

MEETING WITH TONI SIGNES, DEPUTY MAYOR

Those present for Gata Residencial:	Louise Kirkley	President
	Angie Dickinson	Vice-President
	Peter Bayliss	Membership Secretary
	Pete Whitbread	Gardening Co-ordinator

Those present for Town Hall: Toni Signes

SUMMARY OF MEETING

1. GARDENING OF OVERGROWN AREAS

Louise had sent photographs of some of the more overgrown areas of the urbanisation to the Council. She impressed upon Toni that we need a firm commitment from them that the clean up work he has been promising will go ahead.

Toni admitted that he understands the frustrations but with the global pandemic, the Town Hall were unable to programme any routine cleaning in the village as a whole and this is now getting underway again. We could not pin him down to a date, but he confirmed that general gardening and cleaning will be done within the next few weeks.

After weeding, the Council will spray the areas with weedkiller to reduce regrowth but they will warn residents in advance so we can take care with pets etc. It is then planned that the areas will be sprayed routinely twice a year in March and September.

2. FINANCIAL AID

Toni informed us that the global pandemic has meant that the Council have had to reallocate a lot of their funding to help those most affected by the crisis. So far, 47,000€ has been given to affected families, and 135,000€ given to boost commerce and assist the self employed who were forced to close their businesses. Before the pandemic, the Town Hall were in a good financial position but now the money has been spent. However, it is hoped that next year they may be able to access more money from a "sustainable investment fund" with the idea of "THINK GREEN" meaning that more funds may be available for ecological projects.

3. OLIVE TREES

The Town Hall staff are not equipped to deal with large, specialised trees and have to contract an outside firm for pruning etc. This is not in their budget for Gata Residencial this year but he will speak with the Environmental Councillor to see if it can be included for next year.

Pete asked if some kind of small loop fencing could be provided to protect the area around the base of the olive trees from dog mess. Again Toni will enquire about available budget.

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4. STREET TREES

The Town Hall is continuing with its plan to plant trees all along the back road and hope to have this completed by the end of their term of office in 3 years. They will be "Eugenia" trees which are more low maintenance.

5. ROUNDABOUT CALLE JALÓN ENTRANCE

Pete asked if there were any plans for a more low maintenance roundabout due to its overgrown state. The Town Hall are investigating this for many roundabouts in Gata with a view to minimising work in the future.

6. NOTICEBOARD AND SIGNAGE

- The Town Hall architect is going to designate the exact spot for the placement of a new noticeboard at the Monte Pedreguer entrance in the next few days.
- They are currently waiting on permission from the technical department of the Diputación for the placement of a new Gata Residencial road sign near the roundabout of the Calle Jalón entrance.
- Louise raised concerns about a few dangerous junctions that require some attention and signage painted on the roads as the vertical signs are currently obscured by the orange trees, ie Carresqueres / Xops and Carrasqueres / Pins.

7. COURT CASE

The Courts were not working during the recent lockdown period and consequently the expected resolution has been delayed by a further 3 months. There is no further news on the court case at this time.

8. DOG WASTE

The printing of more street stickers to deter dog fouling in public areas has been delayed due to the pandemic but is still in the pipeline and they will hopefully arrive in a few weeks.

9. PARKS AND MOTORBIKES

Toni confirmed that the police have been patrolling both parks more regularly after reports of drug use and motorbikes in the area. The problem with motorbikes is a village-wide problem with several people complaining about the noise and speed. The Town Hall and the police have taken the decision that they will start fining owners, or clamping and impounding any illegal motorbikes that have been modified or have the registration plate obscured. However he reminded us that there are only 2 local police officers on duty at any one time at the moment.

10. FENCING

It was highlighted that a section of fencing has blown down on Carrer Xops beside the bottle bank. Toni will ask for it to be repaired.

11. STREET LIGHTING

Before the pandemic, Toni had asked the electricity company about a timing system for the street lighting in order to save money and he has not heard any reply from them. He will chase it up.

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12. COMPOST SCHEME

Soon we will receive more information about a pilot scheme that the Town Hall wish to run in Gata Residencial related to organic waste recycling. 90 volunteer houses will receive a compost bucket for their organic household waste (vegetable peelings etc) and will take this waste to a special receptacle sited at the very far end of Carrer Pins, in the corner beside the park. This container does not smell and will accelerate the compost process. The residents who participate in this scheme will then receive free compost for their gardens. The scheme is planned to run for a year from November 2020.

Toni has given us a copy of the project plan from the organising company, which will be uploaded to our Google Docs page. Nearer the time, there will be an informative presentation to introduce and explain the scheme.

13. EMPTY HOUSES

The Council has again asked Sareb, the owners of the empty houses, to maintain the neglected pools and gardens. Louise commented that she has noticed that some of the gardens have been attended to but not the pools. Toni advised that the Town Hall architect would be making a visit in the next few days to check this out.

14. RED CROSS

Louise asked if there is any way the residents of Gata Residencial could contribute to the efforts of the Red Cross who are currently helping over one hundred families in Gata providing basic necessities. Toni will pass her phone number on to the Red Cross co-ordinator.