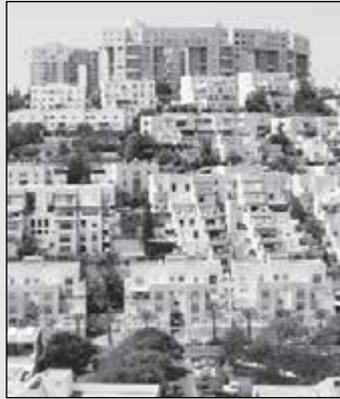


Future of our city is revealed

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UK MP gives talk in Modiin

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Hi! Welcome to a new way of 'life'

By Anthony Green

HELLO and welcome to a new publication for Anglos in Modiin: *modiinlife*.

We hope to be regularly dropping into your inbox with news items and features you'll find informative and appealing.

Our aim isn't to preach. We're not affiliated to any political or religious groups, and our language of choice is English. So for those of you who don't speak Hebrew, or struggle with it, you won't feel intimidated in these pages.

We simply want to keep you in touch with what's happening in our ever-expanding city.

And we'd love to hear from you.

The newsletter is free. Those who have compiled and designed it have given their time to do this. If you'd like to do the same by contributing pieces you are more than

welcome. As long as it's legal and decent we'll consider it for publication.

To cut costs, *modiinlife* will not be available in a printed version – only as a PDF direct to your inbox.

Of course, if you wish to print it out, that's fine by us. Which is the reason it's in black and white – to cut down on printing costs. We know how much those replacement inks can set you back!

Meanwhile, take a look at this first brief issue – swiftly compiled because it contains important news about the future of our city.

Let us know your opinion (be truthful, we won't be hurt!), and tell us what you think should be included in future. We look forward to receiving your comments. Our email address is in the strip below.

Unveiled – City's new Master Plan

Population will grow to 250,000

By Marion Stone

IN 2020 – three years from now – the original 'Master Plan' for Modiin will be superseded by the 2035 master plan for development of Modiin, Maccabim, Reut.

There have been two public meetings, which enabled the city's residents to express their thoughts, wishes and expectations for the next 20 years, in the hope that they will be included in the Master Plan.

The plan was drawn up by the office of Naama Malis, urban architects, and is now being finalized for the mayor to present to the Modiin council for approval.

For anyone who doesn't already know, the modern city of Modiin is being built in two stages.

The first is coming to an end with three new neighbourhoods to be completed by 2020, bringing the planned population to 120,000. The second stage will take the population number to a quarter of a million.

Building will concentrate westward from the existing city, and northwestward for the industrial and technology zones. Building southward is planned for the long term, but the present council will not include the southern hills for building in the near future because the public has asked them not to.

The southern hills have historic, scenic and ecological value, and it is hoped that they will become a national park.

An important quality of life for Modiin residents is that the city is surrounded by natural landscape and hills, and the public want to keep it this way.



■ Modiin today, but by 2035 the population will have grown to 250,000

A report in the *Modiin News* tells us that:

1. 150sq. dunam area to the north west of the city near the new Technology Centre, currently being marketed, will be allotted for future building of a hospital once the city reaches a population of 250,000, i.e. quarter of a million residents.

2. A University will be built next to the hospital.

3. A large stadium is planned to be built north of the 431 road and Paatei Modiin train station, and a bridge will extend over the 431 road between Paatai Modiin and The Ishpro/ Einav shops. The stadium will be privately financed.

The hospital and university will both be decided upon by government and local authority officials/committees as the city considers these two institutions to be necessary in the next 20 years.

(note: For anyone who feels the necessity here and now for a hospital, should be reassured. A senior public health expert has stated that Modiin

today has all facilities for routine and emergency health care, apart from elective surgery, for which hospital admittance is a must, and that can be planned in advance).

The heart of development in the next 20 years, will be to the west and northwestward from Modiin's city centre, and north of the 431. This, as a result of public opinion asking that the 'southern hills' be kept in their natural state, and also to keep what remains of the ecological corridor in our area.

There are two main tracks to the master plan:

1. Construction of future neighbourhoods and two industrial/business zones that will generate more occupations and jobs for local residents.

2. There will be a new set of regulations for enlarging existing buildings, residential or commercial, by adding rooms or storeys, with the intention for making it easier to obtain planning permission.

Please forward this newsletter to whoever you think might be interested

Things to come in Modiin ... but you'll have a long wait for a hospital

Southern Hills

AFTER years of campaigning, the Master Plan does not include building on these hills, but their zoning status remains for building, for future councils and generations to decide in their time, so it is still necessary to continue working to save the hills from harm.

Paatei Modiin

THE WHOLE area will be affected by the coming new Tel Aviv to Jerusalem express train that will also take passengers from Modiin, and by the large stadium and sportek which will include a large swimming pool.

A resort/recreational type of hotel will be built closeby, probably further north near the massive development for the Technological park.

