

**GRAN ALACANT NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING WITH
GRAN ALACANT TOWN COUNCILLOR OSCAR VALENZUELA, MAYOR
LORETO SERRANO AND POLICE CHIEF JOSÉ MIGUEL ZARAGOZA**

The meeting begins at 19:00h on August 17, with the assistance of representatives of neighborhood communities, unless there is an error or omission along with the number of homes are:

Altomar I	399
Costa Hispania	461
BrisaMar	482
Don Pueblo III	167
El Faro	196
Isla de Izaro	38
Mediterraneo I	160
Monte y Mar 3.2i Serena	150
Puerto Marino 1	200
Monte y Mar 4-2	687
MonteFaro	375
Novamar	1023
Olivo de Oro – Brisas	335
Panorama	400
San Sebastián	61
Vista Bahia II	19

It should be noted that this call has been greatly reduced by the Covid-19, and has set a capacity of 20 people, held outside. All this has greatly limited the attendance, moving additional questions from the group of the association.

Paragliding

It is discussed about the activity and inconveniences for the residents of Brisas del faro-Olivo de oro and El faro. The solution preferred by us and official position of the association is that the activity is regulated in a comprehensive way by the council with municipal employees paid by a fee. The Gran Alacant Councillor explains that the recruitment and allocation of staff at this time, for organizational and economic reasons, is somewhat long and complicated. He announces that a proposal has been finalised to give the use of the space to the paragliding club so that they take responsibility for its use, control who carries out the activity, establish insurance for third parties and other necessary aspects such as conditioning by the club, separation work by the urbanisation, signs and regulations, services, etc.

On the part of the local police, they are committed to establishing a protocol for receiving notice every time a flight is possible so that it is taken into account, especially at the beginning of this agreement.

Although it is not the solution desired by the association, it is valued positively as an improvement, placing us all to check if finally it is a satisfactory form of coexistence for all the parts.

Urban planning problems

The problems of Calle Ménsula, Calle Canarias and Urbanización Panorama are mentioned. The councillor comments that all these aspects are being treated individually and separately at each moment with representatives of each urbanization, and each one has a different rhythm, sometimes with more or less priority, but it is not left abandoned.

It asks about urban planning, mainly about the width of sidewalks, materials to be used, drainage, connections, etc., as well as the existing problems, as an example, with the sidewalk of Scandinavia Avenue between the Carabassí hills and the sea balconies, which has been almost 20 years without being able to be used normally, being the opposite very narrow. Also, there are many areas of sidewalks with sufficient width but when placing the streetlights in its interior is very difficult to use.

The mayor says that what has already been developed has a difficult solution given the current budget problems and other spending priorities in the neighborhood. She indicates that in the new developments there is correct planning, as in CJ5. The debate about the sidewalk as an example and the responsibility of the developer when it is not being developed is insisted on. In any case, the mayor is committed to providing information to the association based on regulations.

Note after the meeting: it was agreed to carry out an initiative to make visible the problems of sidewalk width and accessibility by disabled people. The problem of planning is insisted on, giving as an example the sidewalks of the new urbanizations "Iconic" and "Nova Beach" in front of Panorama (this last one is two years old and where rather narrow sidewalks are being made).

Road access to Gran Alacant

With regard to the improvement of the entry and exit of Gran Alacant by the road, the councilman reports that after delays and cancellations by the Covid there was a meeting with the general direction of roads in Alicante in July.

There are two road projects pending approval in Madrid that have to do with the requests made:

- Adequacy of the incorporation lane direction Santa Pola with connection to the road of Balsares, the mayoress reports a complete project with land ceded since 2015 by the City Council worth 230,000 euros. Complete information in the partners area.



- The incorporation to the N-332 from Gran Alacant in the direction of Alicante is short and ends in a Stop. There is a lot of traffic and more summertime. It has been requested by the Town Hall in writing and at the meeting that they put speed reducers and / or radar. It is not contemplated to move the current radar down the hill from Santa Pola, it is considered necessary due to accidents.

