

GREEN PROPOSALS

CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT

INTRODUCTION

The aim of these proposals is to have a more environmentally conscious Gudja, both as a space and its residents. Residents and people who have business interests or other interests in Gudja, Organisations and the Local Council should all work together in order to achieve these proposals.

PART 3: PROPER WASTE REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT

- 1.2. Composting and organic food collection are not the same. Composting Workshops should be organised for residents to attend, and composting sites should be available in public spaces that have soil. Composting should not smell, if it does, it either has too little browns or not enough water. The compost generated from such public places can be used in-situ or donated to local farmers.
- 1.3. Organic Waste management can be confusing. It should be noted that some residents use plastic bags rather than organic bags for their organic waste. This is not the proper way to collect organic waste since the bag needs to biodegrade. The Local Council and local organisations should help spread the message.
- 1.4. Food is crucial for existence, yet it is wasted. Before reaching the organic bin, residents could make use of leftovers. A campaign on food waste needs to be implemented. Educational workshops on making use of leftovers as well as sending recipe ideas with leftovers on the back of one-sided Local Council circulars could be ideas on how to achieve this. Moreover, local celebrations can be used to further spread this message.

- 1.5. Small electronic waste such as mobile phones or other gadgets should be collected at the Local Councils. This will mean that residents would not have to go to Hal Far to drop a mobile phone or wait for the Wasteserv Roadshow which is only present once a month. Phones that still work could be donated and circulated to other residents as a form of a freecycle or on a more means tested method should it be deemed necessary. Residents may be fighting poverty, perhaps silently.
- 1.6. Feasts are great but they waste. During local celebrations such as feasts, Lejla Sajfija and Lejla Maltija, the organisers should increase waste disposal facilities and have clear signs of what can go in the bin, including their state (e.g. soft drinks containers need to be rinsed slightly; oily containers should not be recycled etc). These should include recycling, a separate bin for bottle caps and an organic waste bin. It would be innovative for the organisers to offer a basin full of water where people can rinse their cans and bottles before recycling since throwing unclean recyclables in the bag ruins the whole batch. The water can then be used for watering plants. Clear signs are crucial for appropriate waste sorting.
- 1.7. Reusing is better than recycling. When possible, reusable items should be used in local celebrations. If this is not possible, other home compostable or paper products should be used. Being a small village has its advantages. Extra items, including plates and cutlery and cups, can be donated for continuous use by residents. This will take extra planning; but is a long-lasting solution for Gudja's environmental and social resilience and will in the long run create a more united community; both settled and new residents.
- 1.8. Local bars and food outlets should be encouraged to not use disposal items, even if not plastic.
- 1.9. Local shops should be encouraged to encourage their clients to bring their own bags and containers.