



GHAL GHAWDEX

PRESENTATION TO
MCESD & GRC

23rd May 2023





AGENDA

- Introduction - Godfrey Swain
- A brief message from the stakeholders
- Governance & Economic perspective
- Presentation of *Għal Għawdex* 8-point plan
- Q & A and discussion
- Concluding remarks – Dr Samuel Azzopardi





INTRODUCTION

- Through *Għal Għawdex*, seven key Gozitan entities are representing a broad cross section of Gozitan society
- *Għal Għawdex* is demanding immediate action on the state of play of Gozo's natural and built environment with firm proposals developed into an 8-point plan.
- The 8-point plan will present credible and practical proposals to safeguard the future of the island.
- Achieve the right balance between the drive for economic prosperity and the drive for protection and preservation of Gozo's environment.



MEMBERS

Għal Għawdex is an unprecedented alliance of 7 key Gozitan stakeholders representing a broad cross-section of Gozitan society



DIN L-ART HELWA
GħAWDEX



GħAWDEX



WIRT GħAWDEX



GOZO BUSINESS
CHAMBER



GOZO TOURISM
ASSOCIATION



KUNSILL REĠJUNALI
GħAWDEX



GOZO UNIVERSITY
GROUP



DIN L-ART HELWA GĦAWDEX

Din I-Art Helwa Ghawdex (DLĦGĦ), launched in 2021, is a Gozo dedicated branch of the Din I-Art Helwa National Trust, with a mission to safeguard Gozo's unique cultural and architectural heritage as well as its natural environment for present and future generations.

Website: <https://dinlarthelwa.org/regions/ghawdex/>





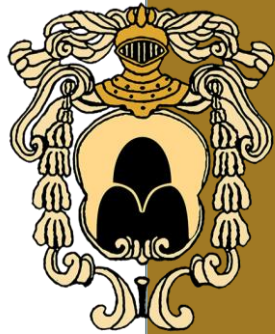
GĦAWDIX



Għawdix was set up in 2021 with the principal aim to be a voice for the concerned silent majority living in Gozo, who are directly affected by over-development and disregard for our island's identity. Għawdix addresses these concerns, by lending a voice to those families who are afraid of speaking up, as well as those among us who feel that organisations, even those engaged in the fight for the environment, are cut off from reality.

<https://www.facebook.com/ghawdix>





Wirt Ghawdex

WIRT GĦAWDEX

Wirt Għawdex is a voluntary non-governmental organisation founded in 1981 with the aims of fostering the knowledge of our heritage among all levels of society and to strive to safeguard the national, archeological, historical, and anthropological patrimony of the islands of Gozo and Comino.

Website: <https://www.wirtghawdex.org>



GOZO BUSINESS CHAMBER



The Chamber was formed on the 20th December 1999 out of the need at that time for the voice of Gozitan businesses to be represented at a national level. The Chamber is not only an association that represents businesses, but is also an active community organisation, voicing at various levels the concerns of the Gozitan community.

Website:
<https://www.gozobusinesschamber.org>

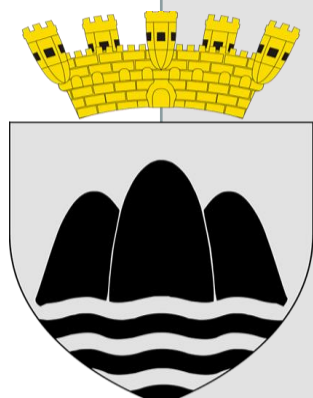


GOZO TOURISM ASSOCIATION (GTA)

The Gozo Tourism Association was set up on the 11th February 1999, with the main objectives of promoting Gozo as an all-year-round distinct tourist destination, while protecting and lobbying for the interest of its members coming from all sectors in the tourism industry. Along the years the Gozo Tourism Association has taken numerous initiatives to meet the objectives afore mentioned. At the same time, GTA has established itself as the Gozitan tourism voice both regionally as well as at national level.

Website: <https://www.islandofgozo.org>





KUNSILL REĠJONALI GĦAWDEX

The Gozo Regional Council is constituted of all the Local Councils of Gozo: *Ir-Rabat* (Città Victoria), *Il-Fontana*, *Għajnsielem*, *L-Għarb*, *L-Għasri*, *Ta' Kerċem*, *Il-Munxar*, *In-Nadur*, *Il-Qala*, *San Lawrenz*, *Ta' Sannat*, *Ix-Xagħra*, *Ix-Xewkija* and *Iż-Żebbuġ*. The functions and operation of the Regional Councils are established by law to administer public functions and are established by the Ministry for the National Heritage, Arts and Local Government, in the form of regulations following consultation with the Local Councils Association.