Einav Centre

THIS WILL grow proportionately to future needs of the city as it reaches the quarter million population target, and is expected to double in size.

Hospital

IT WILL only be built when a quarter of a million people live in the city. The Municipality has already been in discussions with Assouta.

Railway line extension

TO EASE traffic pressure on the road network, the rail line will be extended northwestward to the technology parks, via HaHashmonaim and Emek Bet Shean.

Tourism

NOT IN THE article, but I want to add that the Ministry of Tourism has at last recognized Modiin as a preferred area for tourism in Israel.

Recognition brings funding and other assistance for tourism projects, and it is hoped that the places of interest in and around the city will attract many visitors in the future.

Thinking at the Irya is that foreign tourists arriving and leaving the country from Ben Gurion International airport would be brought to Modiin for overnight stays, that is, once there is a hotel.

I very much doubt that the planners have even considered the many relatives and friends of residents, who may want to stay in a hotel in the city.

The first project, for which there is funding is to clear the pathways on the Titora Hill to make it easily walkable, and it would be nice if this could be done in time for the spring flowers, which will be coming out in the next few weeks.

There is talk of the possibility of building a visitors' centre somewhere near Holmes Place.

Hotel

IT SEEMS that the mayor has decided that there is a need for a boutique business hotel in the city centre. One remaining plot of land is being put out to tender and it is in a prime position adjacent to the Azrieli centre, the train and bus stations.

There is expected to be a lot of competition for this valuable plot and it could possibly go for an offices/shops development, but Mayor Chaim Bibas is reported to be adamant that the winner of the tender will have a proviso to include a hotel on this land.

By Marion Stone

Trial run for bus terminal 'which should be operational by May'

THE BUS TERMINAL is being constructed at the huge circular space located between the Azrieli Centre and the Railway Station. The nine platforms are in place and there are entrance and exit ramps for the buses.

There will be direct access to the Azrieli Mall and Modiin Mercatz train station, and at a later stage from the new city centre currently being built, and possibly the planned college.

The bus station will have two storeys, the upper one at street level will be for internal city routes, and the lower one will handle the inter-city routes. There will also be a 720 sq m. retail area to provide services for passengers.

The Terminal's total area is 3000sq m., which includes a 1,100sq.m. passenger hall, a 1,100sq.m. covered walkway between the train station and bus station, and a 140sq.m. area for the management offices.

As well as the nine alighting platforms, there will be three platforms for arriving buses. There will be lifts and stairways between the two levels.

The purpose of the trial run was for all professionals involved at the Municipality, Ministry of Transport, Company Management, Kavim bus company, to check how the buses can merge into traffic when leaving the terminal, and how well they enter the terminal, then to examine what happens as they queue up waiting to move forward.

The plan is for the Terminal to be operating by May 2017 and

at that time all bus routes in the city will change. Intercity buses will leave directly toward their destination, which will do away with the current long pick-up and drop-off trek through the city.

Instead, passengers will have to make their way to the terminal using the new internal routes. Additionally, buses will set off from and return to the various neighbourhoods during peak hours.

Internal bus routes are set to change drastically. The present circular formats will cease, and will be replaced by linear routes which will run between the various neighbourhoods and the main terminal. It is thought that the shorter routes will be more practical.

Another consideration will be a synchronization of bus times; i.e. that internal routes will align with the intercity and train timetables.

According to a report in *Modiin News*, there were some minor hitches, and a miscalculation over the length of the platforms that must be adjusted to make it possible for the buses to enter and park at the correct angle. There was also an excess of exhaust fumes and odours.

We have waited only 20 years for our bus terminal and over the years we have suffered the most inefficient and inconvenient transport services, and now that the solution is finally in sight, I am wondering whether the wait was worth it.

- Marion Stone

‘Conflict is complex’ says MP in city visit

BRITISH Labour Member of Parliament and staunch Israel supporter Louise Ellman spoke at the Hameginim Synagogue, Modiin, to a mixed audience of some 30 ex-pat Brits and Americans this month.

She pointed out that her constituency, Liverpool Riverside, comprises a diverse mix of people, including many Muslims with whom she has good relations.

Mrs Ellman came to Israel with a delegation from England to understand what is currently happening in Israel. She spoke about the present political picture and rising anti-Semitism in England.

She proved to be knowledgeable of what is going on in Israel and the entire Middle East, saying that since the Arab Spring certain changes in attitudes have become apparent.

Many people now realise that it isn't only an Arab-Israeli conflict, but the big picture in the region is very complex.

She described very candidly the various groups of supporters of Israel, and also a Palestinian state, that exist, and also the parliamentary lobbies on

both sides, as well as the latest developments with regard to the BDS movement.

She said that certain authorities in England are now taking steps against companies, institutions and organisations which are boycotting Israel.

