

Solution to parking problems (1)

Monica Muscat, Valletta



Some readers may have seen "No Parking, No Business" notices affixed to Valletta shop windows. I agree and disagree with what is stated.

I think saying that no parking means no business is a false premise. If this were not so, then Old Bakery Street (where I live and have my business) must truly be the hub of commerce in Valletta. Everybody parks here, or tries to, anyway, at least first go!

Our city will remain a capital city with or without parking being made available for shop owners and Valletta business people to park their posh cars in front of their shop. Clearly they are asking for parking for themselves and their employees and not for their clients!

I agree, however, that a parking and traffic re-organisation project should come before the proposed project of City Gate, Old Theatre and New Parliament House. If not before, at least let us have it conjointly. This would mean we would all know where we stand and what to expect. This project should be given the same prominence as the other projects have been given.

I have one suggestion to make. Why does not Renzo Piano introduce in his plan for City Gate a wide wooden and artistic bridge over the proposed breach of the walls? This will have to be able to take circulation of traffic but no parking. This change will avoid the many traffic problems this breach will be creating. For example, we would not have to enter Valletta through St Mark Street, a very short and narrow street, and traffic on to Old Bakery Street will not have to be changed to flow both upward and downwards (at least from the point of emergence, St Mark Street). Much has been written about these points: the would-be increased pollution, both emission of fumes and sound pollution being two of these, so I will not go into details.

I really hope, however, that we Valletta residents will not end up worse than we are now.

Comments

Astrid Vella (1 week, 4 days ago)

@ J Farrugia: In fact Mintoff or Lorry Sant's breach of the bastions by the Mediterranean Conference Centre is being partly remedied by plans to rebuild the original bastion line with traffic passing through a tunnel as part of the EU-funded restoration of the bastions, just as is happening in Vittoriosa.

This is why the use of a breach in the bastions to mark the main entrance to our citadel capital strikes one as rather anomalous, and certainly a case of giving contradictory messages.

Similarly, the rebuilding of the almost completely demolished chapel of St Anthony at Manoel Island is rightly hailed as a restoration triumph, while the rebuilding of the Opera House, which was always meant to be rebuilt, hence the numbering and storage of the stones, is denounced as a fake.

Please let us make up our minds!

Galea. L (1 week, 5 days ago)

J Farrugia

Not to justify it but a previous obscenity was made in 1963 by the PN government who regaled Malta with a fascist City Gate.

J Farrugia (1 week, 5 days ago)

@ Galea L. - If there are breaches in the fortifications please note that when going to the Med Conference Centre there is the biggest breach in the fortifications made by the great leader Dom Mintoff during his reign as PM. How about that for history? An obscenity if ever there was one. So please those who live in glass houses do not throw stones at your own house.

Galea. L (1 week, 5 days ago)

"...over the proposed breach of the walls?"

Correctly said Monica.

It is a breach in the walls that are there to guard the city which Piano wants to do away with.

Ever heard of a fortified city with breaches in its walls or a city gate without a gate?

Or perhaps of a Parliament on stilts so that occupiers could look down on the common people?

Or the blasphemy of a modern lift going up the fortifications to another breach in the wall?