Website: <http://regjunghawdex.com/>





GOZO UNIVERSITY GROUP (GUG)

Making change easier – This is the slogan adopted by the new executive of GUG whose main aim is to facilitate the lives of Gozitan students. This slogan reflects the changes in the Gozitan students' lifestyle, which can be challenging at times. Important values for the executive are impartiality and freedom of expression. Executive members come from different courses resulting in a team that has a wider view and diverse ideas. The Group, being a voice for Gozitan youths, promotes organisations and youths to plan for Gozo's future.

Website: <https://gug.org.mt/>

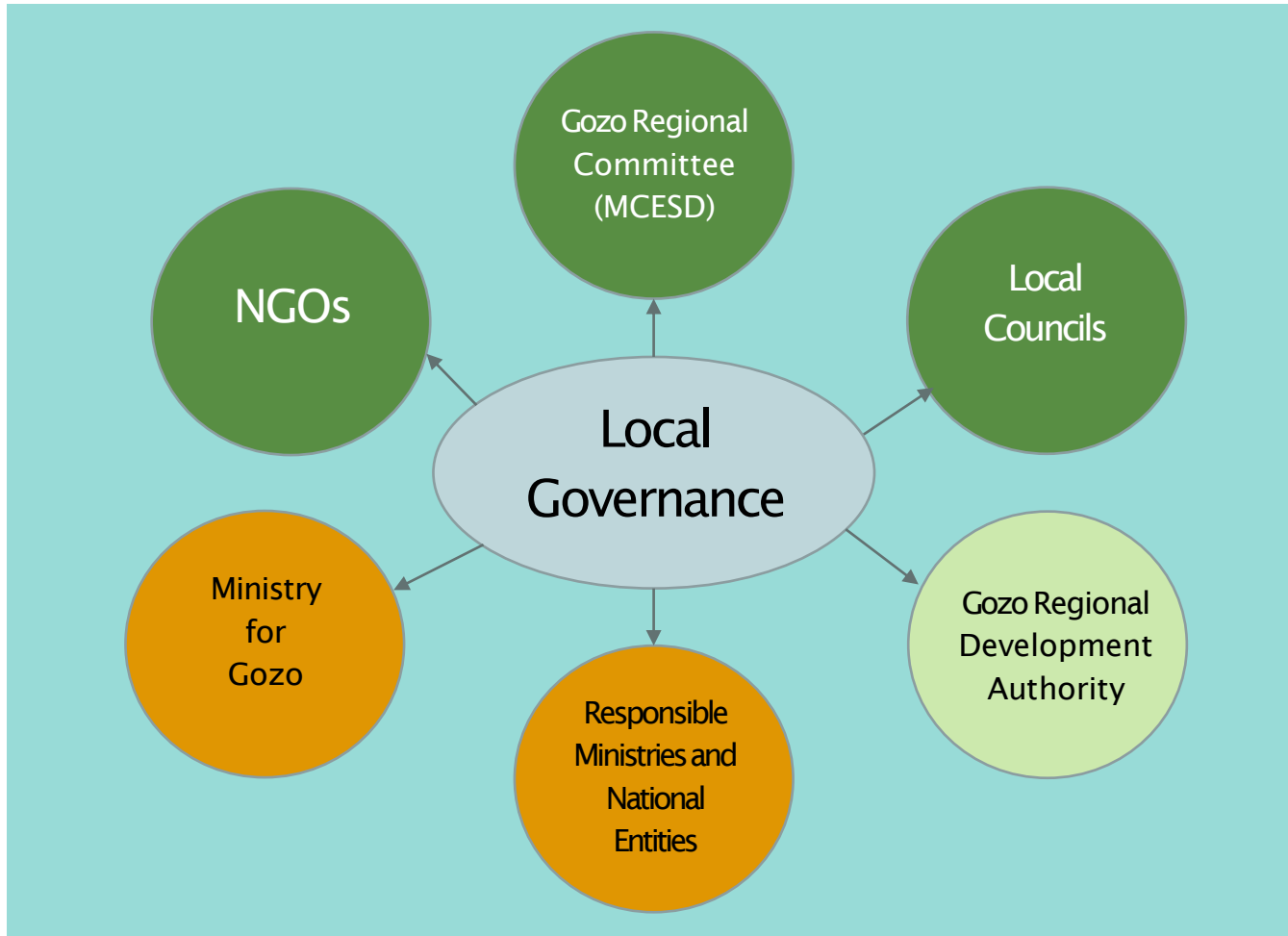


THE GOVERNANCE & ECONOMIC ASPECTS



- The key decision makers
- The economic contributors
- The tourism industry

GOZO'S GOVERNANCE SCENARIO



FOCUS



8-POINT PLAN

- Preserving & Protecting Gozo
- Driving Gozo's economic prosperity

OVER-RIDING GOAL

1.

