



ASOCIACIÓN PROPIETARIOS MONTGÓ JÁVEA

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APMJ NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2017

Dear All,

First of all, a big welcome to the many people who have joined the APMJ since the start of 2017. I hope that you have enjoyed any of our meetings that you have been able to attend. If you have not been able to come along, then I hope you have found our regular messages, newsletters, minutes of meetings and website updates of some use. Naturally, not everybody agrees with the way we do things: some complain that our meetings are too long, some that they are too short. Some that our meetings are too formal, some that they are too informal. Some think we should focus almost exclusively on challenging the Town Hall and other authorities, whereas some believe we should be more socially active.

Personally, I think we do a pretty good job of balancing people's expectations, albeit – just like my school reports from many years ago - there is always room for improvement. Most importantly, we are reasonably successful at what we do thanks to those of you who step forward to help out, either as Committee members or by getting involved in our various projects.

The APMJ is also what it is today thanks to the efforts of many different members over the course of the years. In particular, my thanks go to those of you who were there right at the beginning. I heard the other day that Leika Kersten, who was one of those involved at the start back in 2000, passed away recently. Our sympathies go to her family and her friends.

Coming back to the present, our main focus at the moment is on fire prevention and without further ado, here's an update on where we are.

Fire Prevention

As anybody who has been to either of the last two Montgó Mornings or read my recent email will know, we are working hard to try and reduce the threat of fire damage to our part of Jávea. This year, we have seen and heard about many fires occurring in Spain, as well as Portugal, Italy, France and other countries. Closer to home, Las Provincias [a regional newspaper] states that in the period January to June this year, some 100 wildfires were reported in the Comunidad Valenciana. Of these, 55 were shown to have been started deliberately and 38 were caused through negligence. Despite the best efforts of the police, arrests have been made in only four of the incidents. Even though differing sources show differing statistics, they all pretty much say the same thing. You can perhaps see why quite a few of us are worried and wonder when it will happen here!

Our efforts so far to help prevent fires have met with only limited success. We therefore need to do more about managing fire prevention and have developed a plan to help us do this in a more inclusive and proactive way.

The Plan, which entails working very closely with the Town Hall, the Local Police, Civil Protection and other authorities, is designed to ensure that we effectively manage Fire

Prevention in all areas of the Montgó and the Valls. You, as a resident, are a very important part of making this work.

The key element of this Plan is to achieve a high level of awareness amongst residents of potential fire risks in their general neighbourhood. Any area identified as a fire hazard is then reported to a central co-ordinator so that it can, in turn, be reported to the local authorities and eliminated as quickly as possible. We already have the support of the Mayor and the Chief of Local Police as it is their councillors, staff and officers who are the major players in the process.

In brief, the Montgó and the Valls have been divided into four zones as follows:

- Zone 1 Calle Andromeda to Calle Ermita
- Zone 2 Calle Ermita to Carrer Pic del Montsia
- Zone 3 Pic del Montsia to Cami dels Castellans bordering to Calle Jurados/Avenida Angel Domenech
- Zone 4 The Valls, i.e. everything south of the Carretera de Jesús Pobre

Residents are asked to identify risks in their own zone and report them by email to a Zone Co-ordinator. Each report should include a detailed location (street name(s), house numbers, etc, etc) and the nature of risk (overgrown plot, fallen trees, etc). Where possible, this should be accompanied by a few photographs and a GPS location of a suitable point for a car driver to see that risk.

In turn, the Zone Co-ordinators send details to the overall Fire Prevention Co-ordinator, who will work with the Town Hall and others to prioritise the risks and take steps to eliminate them. Each year in Spring, the problem areas will be re-established and action taken ahead of the main fire risk season. Tim Fawle has willingly stepped forward as the Fire Prevention Co-ordinator. He can be contacted on incendiosapmj@gmail.com

You might have already seen one of the many red-coloured signs located across the area which highlight the problem and what to do. We have also distributed a number of flyers (leaflets) in an attempt to increase awareness, and will continue to try and increase that awareness. I would also ask that you do not assume that somebody else has reported a specific problem. We would far rather have too many reports than none at all.

