

## Message from the Editor

I am sorry that this edition is a little late in arriving but I hope that most people are able to keep more fully abreast of current events through our website. I will continue to try and produce "El Ciudadano" in a more timely fashion for the benefit of those who do not have access to the internet.

## Plan E II – More Projects for the Town



Plan Español para el Estímulo de  
la Economía y el Empleo

FONDO DE INVERSIÓN LOCAL PARA EL EMPLEO



GOBIERNO  
DE ESPAÑA

MINISTERIO  
DE ADMINISTRACIONES  
PÚBLICAS

7. Renewable Energy in Socio-Cultural Building: to generate electricity and reduce costs.
8. Accessibility - Sports Area: This project will improve accessibility for disabled persons to the sports area and provide more parking spaces.
9. Energy Efficiency - Southern Access, Cumbre Del Sol: Reducing the cost lighting the area.
10. Renovation of the Social Centre, removing accessibility problems.

**A total of 563,888€ was allocated to the Town under the central Governments second phase of Plan E, the project designed to stimulate employment in Spain.**

As with Phase 1, strict rules were laid down as to what type of project could be included and, after consideration, the Council applied for funding for the following:

1. Town Hall Telecommunications: This project will reduce the annual cost of Town Hall telecommunications and improve the system to allow more control and more efficiency.
2. Renovation of Zona Kalmias: The conservation of a green area for public leisure, walks etc.
3. Renovation of Zona Abiars: The provision of a green area for public use (barbecues, wells etc.)
4. Mirador Dels Testos: The provision of a green area for public use, barbecues etc. overlooking the sea and the coast.
5. Children's' Play Area: In the village. (Page 4)
6. Local Police Computer Database: A database for reporting incidents, which will improve efficiency and reduce administration duties.

## Moraig Beach



**Thanks to the good offices of the Coastal Ministry, the work done by our technicians, José Juan Devesa and Antonio Mezquida, the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor, we have our beach area ready for the peak summer period.**

We have to point out that this is the first time in recent years that the repair and upgrading of the beach and parking area is not going to cost the village anything at all. Repairs previously have cost us a

great deal of money.

Thanks to the good management of those working for our village and those of the Ministry, this time we are going to have one of the best repairs possible, valued at more than 400.000€ and which the Ministry intends to guarantee for at least the next 10 years.

The Ministry's scheme has deprived us of a considerable amount of the parking area, but we gain in beach what we lose in parking..

We believe that the most important thing is to have our beach ready for the summer, with this in mind, the construction company worked as quickly as possible.

We look forward to "summer as usual" and with the best possible facilities and are examining options to improve access to the beach in view of the lack of parking.

## Local Police Supervision



The Local Police in our village currently have 15 officers, including 1 Sergeant ("Oficial") as the Chief of Police. The regulations governing the levels of police supervision within the Community of Valencia require 1 Sergeant for every 6 officers and 1 Inspector for every 2 or more Sergeants. Under the new structure, there will be 12 officers, 2 Sergeants and 1 Inspector.

Although involving no increase in staff, this is a very important change as the Chief of Police, José Mayans, will be relieved from some of his pressure of work by having 2 sergeants to assist.

### Emergency Ambulance?

**Do not forget that the Council has an agreement with Amigos Europeos to provide free emergency ambulance cover to Benitachell. This service can be obtained direct or via the Local Police on 608 96 25 67.**

## Social Services Lecture on Drug Abuse Prevention

**At the end of April, a lecture "The Drugs Debate" was given in the village. This was an initiative of the Benitachell Department of Social Services within the "dynamic community" scheme, developed with the collaboration of the Alicante Deputation, who by their Provincial Drug Addiction Plan, facilitate activities in different municipalities of the province.**

The talk was held at the Social Centre at 19 hours, with the participation of about 30 people. Psychologist Inmaculada Gonzalez, AEPA Foundation, was in charge of giving parents the knowledge and basic tools necessary for them to detect substance abuse among their children.

She offered a series of guidelines on how to deal with possible situations, stressing the importance of restoring trust between parents and children and of educational styles in response to possible conflicts. Also participants were provided with guides aimed at teaching parents about the different types of toxic substances.

## Website News

**The home page of the Town Hall website has undergone changes to make it clearer and more user friendly.**

Users will have noticed that the home page now contains interactive links for "what's on", news, local weather, any warning notices, useful information and maps whilst the page itself has been reserved for official notices only. This replaces the old system where official notices, forthcoming events and news items were mixed together.

The "Useful Information" page has been improved and extended. It now contains more contact numbers, a list of emergency chemists and live links to both the traffic site and the bus company site.

We have also changed some of the main menu options, added more information about public services and facilities and supplied a search option.

