



Naxxar mayor unveils ambitious plan for Bahar ic-Caghaq

□ Rocky pathways, parking, barbecue areas and roadworks included

Naxxar council has drawn up an ambitious coast embellishment plan for Bahar ic-Caghaq, aiming to transform the area into a major attraction.

Forward-looking mayor Anġlu Xuereb said yesterday the plan would be presented to the environment and tourism ministries and the Planning Authority in the hope that an action committee would be appointed for its implementation.

Speaking at the launch of the plan yesterday, Mr Xuereb said the area had crystal clear sea, but most of the shore was inaccessible due to jagged rocks and a lack of pathways.

The council's proposals, which included the involvement of architects Cachia and Formosa, see the introduction of paths and sunbathing areas along the coast without harming the area's natural looks.

The council also wants to install street lighting along the coast road and plant trees at the edge of Maghtab landfill.

The two sandy beaches along the coast road will have improved facilities through parking and barbecue areas, and the council is proposing the building of underwater

Ariadne Massa

breakwaters to halt the erosion of sand.

Mr Xuereb said the council also wanted to eliminate some of the dangerous bends on the coast road and embellish the area near Ghallis tower.

Since it was no longer viable to produce salt by using the eponymous salt pans at Salina, the council is also proposing to transform the existing pans into catchments for second class water. The pans do not fall under Naxxar council's jurisdiction, but the council would like to see the idea incorporated into the works.

A proposal was also being made to build a timber bridge between the Salina area and Qawra promenade to provide easy access to pedestrians. Apparently this bridge used to exist in the past.

Mr Xuereb said the dusty track leading from the coast road to the caravan site was set to be tarmacked by the Public Works and Construction Ministry soon.

The mayor said that following public com-



Naxxar mayor Anġlu Xuereb indicating the proposed embellishment plan for Bahar ic-Caghaq. Proposals include transforming the salt pans (top right) into second class water catchments, and revamping of the caravan site.

plaints and low marks given to the council for beach cleaning by the Local Councils Department, the council had not renewed a contract it had with the Tourism Department, and the contract has been awarded to

a private contractor.

He said there had been negligence by the Tourism Department, to the extent that the department itself had not submitted a fresh offer when a recent call for tenders was made.