



ASOCIACIÓN PROPIETARIOS MONTGÓ JÁVEA

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APMJ NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2017

Dear All,

I normally try to produce a Newsletter twice a year to complement the minutes of the Annual General Meeting and the General Assembly, as well as my regular email updates. However, despite having produced one only a month ago, I have quite a bit more news and information to pass on. Here goes....

Mail Deliveries and Buzones

Some of you will probably have experienced problems in receiving your mail during August. Every year, our regular postman, José, takes a well-earned holiday and leaves his normal round to a stand-in. Unfortunately, the stand-ins are never as familiar with the area, and the names of the people who live here, as he is. As a result, any mail that does not have a buzón (post box) number on the envelope does not get delivered unless it is a 'signed for' delivery which comes to your house. Instead, the mail is kept at the Correos (post office) in the town waiting for you to collect it. A great deal of the problem can be overcome simply by encouraging (and I use that word in its military sense) those who send you letters to show your buzón number in the address.

Indeed, if we try to get this sorted and reduce the workload for the delivery staff, then the rumoured changes to the buzón system might be delayed or even cancelled. For those unaware of the issue, Correos is looking for us to re-arrange all the buzones into street and house number order. The geniuses (and I use this word with great irony!) who manage the organisation are missing the point entirely. We, the APMJ, do not own the buzones: with the exception of just three empty ones, they have all been sold to you as private house owners and, to put it bluntly, we therefore have no further interest in them. Although we can take a guess as to who owns many of them, people have moved on, passed them to other people or lost the keys and abandoned them or whatever. There is also the issue of who will pay for the changes if they come about. Doris Courcelles, from the Town Hall, has already made contact with Correos to ask them to reconsider. However, by comparison, the Correos management makes the North Korean government look like a friendly and rational bunch of people willing to talk things over in a spirit of mutual cooperation. None the less, we will persevere in the interest of saving us all a lot of hassle and I will add my voice to the argument as soon as I can. Meanwhile as I said above, please do use the buzón number in your postal address as much as possible.

Parking at La Ermita Supermarket

Once again, Fernando, the owner of La Ermita Supermarket, has got upset about the obstructive way many people park outside his shop, especially those just collecting their mail from the buzones. Once again, he has insisted that we move the buzones elsewhere. Once again, in an attempt to placate him, we have offered to try to do something about it; this time, we will pay for a highly-visible sign, in a number of languages, asking people to park with consideration and place it in a prominent position outside the shop. Once again, I

acknowledge that it is not necessarily APMJ members causing the problem. Once again though, I will ask people to try and not do anything to upset Fernando as the problems of having to move the two buzon banks outside the shop are considerable not least, once again, resolving the question of who would pay for the changes.

Jávea's New General Plan

The first draft of the new General Plan for the town has been produced. I have been assured that there are no changes in the overall usage of the Montgó/Valls area, other than for the parcel of land commonly known as the Huertos del Montgó. Here, the guidelines as to what the land can be used for have been specified in far greater detail so as to reduce the chance of speculative attempts to build more houses, especially in the guise of residential care homes as had happened a few years ago.

The next stage is to resolve almost 300 'alegaciones' (which I am translating as objections or requests for clarification). Then, the Town Hall will seek approval from the regional government in Valencia. Once, and if, granted, the Town Hall staff will work up the details of the Plan. It is this element that we, the APMJ, will need to monitor carefully and make objections to as appropriate. The main reason is that the Planning Department intends to keep all the areas on the Montgó currently earmarked for small developments in the 1991 Plan without any change.... 'just in case'. One perfect example among many is the area bounded by C/Pic de la Batalla, Cami dels Castellans and C/Montgó in which there is provision for somebody to apply to build an urbanisation of 21 houses, complete with access roads, lighting, etc, and in doing so, taking land off a number of current residents. Although approval to build is highly unlikely (indeed, almost inconceivable) under the current regime, it probably only needs a change of administration and off we go again on the building boom! The APMJ will therefore keep its eye on the new Plan over the coming years and will make any objections necessary on behalf of the members.

Asphalting Programme

The Town Hall has now finalised its road asphalting programme for this year. Unfortunately, we don't appear on it too much! That said, two roads in our area might see a bit of asphalt to help cover up some recent work by AMJASA: C/Unicornio and C/Viella. I am aware that some of you will be disappointed with this but, as the Town Hall pointed out to me, it's somebody else's turn this time.

