

SOCIAL POLICY COMMISSION 16/17

Meeting #3 – (Emergency)

University of Malta, KSU Tipico Careers Common Room

11th August 2016, 18:30

AGENDA

18:00 Registration

1. Approval of Agenda
 - a. Agenda Approved
2. High Rise Development

Alex Hili (KSU): Introduces subject. Thanks circulation and involvement re video. Highlights several problems tied to high rise projects such as parking problems. Developer contribution is that of only 25k per year. Sewage system cannot cope with current infrastructure. What about sewage treatment facilities?

Julia Farrugia (Y4TE): Let's not forget noise pollution from construction.

Luke Young (AIESEC): The width of a skyscraper is also an important factor. In New York there is a law which covers this.

Patrick Wallbank (COMMA): Would a sewage septic tank be feasible?

Abigail Calleja (MPSA): There is also the issue that fire-engines cannot reach certain floors.

Jessica Azzopardi (ICE): States that the building can be equipped with fire systems. Did engineers cater for this?

Ryan Farrugia (ESO): There needs to be a plan. How will we do this in technical terms?

Alex Hili (KSU): This is not our job. As a student body our job is to ensure it doesn't impact our lives. Standard of living is also affected.

Julian Chircop (We Are): the artistic industry will be affected as well.

Julia Farrugia (Y4TE): There are also psychological and physical problems especially where children are involved. Children feel dis-attached from nature and don't foster a culture to protect the environment. The next generation will not appreciate nature and will have no emotion towards future developments.

Edward Cachia (ESO): In the report there is written that in the short term, it's economic revenue will stop. Is there any research to support this?

Alex Hili (KSU): Having just buildings will collect dust particles, etc and this runoff pollution will seep into the sea and water table.

Patrick Wallbank (COMMA): Questions if these plans were approved?

Julia Farrugia (Y4TE): Yes but they can be appealed at a cost of 3.5k euro however NGOs and Sliema local council are looking to raise funds.

Patrick Wallbank (COMMA): Questions whether the high rise will be built over a park?

Alex Hili (KSU): No. What we are saying is to build smart, lessen impact of building.

Julia Farrugia (Y4TE): In the report the anthropological survey was touched upon briefly. When you have a project like this, an environmental impact assessment must be carried out. Michael Brigulio said this social impact assessment was conducted in 2007, is outdated and valid as an undergrad thesis. This report ignored key stakeholders. With regards to the report, although this was featured in the conclusion, it needs more attention.

Julian Chircop (We Are): We can include interesting features related to green architecture such as green walls, walls of moss were every morning they become wet with dew and hence serves as a way to clean up the area.

Gavin Borg (SIERA): Will they survive in summer?

Alex Hili (KSU): Yes, this same concept is used at uni.

Julia Farrugia (Y4TE): Continues that endemic plants are used.

Jessica Azzopardi (ICE): Questions whether something more tangible is tabled not just case studies.

Alex Hili (KSU): Suggests that building footprint has to have a square footage of the green areas.

Jessica Azzopardi (ICE): The footprint in Sliema is a bit small for this.

Julian Chircop (We Are): What about accessibility for sunlight in relation to these high rise projects?

Alex Hili (KSU): We didn't propose ways of how they can reduce impact of building.

Jessica Azzopardi (ICE): The impact assessment mentioned is outdated. We must distinguish where there are old residences to be preserved and built up areas.

Edward Cachia (ESO): If new industries come in, they need these buildings.

Alex Hili (KSU): 33% of our land is covered with buildings. 1 in 3 is empty so we need to maximize.

Ryan Farrugia (ESO): This is not the case in Sliema.

Alex Hili (KSU): Summarises Y4TE's proposal to highlight further the social impact assessment.

Julia Farrugia (Y4TE): There is also no safety report – not clear of who is in charge of what.

Patrick Wallbank (COMMA): What about measures to tackle congestion. Maybe incentive based carpooling with the incentive being petrol costs.

Alex Hili (KSU): This is already being implemented.

Julian Chircop (We Are): This depends on the workforce demographic. An article about smart measures to be sent.

Vote taken on report with addition of "green architecture" and "Anthropological social impact assessment" clauses.

"Anthropological impact assessment and safety report," clause proposed by Y4TE, seconded by ESA.

"Green architecture," clause proposed by We Are, seconded by Y4TE. ESO abstains, rest in favour, vote passes.

Julia Farrugia (Y4TE): Questions if there is anything else we can do that is more concrete.

Alex Hili (KSU): This report will lead us to lobby with authorities.

Julia Farrugia (Y4TE): Releasing a press release and video is good but this needs more of an impact. If we act further such as an initiative where we go to Sliema near Tigne park wearing green t-shirts to show concern publicly and see a visual of youths standing up. This is a demonstration of future generations not a protest. Maybe 1 minute of silence?

Gavin Borg (SIERA): Was going to propose something similar. Not a protest but similar.

Patrick Wallbank (COMMA): Wouldn't it be more effective if the protest is active rather than silent?

Julia Farrugia (Y4TE): A protest is seen as an inconvenience and noise.

Patrick Wallbank (COMMA): Maybe a discussion?

Edward Cachia (ESO): The media won't come for a few people.

Alex Hili (KSU): Shall we go back to our organisations and come back to discuss?

Gavin Borg (SIERA): If one of our concerns is the number of students, we should think of other options.

Julian Chircop (We Are): What about MCAST students, Junior College, ITS? It's not about university but about Malta.

Alex Hili (KSU): This would require at least a week. I would suggest getting back to our organisations and then meet again.

Ryan Farrugia (ESO): Hype is hard to build in summer as there are too many things going on at the moment.

Julia Farrugia (Y4TE): The hype is already there: this is simply a comment – an expression from us as a University student body.

George Montebello (COMMA): If you want to reach out in other institutions, since this was not on agenda, I need to discuss this issue with exec.

Gavin Borg (SIERA): Although I understand that a decision would be taken faster if not via KPS, I also would like to point out that if we don't have recognition through a body we'd simply be just a bunch of students which might not be effective.

Jessica Azzopardi (ICE): Questions if a silent protest will be organized or not.

Alex Hili (KSU): A press release launch is also an option.

Etienne Buttigieg (KSU): We can organize a press conference and if sufficient students turn up, we also describe it as a silent protest. This will give us flexibility, nevertheless we come wearing green t-shirts just in case.

Jessica Azzopardi (ICE): Who are we targeting? All high rise projects or just Sliema?

Alex Hili (KSU): High rise projects in general.

Silent demonstration and press conference concept proposed by Y4TE, seconded by ESA.

Abstentions: ESO, MMSA, ICE, GhSL, Third Eye.

Remainder in favour. Vote passes

George Montebello (COMMA): We need to invite the media or have our own organized media. Ideally a Monday afternoon.

Julia Farrugia (Y4TE): Y4TE will be unavailable from the 20th August.

Proposed date: Friday 19th August at 5:30pm at Gnien Bonello Du Puis, Sliema.

George Montebello (COMMA): What about inviting high profile people to attend in audience?

Patrick Chircop (We Are): Suggests mayor of Sliema.

Michael Aquilina (ICTSA): Suggests a collaboration with the Sliema Local Council.

Julia Farrugia (Y4TE): The main NGOs can be present. We do not want talkative people to be there and then focus deviates from students.

Jacqueline Grech Licari (ESA): We must be sure to focus also on Mriehel. Maybe the Mayor?

Gavin Borg (SIERA): Since this is an environmental protest let's keep our environmental footprint in terms of flyers, etc minimal.

3. Other Matters
No matters raised.

Meeting adjourned at 19:53.