Develop a new regional plan and policies specifically designed for Gozo, to preserve as an island of villages within a modern world, promoting the concept of responsible architecture.

- I. Respecting the fabric of traditional village cores, of village and ridge skylines.
- II. Protecting the rural and coastal environment with guaranteed access to all parts of the coast for the general public.

TEMPORARY MEASURES

2.

Until such time as a **new Regional Plan for Gozo** is finalised and agreed with all stakeholders, implement the following measures to arrest the present assault on Gozo:

- I. Suspension of DC2015 Annex 2 regulations
- II. Extend UCA boundaries to the maximum possible
- III. Moratorium on new ODZ applications

3.

FISCAL INCENTIVES

Until such time as a **new Regional Plan for Gozo** is finalised and agreed, correct the implementation of fiscal incentives on sale and purchase of property in Gozo by:

- I. removing all fiscal incentives on sale of buildings and land for development into apartments .
- II. retaining the existing incentives on sale and purchase of properties in UCA without subdivision.
- III. extending the incentives in (II) above to all vernacular and postwar properties outside UCA, subject to the same restrictions regarding subdivision.

4.

FISCAL INCENTIVES

- I. Implement a **fiscal incentive scheme** to encourage the restoration and conversion of existing large traditional properties and bring them back to life as residential homes, high-quality boutique hotels and guesthouses
- II. **This is on condition** that the fabric of the traditional property, the surrounding built environment and the existing traditional heights are respected and not exceeded, unless it is in an area that is already heavily and irreversibly committed.

5.

DESIGNATE GOZO as a 'Design Priority Area'

Enforcing **stricter architectural standards** and use of **traditional materials** for all new buildings, with traditional limestone or reconstituted stone compulsory on all facades, except in heavily committed areas where more modern, but creative designs, subject to careful scrutiny, can be implemented that blend in well with the surrounding environment.

6.

EXTEND BUFFER ZONE

- I. **Strictly enforce a 150-metre buffer zone around historical and scheduled buildings and monuments**, respecting and not exceeding the existing height of the historical and scheduled buildings within the buffer zone.
- II. **Eliminating all existing loopholes** and prohibiting the use of summary applications.
- III. Only allowing **full development applications** to be submitted in such areas.

7.

PARKING FACILITIES

Render illegal the development and sale of new apartment blocks **without adequate parking facilities** and make it compulsory to purchase at least one parking space with each unit (where available).

STRICT ENFORCEMENT


8.

This plan should not in any way preclude the **strict enforcement of current policies, rules and regulations**, which - if properly enforced by the Planning Authority - would already lead to better development within the region.



SUMMARY

If the **8-point plan** is adhered to, **THIS WILL ENSURE** that the long-term fabric of Gozitan society, and the built and natural environment are **respected**, while **promoting** the long-term **sustainable development** and **prosperity** of the island

A wide-angle photograph of a densely packed residential area in Gozo, Malta. The buildings are multi-story, with a mix of light-colored facades and dark window frames. A prominent rocky hill, known as the 'Gozo Rock', rises in the background under a clear blue sky. A construction crane is visible in the foreground, suggesting ongoing development or renovation work.

IS THIS THE GOZO WE WANT?



OR IS THIS THE GOZO WE ALL WANT AND LOVE?



THANK YOU, QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

Din L-Art Helwa Għawdex - Godfrey Swain
Għawdix – Simone Azzopardi
Wirt Għawdex – Prof Joseph Caruana
Gozo Business Chamber - Joseph Borg & Daniel Borg
Gozo Tourism Association – Paul Scicluna & Joe Muscat
Kunsill Reġjonali Għawdex- Dr Samuel Azzopardi
Gozo University Group – Christine Sultana



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www.ghalghawdex.org

[facebook/ghalghawdex](https://facebook.com/ghalghawdex)

Instagram.com/ghalghawdex

CONCLUDING COMMENTS

DR SAMUEL AZZOPARDI - Kunsill Reġjonali Għawdex

THE GOZO WE ALL WANT AND LOVE