

Handy Dumping Site?

Enjoying the sun under the umbrella, during my summer holidays, reading a book and sipping cold lemonade is a relaxing moment for me. That is - until I smell smoke of something being burnt nearby. Being absorbed in the story, at first I ignore it however, soon enough I can hear the fire engines alarm approaching our street. This is a frequent ritual that happens in our street mostly during summer.



Next to our house in our street there is an area, a field one could say, that has not been developed yet. However, it seems to serve a different purpose for people – as a dumping site. This particular plot brings about a lot of problems which the residents of the street have to face on a regular basis.

One of the most annoying problems the street faces during the summer season are spontaneous fires which occur due to glass found in the area and the high soaring temperatures we experience in the hot dry summer of Malta.

Another problem is that such rubbish brings along with it pests which thrive upon it, such a mice. It is a very common sight to see a mouse scurrying in our street. This is very unsanitary for the residents who live in this street.

Also such an area is an eye sore. Every resident attempts to make the street an appealing one by taking care of their front gardens. However, this area ruins efforts. Also, due to the type of rubbish being dumped here, it puts out foul smells which is very irritating.



The residents petitioned and looked for help at the local council with the hope that they could work out how to solve this problem. For some reason or another, this has not been solved. The owner of the land does not hold himself responsible since he states that he was not the one who turned it as a dumping site.

One legislation which has been recently introduced in Malta, which has not been applied yet however can be the solution to this problem, is that undeveloped areas have to be completely enclosed with a wall at least about 2 metres high.

If everyone would be responsible of dumping rubbish in appropriate skips and sites, there wouldn't be a problem in the first place. Moreover, the legislations can aid Maltese citizens in responsibly disposing litter. I would be happy to take part in a cleaning campaign, where we would tackle this area so we could live comfortably in our street.

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