

## Message from the Editor

Sorry this issue of the El Ciudadano is late but we have been holding the press so that we could bring you up to date with the latest on what has been a fast changing few months in the Town Hall.

Our impending web site ([www.benitachell.es](http://www.benitachell.es)) includes the El Ciudadano on line, however, communities may wish to circulate this publication to their owners by Email. Presidents or secretaries should contact the editor at [abicknell@benitachell.es](mailto:abicknell@benitachell.es) with the Email address to which the newsletter should be sent (in .pdf format), together with the language versions required. I regret that this service is not available to individual residents.

## Message from the Mayor



**Taking advantage of this newsletter to speak directly to each of you, I would like to offer a cordial greeting to all the residents of El Poble Nou de Benitatxell.**

Firstly, I would like to thank the people that voted for me on the day of the Town Council Meeting, because, with their votes and their confidence in me personally, they made it possible for me to become your mayor. I want to assure you that you have in me a person you can trust and that the new governmental team will try, with all their effort, to achieve the best for all, although the times in which we are not the most favourable.

You can be confident that the government team will work legally so that the things that have happened will not occur again. We ask you to be a little patient and, above all, have confidence. I thank you all for your support and give all you a big hug.

*Josefa Ronda Vallés*

## Village Projects to Boost Employment

Benitachell has received a grant of over €844,000 from central government to fund local projects offering work to the unemployed. Another grant, of over €1 million, has just been agreed by Valencia.

*We apologise for the inconvenience which will be caused by the commencement of the works, detailed below, after “Semana Santa”.*

The projects include work in the village centre and elsewhere and they include both environmental and infrastructure improvements.

The planned work includes: Pedestrianisation of, and improvements to, the square, streets and junctions around the church; improvements to Plaza Neuva; improvements to the northern access road to Cumbre del Sol, including pavements and a “mirador”; extending the female changing facilities in the swimming pool; extending the capacity of and improving accessibility to the cemetery; clearing and planting the green zones in Los Molinos I & II and further work to widen Cami L’Abiar.

Companies granted contracts for the work must employ a percentage of people currently registered as unemployed and for periods specified in the contracts. This will be monitored carefully.

Further projects are being considered for the grant from Valencia.

# Rubbish Costs Soar

**About 2 weeks after the Council set the basura charges for 2009, Valencia notified the Town Hall of new requirements for the disposal of non recyclable rubbish, involving a massive cost increase.**

As from some time this year, we are obliged to transport all non-recycled waste to a new plant in El Campello. Processing by this plant will be more expensive and transportation will also cost more. All charges have, of course, to be paid by the Town Hall. Exact transport costs still have to be calculated, as a number of options are being considered.

In 2008, we processed over 2700 tons of such waste and the additional cost under the new system may be as much as 90,000€ a year. Because the basura charge has already been set, this will have to be funded from elsewhere in the budget, which may mean a reduction in other services.

The only way that these additional costs can be offset is for the village to produce less waste of this type, in other words, if we recycle a greater percentage of our rubbish we will pay less to transport and process waste at El Campello.

**For this reason all residents need to make every effort to separate all glass, cardboard, paper and plastic and metal containers and deposit them in the recycling bins. All garden waste should be taken to the eco park.** See the article on page 3 for more information.

If we all follow these simple rules, we can substantially reduce the tonnage for which we have to pay. If we fail to do so, then, not only will the Council have a serious problem with the 2009 budget, but also you can expect a steep rise in the basura charge for 2010.

## 15% Cut in 2009 IBI Rate

**After the, naturally unpopular, 2008 increase in the I.B.I. rate, the Council promised to try and reduce the rate as quickly as possible and the 2009 budget of 4.242.000€ was passed by the Council, on 14<sup>th</sup> October, setting the I.B.I. at 0.85 cent in the euro, a 15% reduction. Of course, at this time, they knew nothing of the new waste disposal costs.**

The 2008 rise, to 1.0 cent in the euro, was necessary due to a number of factors which have been well publicised. These included unpaid debts and unbudgeted projects left by the previous administration as well as a rapid fall in income from building projects, caused by the current national and

international financial situation. It should also be noted that the I.B.I. had not been increased in line with the cost of living over previous years and this had, in any case, made a substantial rise inevitable.