In my view, this is our best chance so far to help protect our area from the devastation of fires. and I ask for your support in making it a success. Any questions you may have should be directed to Tim Fawle, or me on presidentapmj@gmail.com Meanwhile, we will continue to pass on any information about the scheme, as well as information about the contact details for the Zone Co-ordinators, as more people come forward to volunteer their help.

Crime Prevention

We do not seem to be having too many problems with criminal activity, or even suspicious activity, in the area at the moment. That said, I suspect – indeed, I know – that a number of incidents are simply not reported to either Neighbourhood Watch or the police. Please do continue to report any suspicious activity or actual incidents to the NHW Co-ordinator for our area, Sue Thornhill, on nhw.montgo@gmail.com Those of you who have already joined our WhatsApp group should use that as well as sending off an email.

I am often asked who to call if you need the police. To report suspicious activity, the Guardia Civil can be contacted on 062 or 96 579 1085, or the Local Police on 092 or 96 5879 0081. Do not worry about it being a false alarm. Both forces have assured me that they would rather deal with a suspected threat, even if it comes to nothing, than see citizens suffer a break-in. In an actual emergency, the number is 112. If you are unable to speak Spanish, you can request to speak in English or a number of other languages.

It's just a thought, but you might like to add these numbers to your contacts list on your mobile or house phone, or just simply keep them on a piece of paper by the house phone if it does not store numbers.

Carretera de Jesús Pobre – CV-735

Here's some news that some of you might not yet have heard. The provincial government, the Diputación de Alicante, has announced that it is going to build a series of roundabouts on the Carretera de Jesús Pobre. The aim is twofold: to slow down the traffic and to make it safer to join and leave the CV-735 in a number of places. For example, it is still illegal to turn left out of Calle Piscis and head towards Jávea. In the future, it will not only be legal but safer. Full details can be found on our website www.montgoresidents.com

I know that a few people will be queuing up to board the Outrage Bus over this. I have just one message for them: please ask the driver to stick to the speed limit! In my view, both the APMJ and the Town Hall have campaigned hard over the years to try to improve safety on this road. The high-viz speed limit signs on a yellow background are but one outcome of this campaign. This series of roundabouts is now another and if they save just one life that would otherwise have been lost, then good.

Montgó Mornings/Social Events

We continue to hold Montgó Mornings on the first Tuesday of every month. The next will be held on 5th September, where we will have the opportunity to talk about a number of issues and events that affect us. We will send out more details about the three remaining ones this year nearer the time. I don't have any speakers organised as yet for the October or November meetings, but am working on it. As for the one in December, this will probably be my chance to say farewell as I step down and Ray Bigger takes over as President.

Our social programme is gaining a good head of steam thanks to the efforts of Chris Michel, our Social Secretary. A number of us enjoyed the Ghost Walks held in the town back in June. If we do organise more, then I can fully recommend going. We also have the event at the Bodega Museo Maserof later in September. I hope those of you going enjoy yourselves and don't suffer too much from a hangover the next day!

General Assembly – 2017

As you will probably know, we normally hold our Annual General Meeting in March of each year and a General Assembly in October. This year, the General Assembly will be in November. We have not confirmed a date as yet as I want to try and ensure that there are no clashes in the Mayor's diary. As soon as we do have a date, we will let you know.

.....and Finally

The rumours have started about the large parcel of land that has been cleared on the left just before you approach Le Gourmand Restaurant on the way to La Xara. Was it simply a case of clearing the land for fire prevention purposes as a result of one of our earlier Denuncias? Maybe somebody is going to grow some vines there? Perhaps (irony warning!) it is going to be some much-needed housing. A fireworks factory. A Love Club.... painted in a rather fetching shade of pink or purple. A hotel. A stud farm for breeding bulls so that they can be set fire to and thrown in the sea at the next local fiesta? No doubt we shall see!

That's it from me. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our next meeting.

Andrew Simmonds
President APMJ