

Palace Square car park plans shelved



The government has shelved plans to build an underground car park at Palace Square in Valletta.

The decision was taken after tunnels found beneath the square were deemed as having historic value by the Superintendence of National Heritage.

It is the second reversal of plans for an underground project in Valletta in a matter of weeks after the government and the Church jointly asked their representatives on the St John's Co-Cathedral Foundation to drop plans for the underground extension of the cathedral museum. The application to MEPA was formally withdrawn on Monday.

The government still intends to embellish Palace Square. Resources Minister George Pullicino said the project will include the installation of a fountain and paving.

Comments

Roberto Vella (1 week, 4 days ago)

@ Paul Caruana

while i agree with you on the need for mature decision making I find it hard to understand how one can classify this as encouraging and mature decision making...were someone else be governing the country, as was some good years ago, this would have probably been classified as "yet another huge u turn"....two weights two measures perhaps??

Paul Caruana (1 week, 4 days ago)

Sadly, it appears that some are hellbent on criticising the government no matter what. Personally, I think it is most encouraging the way that the current government did not hesitate (excessively) to reverse its own decisions when this allowed the national interest to be better served.

Are we finally (if somewhat belatedly) entering a new era of mature political decision making?

Michael Cutajar (1 week, 4 days ago)

GONZIPN...one year on

Backtracked on almost every project. Bad planning, wrong priorities, management by crisis at a time when the Prime Minister lost control of his 1 seat majority in Parliament.

D. Micallef (1 week, 4 days ago)

This is no discovery. Actually it shows great lack of planning. Ray Bondin has written that this tunnel had already been discovered.

'This tunnel was known to everyone. Its entrance has for many years been used as a store. The basic truth is that the project planned for the area has been embarked upon without the necessary research and documentation such a project deserves.' - Ray Bondin - The Times 04/03/2009

So please give us a break. As usual, the project was a non starter, like the Cathedral fiasco

Jimmy Magro (1 week, 4 days ago)

@Michael A. Vella

"...said the project will include the installation of a fountain and paving."

...and also the permanent removal of the '7 June 1919' monument. A ghastly and pointless structure that should never have been put up anywhere, let alone in St George's Square, sullyng the memory of the real Maltese heroes who formed part of the 'Dun Mikiel Scerri' plot against the French then occupying Valletta, and who were executed in that very same square.

Mr. Vella : i suggest you check your history books

R. Caruana (1 week, 4 days ago)

Why should sensible decisions be considered political? Makes one wonder what kind of bloggers write over here.

See this link and you'll understand how important historical areas are:

http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2009/03/cologne-archive-collapse-disaster-for-historians.html

Cologne has lost a 1000 year-old archive due to tunneling for a new line of the underground rail.

Joseph Sammut (1 week, 4 days ago)

Common sense is relative: was this really common sense?

Alex Borg (1 week, 5 days ago)

@Simon Sullivan: sounds too good to be true - there must be a catch somewhere ;) some other development in a ODZ area or some eyesore given the blessing...

Joseph Borg (1 week, 5 days ago)

It really looks like Gonzi is afraid to cross swords with JPO

John Carmel Navarro (1 week, 5 days ago)

Wonder of wonders are we witnessing a change in the way things are accomplished by the powers that are, next maybe the shelving of Parliament on the Old Opera House site! Rethink of Piano proposed designs Oh its getting rather late only dreaming.

Michael A. Vella (1 week, 5 days ago)

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Laurence Zerafa (1 week, 5 days ago)

Good news that our heritage is again being taken seriously. Now we should use some resources to survey and preserve these tunnels. Also, if it is safe and and viable to do so, open them for the public to visit and admire what could turn out to be a notable engineering feat of 16th century Malta. Once again congratulations for a good decision.

Simon Sullivan (1 week, 5 days ago)

by jove .. whats all this common sense all of a sudden ?