There is still quite a lot of work required, especially on the German version of the site. The Town Hall is extremely grateful for the assistance of Eckart Moltrecht, who has undertaken all the translation of the main pages to date, without charge, *but we would*

*appreciate some more volunteers.*

We must apologise if some of the information in the "What's On" section arrives rather late, but we can only publish it when we receive it and we do strive to get it online as soon as possible.

The village tourism website has already gone online in both Castellano and English. The Valenciano and German versions will follow in due course.

This site, accessible through the link on our main site menu, remains basic and subject to a lot of further work.

The webmaster is always pleased to receive your constructive comments and suggestions via email, using the link provided.

## Plan Confianza Projects



**A number of projects were authorised by the Town Hall under the Valencian Plan Confianza, (a set of measures designed to address the current economic situation and build confidence in people and in enterprises), often known as "Plan Camps". Some of these projects are well underway, whilst others are still in the preparation stage.**

As with Plan E (both Parts I and II), rules were laid down as to what type of project could be included, to a maximum cost of approx. €1 million. The projects were as follows:

1. Road improvements in Avda. Valencia and Crta. De Javea: To widen the pavements and carriageways in these streets to improve pedestrian safety and traffic flow. (This work is, at time of writing, almost complete.)
2. Roundabout in Crta. De Javea: This original project has been abandoned due to timescale difficulties is land purchase. It has been replaced by improvement to the road structure and a resurfacing project in the La Joya access road from Pueblo Alcasar and in Urb. Vista Montaña III.
3. Civil Protection and Volunteer Fire Station: This new building, near the new school at the southern entrance to Cumbre del Sol, will provide a proper base for the Civil Protection Unit and for our volunteer fire brigade. There will also be meeting facilities available for use by communities and associations.

4. Enlargement of the Social Centre. To better utilise existing space within the centre to accommodate events. (at the time of writing, this work is in progress).

5. Sports Field Pavilion: This building, which has not been updated for many years, desperately needs renovation and extending.

## Council signs agreement with Ombudsman



On Wednesday 2nd June, Sr. José Cholbi, the Ombudsman of the Valencian Community came to Benitachell to sign an agreement with the Town Hall.

"El Síndic", to quote his brochure, is the the defender of the people of the Valencian Community. From a position of total independance, his mission is to ensure compliance and respect for the rights and freedoms of the people. In the Local and Regional Administration (not national), the Ombudsman is the defender of your rights.

After signing the agreement and the Town Hall Golden Book, Sr. Cholbi, thanked the Mayor, her team and the Corporation in general for their good work and said that this agreement was for the benefit of all the people of Benitachell.

Because of this agreement, the Corporation will appoint a liaison officer to work with the Ombudsman, place a box for complaints in the Town Hall and has already included a link on its website to the site of the "Síndic" which is available in Valenciano, Castellano and English.

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## New Children's Play Area



**The new children's play area in the village was inaugurated on Wednesday 23 June.**

The area, situated in the car park opposite the cemetery, replaces the village centre play area which was removed when Plaza Nueva was redeveloped last year. There is only one other such area in the village, in Calle Constitución (off of the Moraira road).

The project was funded by Plan E and the play area was built in this car park because it was the only suitable space available. Whilst vehicle access has been closed at one end of the car park, positioning the play area here has reduced the number of lost car parking spaces and allowed children to access the area without crossing the car park itself.

## Neighbourhood Watch

**After nearly two years of trying to get the neighbourhood watch scheme off the ground, it seems that the project is doomed to failure.**

The whole system revolves around the need for area coordinators, acting as the main link in the chain of communication between the law enforcement authorities and residents. Despite numerous appeals for volunteers in this newsletter, the press, the website and at public meetings, a total of 6 people have put themselves forward.....not nearly enough.

The Town Hall will wait another few weeks to see if anyone else volunteers as a result of this article before scrapping the scheme.

## Maintenance of Plot Borders

**The new Byelaw (See El Ciudadano No. 4) requiring owners of gardens and other plots to keep plants and trees from overgrowing pavements, paths, roadways or other public space is in force and owners are reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure that vegetation does not encroach on such public areas.**

It is unfair to expect the Council, and thus all the residents of the village, to pay the cost of doing this work therefore, where owners fail to maintain the borders of their property in a proper manner, they will be charged for any work carried out by the Council to remedy the situation and fined under the Byelaw.

Please ensure that your trees and plants are properly pruned and not obstructing any public space or neighbour.

## Motor Scooter for Local Police



**Benitachell has been given a motor scooter, supplied by the Ministry of the Interior, to expand the fleet of the Local Police.**

Both the mayor, Josefa Ronda, and the local police chief, Jose Mayans went to Valencia to be presented officially with the vehicle, a scooter-type motorcycle X7-125, for the Police fleet.

The vehicle was donated by the Ministry of the Interior, and therefore has not cost the municipal coffers a penny.