

A lot of people are coming to the Town Hall now asking about their **IBI** (Property Tax – Rates) bills for 2012. Normally this bill is payable over a two-month voluntary payment period beginning in September and going through to beginning November (although last year the voluntary period was extended until 7<sup>th</sup> December).

The latest information from the Town Hall regarding the 2012 bills is that, at this point in time, the basis of calculation for the bills, in the form of the amended list of property valuations to be received from the General Property Register [*Catastro*] has not been established; this being the case, the bills may not yet be issued.

*Catastro* promised to provide the valuation list by the end of August. Providing it was received on time, the Town Hall will start issuing the IBI bills in early September. The first ones to be issued will be for those properties which have not changed ownership after 2005. Normally, property owners who have set up direct debits for payment of the bill will not receive any kind of notification, however, it is possible that for those properties that have changed ownership after 2005, a personal notification will be received in October or November 2012. To be on the safe side, calling by the Town Hall to check wouldn't come amiss.

If you have kept a copy of your 2004 IBI bill then the amount you paid then will give you an approximate idea of what you may have to pay in 2012.

Many people are querying whether they may receive a refund in connection with the fact that they have paid higher IBI bills over the last few years because of the property valuations given by *Catastro*. The Council is studying the possibility of filing a complaint against the *Catastro* and citizens will have every right to make a claim in this respect. The Town Hall proposes to supply a form for this purpose, with instructions in different languages as to how to fill it in; the staff at the OAC and the Help Desk will also be happy to assist.

Because of the delay in receiving taxpayers' IBI contributions, caused by what has been explained above, the Town Hall plans to avoid serious cash flow problems, which would affect services, by applying to the State for an advance of funds to the tune of 5.382.714€. Since this "advance" is not considered as a loan, there is no liability for payment of interest. Once the Town Hall starts to receive IBI payments from the taxpayers, it will begin to pay back to the State the funds that have been advanced.

The new basis of calculation for the IBI bills will mean that the expected income for the Town Hall could be approximately 8.750.000€ less than what was budgeted initially prior to the decision to cancel the *Catastro* value on which the larger amount was based. In turn, this means that the Town Hall will be introducing a severe "adjustment plan" in the future with cuts in various sectors. For more information in this respect Oscar Anton proposes to answer questions for all those who may like to attend a meeting at the *Casa de Cultura* during the month of September: date and time to be advised.