

Dingli Is Disappearing - Who Will Save It?

By: Kay Elizabeth Psaila, Lucia Caruana & Eva Borg Busuttil
St Joseph Junior School Sliema
Grade 5

Dingli has always been a place full of peace, fresh air, and beautiful views, especially around the cliffs. Many of us love going for walks there, watching birds, and enjoying the countryside with our families. Lately, we have been noticing that Dingli is changing, and not always in a good way. There are several environmental problems that are starting to harm the place we love.

One of the biggest changes we see is the recent **overdevelopment**. More buildings, roads, and construction projects are destroying open land, fields, and natural habitats; areas that are meant to stay natural and protected. This leads to the loss of wildlife and ruins the rural character that Dingli is known for. Some developments near the cliffs have been proposed or discussed, and this puts pressure on sensitive natural spaces where plants and animals live. (maltatoday.com.mt). As more land gets cleared or changed, the countryside begins to lose the calm, open feeling that makes Dingli special (newsbook.com.mt)

Another major problem is **traffic and pollution**. We have also noticed that traffic has increased. More cars and buses pass through Dingli, especially near the cliffs and tourist spots. This doesn't just make the roads noisy. It also causes air pollution and fills the air with fumes that are bad for our environment. It also makes the area less peaceful for both residents and animals.

Waste, littering and rubbish left by visitors are also harming Dingli. Sometimes visitors throw litter on the ground or leave plastic bottles near the paths. Worse than that, construction waste has even been dumped illegally in the cliffs area. Volunteers collect large amounts of waste during clean-ups (tvmnews.mt). Poor waste management and construction waste harm wildlife, pollute the countryside and spoil the natural beauty of the cliffs. Plastic waste can also harm birds and other wildlife.



Construction waste dumped in Dingli cliffs
Source: Original photo

Tourism pressure is increasing environmental damage to Dingli and the cliffs area. We know that visitors come because Dingli is beautiful, but when too many visitors walk off the proper paths, go into restricted areas, and ignore rules, the soil becomes damaged and plants also get crushed. This makes it harder for nature to grow back, and some areas become unsafe or eroded. This is what happened at I-Aħrax tal-Mellieha, where people went into restricted areas instead of a campsite, causing a fire that destroyed thousands of trees and creatures in the area (tvmnews.mt).

All these problems together make it clear that Dingli needs more care and protection. **Lack of strong environmental protection** make matters worse. Weak law enforcement leads to illegal dumping, excessive construction, and destruction of green spaces to continue. We believe there are many ways we can help improve the situation. We think construction should be limited in natural areas so that the countryside stays green and healthy. More bins could be placed around the cliffs and walking

paths so people do not leave litter behind. Signs can remind visitors to stay on the paths, and educational messages could be shared to explain why Dingli's environment is so delicate.

We also think that traffic could be reduced by encouraging visitors to come by bus instead of by car. This would make the air cleaner and the village quieter. Planting more trees and protecting spaces where animals live would help wildlife feel safe again. Finally, rules about illegal dumping and damaging nature should be enforced more strongly so that people think twice before harming the environment.

If these problems are not addressed, Dingli risks losing its natural beauty, clean air, and peaceful environment it still has. Dingli is a treasure, and we want it to stay beautiful for many years. If children, adults, tourists, and the authorities work together, we believe Dingli can stay the peaceful, natural place we love so much.

Sources:

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