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| Meeting | Public Consultation for the EIS carried out in relation to PA 4906/10 – Ғal-Ferh, Golden Bay, Mellieħa, Malta |
| Date | 01.12.2011 |
| Duration | Circa: 15.15 – 16.15 hrs |
| Location | Mellieħa Primary School |
| Present | Alex Camilleri (Chairperson; EPD - MEPA); Charlene Smith (EPD EIA Team - MEPA); Paul Gauci (ERSLI Consultants) |
| Minutes taken by | Charmaine Zerafa (MEPA, EPD) |

Alex Camilleri opened the meeting giving details about the application - PA 4906/10: *To demolish existing touristic complex, clear site, cut/fill, and construct tourist complex as per development brief for area.* Clarification vis-à-vis purpose of the meeting was provided, that this, that meeting is part of the EIA process, and that it is not a decision-taking meeting but is carried out to take on board any comments of those attending.

Dr. Paul Gauci, o.b.o. ERSLI Consultants gave a presentation explaining the studies carried out in relation with the application.

Alex Camilleri opened the floor for comments after the presentation.

Comments:

Robert Cutajar (Mayor – Mellieħa Local Council) - Confirmed that LC agrees with the proposed junctions as these would help diverting traffic off Manikata and thus sees to the interest of the residents. LC also had an issue with regards to light pollution and noted that this was seen to by the revised proposals. The main issue put forward by the LC is related to the traffic that will be generated once the project is full operational, considering that in that same area there are already other projects that are generating traffic like the Radisson Blu Hotel and “Il-Park tal-Majjistral”. An emphasis is to be made so that employees use the parking spaces that will be made available to them and thus leave any other available parking slots for public use.

Paul Gauci (ERSLI Consultants): Traffic counts of such areas were taken during the August shutdown period and also at the same time traffic counts were taken from the Danish Village. It was noted that during the peak hour (of the peak season) such project will generate approximately 80 to 90 cars per hour. One should mention that hotels do not generate a lot of traffic.

Robert Cutajar (Mayor – Mellieħa Local Council): Major concern is related to the amount of parking spaces that will be lost. In previous meetings, mayor reported that discussions with the applicant concluded that the existing car parks will be shifted to this new proposed parking.

Paul Gauci (ERSLI Consultant): Mr. Gauci pointed out that during the studies (namely the TIS), the amount of cars parked (during peak hours) was also calculated at the existing parking spaces, and this amounted to approximately 600 cars. The new proposed parking will hold around 225 cars. Technically the number of parking spaces will be less provided that this parking will be the only one in the area.

Winston J. Zahra: Commented that the parking situated next to the beach does not make part of such project and thus will not be altered with such proposal.

Charles Micallef (Beach kiosk owner): Commented that they are in agreement with the LC stand, and pointed out that the main concern from their end is the parking. It was also suggested as to whether it would be possible to have the proposed parking as a basement as well to increase parking slots.

Paul Gauci (ERSLI Consultants): From studies done with regards to road infrastructure, it was noted that a much larger number of parking spaces can be made available but this falls within the remit of Transport Malta and Malta Tourism Authority.

Anne Zammit (Journalist): Queried whether the three (3) bus stops indicated will be used by public transport and private coaches at the same time.

Paul Gauci (ERSLI Consultants): When the initial proposal was made by the consultant, it was being envisaged that the spaces available will not be used just by Arriva buses. During the studies, it was noted that if you get three (3) buses at the same time, a lot of confusion is caused. Again, this issue was said to fall within the remit of TM and MTA, and does not fall within the scope of the EIA Public Consultation meeting.

Anne Zammit (Journalist): The perception of the public is that the aerial view resembled a race track - has the profile been presented to the public to correct this perception adequately?

Paul Gauci (ERSLI Consultant): Gauci stated that the problem is that what was presented to the public was a computer-generated image and sometimes such images do not give a good representation of a project - it was a question of the medium that was used rather than the actual design of the project proposal. If one goes into detail of the actual design, one notices that it is going to fit well into the environment (mainly if one looks to the type of material). What looks like a race track is actually a garden.

Winston J. Zahra: To be able to see the race track (walkway) one has to be flying right above the building. From the road one can also see landscaping.

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Alex Camilleri closed the meeting by confirming that the points raised were taken note of for record-keeping purposes and factoring into the subsequent stages of the process. He also thanked the participants and invited them to send any further comments by post to: MEPA Head Offices, St Francis Ravelin, Floriana or by email to ejamalta@mepa.org.mt by Friday 9th December 2011.