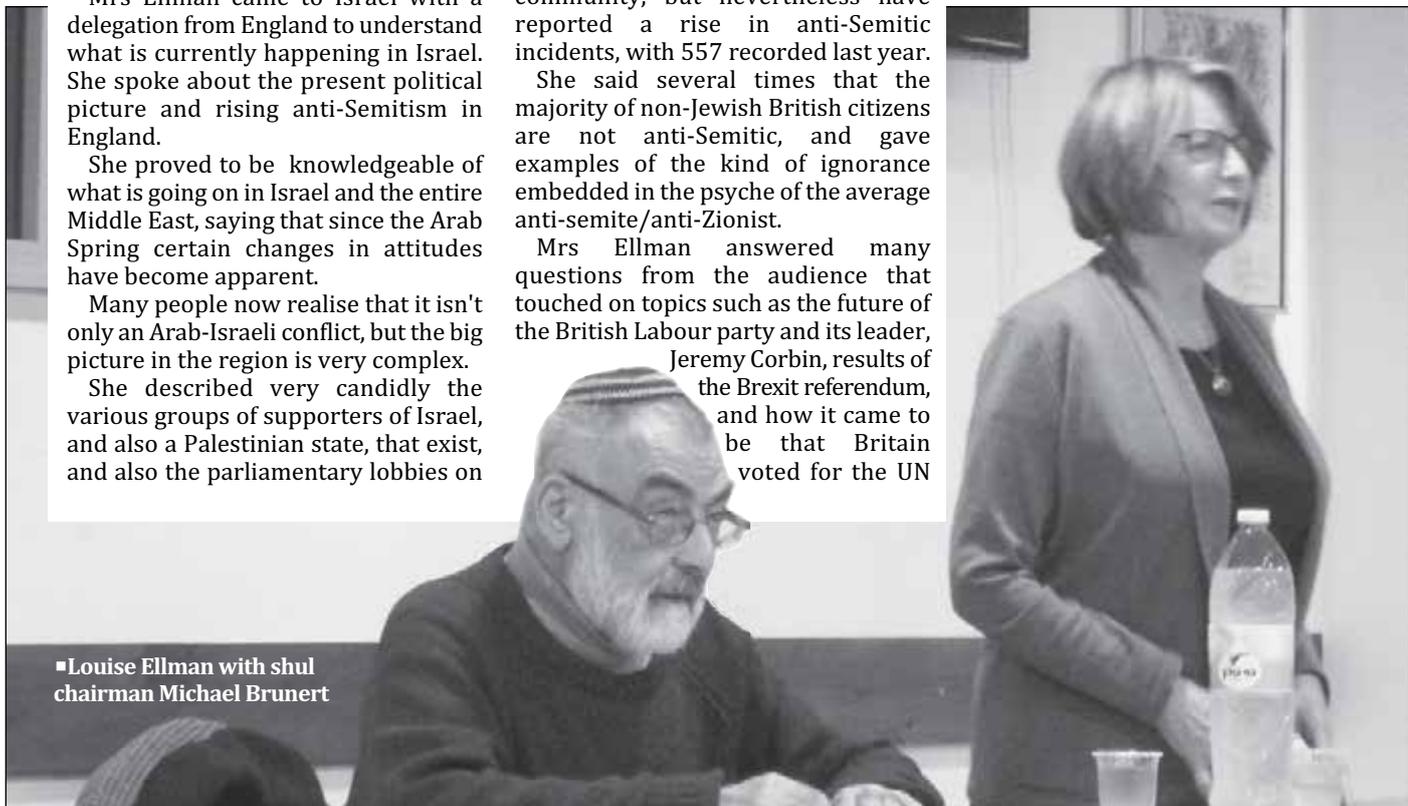
The meeting was told about how the CST – Community Security Trust – do a great job in watching over the community, but nevertheless have reported a rise in anti-Semitic incidents, with 557 recorded last year.

She said several times that the majority of non-Jewish British citizens are not anti-Semitic, and gave examples of the kind of ignorance embedded in the psyche of the average anti-semite/anti-Zionist.

Mrs Ellman answered many questions from the audience that touched on topics such as the future of the British Labour party and its leader, Jeremy Corbin, results of the Brexit referendum, and how it came to be that Britain voted for the UN

resolution against Israel's settlements and the apparent confusion the day after the vote. Did they vote 'against' by mistake? And what do we ex-pats think of that?

To conclude, when asked for reasons why Jews should vote Labour, she listed many reasons, including social justice, combating prejudice, multi-racial issues, employment and an improved health system.



■ Louise Ellman with shul chairman Michael Brunert

Master Plan: What do YOU think?

YOU'VE read and digested our two-page report on future plans for the city of Modiin.

Now it's over to you. What do you think about the proposals? Happy with what's being planned or would you have done things differently – with other priorities?

We'd love to receive your opinions. So please drop us a line and we'll print a selection of your thoughts in our next issue.

Email your thoughts to us here at modlife@outlook.com



■ UK Labour MP Louise Ellman addressing the Modiin meeting