Some future discount options will be available to I.B.I. payers, including one of up to 25% for homes using renewable energy. Staged payments may also be available in some cases.

The Council also agreed that there will be a survey of all properties within the Municipality to ensure that (a) every house is paying I.B.I. and (b) that new extensions, swimming pools etc. have been registered.

## Damage to Vehicles

**From time to time we receive complaints from people, reporting that their vehicles have been damaged when driving over potholes or other road surface defects in the municipality.**

If you wish the Town Hall to consider compensation for damage allegedly caused in this way, it is very important that you follow the following procedure:

1. If you hit a pothole etc. and you believe your vehicle has been damaged, STOP.
2. Call the local police (Tel. 608 962 567) and report the incident, showing them the road surface concerned and the damage to your vehicle.
3. Follow this up, as soon as possible, with a written report to the Town Hall, together with an estimate for the repair and a request for compensation.

*We regret that we are normally unable to consider any application unless the above procedure has been followed.*

### “El Ciudadano” Goes Black & White!

The eagle eyed among you will have noticed that this publication has been printed in black and white!

“El Ciudadano” is a means of communication, designed and intended solely for the purpose of keeping the residents of Benitachell informed. This can be done equally as well in black and white and so we have decided to save on our printing costs.

The colour version will, of course, be available on line at [www.benitachell.es](http://www.benitachell.es)

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## **Improvements to Power Supply**

**Iberdrola and Benitachell have signed an agreement for the improvement of the electrical infrastructure in the municipality.**

The agreement was signed at the Town Hall, by the person responsible for Iberdrola distribution in the province of Alicante, Javier Bon.

The agreement is for the installation of new underground medium voltage lines interconnecting the six electrical plants located in the central area of Benitachell.

This will improve the quality of supply in the town. The two medium-voltage lines to each plant will offer a more reliable service and a faster restoration of supplies if any one plant goes off line.

The work is expected to start early this year and last approximately two months. It will be mainly financed by Iberdrola. The council will pay the fees of the drafting technician.

## **Concern over Dog Faeces**

**A considerable number of people have, quite rightly, expressed concern over the increasing amount of dog faeces to be found in the streets of the village centre and around some of the urbanisations.**

This problem is created in two ways, firstly by those dog owners who allow their animals out to run free, instead of exercising them under control and, secondly, by those owners who walk their dogs but fail to pick up their faeces. In either case, it is clear that the result is unsightly, unpleasant and a health risk, especially to children.

The contract with FCC, the company which supplies cleaning services to Benitachell, does not include special provision for cleaning of this nature. Whilst other Councils supply this service, it requires specialist equipment and manpower and for us to invest in this, at this time, would be difficult.

It is clearly anti-social and illegal to allow your dogs to run free and foul the streets or to leave faeces in the street when walking your dog. Ordinance 19 of the "Ordenanza Municipal de Tenencia de Animales de Compañía" authorises fines of between 30 euros and 330 euros against the person in charge and/or the owner of an animal fouling public roadways.

## **Grants Help Finance Services**

**Apart from the money, mentioned on Page 1, Benitachell has been successful in obtaining a number of additional grants to help finance some of our important services.**

These include:

60.000€ for culture, education y sport.

Over 18.000€ towards clearing our rural lanes;

Nearly 15.000€ towards the cost of life guards at the swimming pool and the beach;

Nearly 6.000€ towards the installation of fire hydrants;

Over 7.000€ towards internet courses and

Approx. 15.000€ towards the upkeep of the tourist office.

The Government in Madrid has, again, signed an agreement to pay for the cleaning of the Moraig beach.