I also recently raised the subject, yet again, of asphalting some of the roads in our area that have never seen any tarmac. As before, the Town Hall is adamant that if it has never adopted the road in the first place then there is no chance of them laying any asphalt down. There are a number of roads, or parts of roads, in this position. On the affected house owners' behalf, I will now be seeking clarification on the procedure for getting those roads adopted, noting that this is something that you will have to have done privately. You should also note that, from what I understood from my last meeting with the Planning Department, the adoption process not only involves having the road asphaltd at individual expense, but also includes providing pavements and street lighting. It might therefore be worth considering just having the individual roads asphaltd at private expense and leaving it at that!

Contacting the Police/Guardia Civil

In my last Newsletter, I made a 'typo' over the telephone number for the Local Police. The correct details are as follows:

- To report suspicious activity, the Guardia Civil can be contacted on 062 or 96 579 1085, or the Local Police on 092 or 96 579 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.

Montgó Mornings/Social Events

The wine-tasting event followed by dinner held at the Bodega Museo in Maserof earlier in September seemed to go off well. I have to admit that, given the atrocious weather that evening, I was worried about everybody getting back home safely. I had visions of the party being stuck in the Bodega with nothing to eat or drink other than red wine until rescued by the emergency services later that weekend! Seriously, I am glad that it went well and my thanks go to Chris Michel for organising it.

Our next two Montgó Mornings will be held on Tuesday 3rd October and Tuesday 7th November. The one on Tuesday 5th December will be a Christmas-themed event. It will also be my last event because I hand over the presidency to Ray Bigger that morning. As anybody who really knows me would tell you, I would prefer to just slip quietly out of a side door rather than have any fuss. What would be nice though is as large a crowd as possible to show support for Ray.

As for a Christmas Lunch, just as we did this year, we will hold off until maybe February when we will arrange a New Year's/Valentine's Day/Welcome to Spring lunch. More details will follow later this year.

General Assembly – 21st November 2017

I have had to delay this year's General Assembly until November. We will now hold the meeting in the Centro Social on Tuesday 21st November starting with registration and coffee at 10 a.m. ready for a 10.30 a.m. meeting. I am crossing my fingers in the hope that the Mayor will come along and tell us more about what's going on in the town and answer your questions. We will also have the chance to discuss our planned charity donations this year as well as address other issues and concerns. A more detailed agenda will be sent out nearer the time, Meanwhile, please do put 21st November in your diaries and try to come along and support us.

The next Annual General Meeting will be in March 2018. As always, this will be the event at which we discuss the APMJ's finances, review the previous year/plan for the coming year and elect the officers of the Association.

Change of Ex-Officio Member

Sally Skelton has been an ex-officio member of the APMJ Committee for a number of years. Many of you will be grateful for the help she has given during that time. Specifically, Sally has helped solve a number of planning or 'catastral' issues with the Town Hall, sorted problems with Iberdrola, etc, etc, as well as regularly attend our monthly Montgó Mornings to help with translations, answer questions and so on. However, Sally has now decided that she can no longer carry on in that role because of her full-time work commitments. Instead, Yvonne Henry will come on board to help us out. Some of you will know Yvonne from when she worked at the Town Hall Help Desk. She is very much looking forward to getting started with us. The 'deal' will be the same as with Sally: Yvonne will provide an initial consultation or accompany you on a visit to the Town Hall for free. After that, she will be at liberty to charge you for her time if you need more help or recommend that you consult a lawyer or 'gestor'.

As for Yvonne's contact details, I will provide these another day as she might wish to set up a separate email account for APMJ purposes rather than use her personal email address. Meanwhile, I would ask you to note the Montgó Morning on 7th November in your diaries as that will be when we say thank you to Sally and welcome Yvonne.

Change of Secretary

There's one more change to cover. Barbara Walters has been our Secretary for many years. She, too, has work commitments and would like to hand over to somebody else in March next year. The role is exactly what you would expect: running the day-to-day affairs of the Association, communicating with the members, handling the correspondence, taking the minutes of meetings, etc, etc. As such, it is a key role and I, personally, would have found it difficult to do this job without Barbara's support.

Anybody who is interested in taking this on or wishes to know more about the role should contact either Barbara on montgo.residents@gmail.com or me on presidentapmj@gmail.com

.....and Finally

Sixty years ago, on 1st October 1957, Jávea suffered some catastrophic flooding following three days of heavy rain. It is estimated that over a metre of rain fell in that time, with one 24 hour period during those three days resulting in Jávea holding the Spanish rainfall record. More details can be found on the Agenda 21 website <http://agenda21-xabia.wikidot.com/>

If you do visit that website, also have a look at the map showing rainfall distribution in Jávea over the past year. You will not be surprised to discover that the Montgó receives a lot more rain than other parts, with one small part of the Montgó (shown as a dark blue spot on the map) receiving more than half as much again as where I live further along the mountainside. My thanks go to those of you who live in that 'blue spot' for 'taking one for the team'!

Andrew Simmonds
President APMJ