Fort St. Elmo Foundation can only work if it finds the same support that FWA finds from the present Administration. I fail to understand why our national heritage should be trusted to two main Foundations in Malta since they should never have the monopoly over our national heritage. I do not want to think that these Foundations have become a PN driven NGO's.

I also fail to understand why the Fort St. Elmo Foundation has been given a cold reception by the PN Administration - simply because I happened to have served as the ex-Secretary General of the Malta Labour Party.

It never crossed my mind that this form of political hatred and discrimination would come so near the salvage of our national heritage.

The Fort St. Elmo Foundation still believes that it has an important role to play in the development of the Fort only if the Government accepts to recognize its contribution on the matter.

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