We continue to apply for further grants for a variety of purposes, to try and further improve services at no additional cost to the Village.

## **New Recycling Campaign**

**We have already stressed how essential it will be to reduce the tonnage of household waste being collected by all residents recycling their waste responsibly. Information about a new campaign will shortly be distributed to your buzones.**

New types of recycling will be introduced. Firstly, we have installed three containers for used clothing, these are located in the market car park in the centre of town, opposite the Red Cross Shop in Ctra. Moraira-Benitachell and at the bottom of Cumbre de Sol in Ctra. Assegador.

Secondly, deposits for cooking oils and motor oils are to be installed in the eco park.

Because of capacity limits in the eco park, if you have large quantities of garden waste, involving several trips to the park, please inform the staff on your first visit. It may be necessary to spread your trips, to enable containers to be emptied. Please also separate palms and other fibrous plants as well as leaves and small shrubs, as this will help to increase efficiency.

We have a new telephone number for large items collection from your homes. 638 411 790. Please telephone by MIDDAY Wednesday for collection on THURSDAY when you should leave the items outside your property.

## Ambulance and Life Guard Services Agreement.

A new agreement with Amigos Europeos de Javea, was passed by the Council in October, ensuring that the municipality continues to enjoy a 24 hour ambulance service, life saving services to the municipal swimming pool and beach (El Moraig) as well as additional nursing services.

## Services for Foreign Residents

Dutch national Guillermo Pragt has joined Josepfa Ronda's team with responsibility for integration and liaison with non Spanish residents. Guillermo speaks five languages, including English, and will be a valuable asset.

He will be available to assist you in the Town Hall between 09.00 and 13.00 on Thursdays and Fridays.

He hopes to shortly arrange a series of public meetings in English, German etc.

## III Series of Spring Concerts

This great series of concerts continues:

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March – 7.30 pm in the church  
**Musicians from Poble Nou de Benitachell**

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April – 12.30 pm in the church  
**Concert of Baroque Music**

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April – 8.30 in the church  
**“Golliwogs” Trombone Quartet**

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May – midday in the church  
**Santa María Magdalena de Benitaxell Town Band**

## Notice to Presidents of Communities and Residents' Associations.

The Town Hall does not have an official list of contacts in each community and urbanization. Please leave your details at the Town Hall for Guillermo Pragt or email [wpragt@benitachell.es](mailto:wpragt@benitachell.es)

## Antonio Catalá – A Local Music Talent From Benitachell

By Cornelia Muller



*Antonio Catalá – Director of the Benitachell Municipal Music School*

**Being a true "poblero" he knows everybody in town, not only as a neighbor, but also as a dedicated musician who plays trombone with great passion, he has developed the music school and now composes music as well.**

Antonio has dedicated his entire life to music. He began in Benitachell in 1984, looking for children who want to study music to form a band, he continued at the Conservatory GM "Tenor Cortis"

Denia, finishing his studies in the trombone in 2005 at the Conservatory of Joaquín Rodrigo in Valencia. In 2007, he performed C.A.P. at the University of Alicante and in the same year began to study composition under the great composer Javier Santacreu. He also participated in numerous international courses on improving the trombone as well as orchestra management seminars at the Polytechnic University of Valencia.

Since 1998, he has been teaching at the Music School of Benitachell and in 2004 he assumed the role of director of the school. The School subsequently received recognition by the Valencian regional authorities and a great increase the number of students. In 1999 he composed his first musical pieces in a more "new age" pop-style and has been admitted as a partner in the SGAE.

At present, he writes festive band music with themes such as " Pobladores", "Ben-Abiar, Cavallers, Tchaitans" ... and the pasodoble "Poble Nou de Benitaxell" among others, with a total of more 30 pieces recorded.

As a parent of two children, one of four years and one of one month, he has obviously passed on his passion to his children, as the older boy attends a weekly musical kindergarten.