The mayoress informs that for this request there is a larger project that dates from 2017 with an amount of several million euros. After its drafting, it has been rejected due to the lack of regional budget for its development and the mayoress informs that the council has requested the drafting of a new, cheaper project that will improve the entrances and exits in a sufficient way, based on the cancelled one. More information about the 2017 project in the partners area.

Asked about the deadlines for these projects, the councilman indicated that the first one should be tendered this year, depending on the evolution of the Covid19 and the second one will be delayed a little more. The mayor indicates that following instructions from the direction of roads in Alicante, it is necessary to insist on Valencia and Madrid in this regard, having already requested an appointment for both. Everything seems to indicate that, as always, things work by insisting.

Post-Meeting Note: From the association we have requested that the road connection from Balsares towards Gran Alacant be studied (a minimal indicative capture with no intention of being a sketch). This would mean a major decongestion of the N332 from the Altet tunnel as it could be diverted through Balsares and into Gran Alacant, which is now impossible, we need to go to Santa Pola, as well as improving the 1.4km section to Balsares:



As the CV-851 road to Balsares belongs to the Diputación, the city council promised to speak to the Diputación about it, but in the end it did not take place. We called on the mayor and councilor to respond as soon as possible.

They also insist that the area is subject to the development of the golf course, there being interest in its promotion at present by a company and if it materializes it would be facilitated enough.

Fumigations, mosquitoes, cockroaches, processions

The subject of the fumigations is discussed and Loreto provides a report on the actions, which is available in the members' area. The joint fumigations with Elche have been reinforced with fixed weekly periodicity and a meeting between the city councils of Alicante-Elche-Santa Pola is being promoted so that the joint fumigations do not decline in limits. From the association is transmitted at that time that there is a feeling that is controlled and better than in other years and they are congratulated for it.

The councilman apologizes for the lack of coordination on the issue of cockroach spraying that was experienced, and comments that for the next one a daily and continuous report has already been established for the company on what is being done, where and when, and he commits himself to improve it every time until he is satisfied. Likewise, he informs that in the new specification there are air means contemplated, being able to take advantage of them from now on when it is necessary.

A new sheet is being completed to improve the service and to have the final budget, including inter-city coordination in the sheet and the possibility of air means in annex for extreme cases in coordination with other city councils.

Gardening, garbage and cleaning

Numerous complaints about deficiencies in all services are transmitted to the mayor and councilor. With regard to garbage and cleaning, the councilman again explained that the

current means are insufficient and that work is being done on the new specifications, which to speed up has been commissioned to a firm that should give the result at the end of September, the councilman being called to that control. Prior to the COVID the Gran Alacant Councillor gave us an oral summary (we can't show and provide the specification for legal reasons) to the Board of Directors and we agreed that it covers all the needs of the neighbourhood quite well in terms of street cleaning, collection of belongings, containers, clearing, etc.

It goes into the subject in depth by requiring the mayor to draw up, tender and award the contract with a view to it being awarded by the summer of 2021. That horizon seems viable to him, but he does not commit himself to specific dates. From the association we think it is a very important issue on which we will do all possible pressure.

Regarding gardening, the mayor apologizes for the deficiencies and excuses herself for the weather and personnel diversion for the COVID. She insists on numerous deficiencies, especially the situation of abandonment of the park of Carabassí Avenue and the mayoress is summoned to a visit with the municipal technician to evaluate it, along with the area of the mountain that is detailed in another section.

Hunting preserve and poor condition of the mountain

There is a debate about the use of the forest by hunters. The mayor explains that the existence of a limited reserve benefits control, and the activity is more regulated and closed to a small number of users. She indicates that a limitation of the reserve has been drawn up in a large percentage to make its use compatible with walks and other activities.

It presents a plan for the reduction of the area, which is available in the members' area. From the association the majority position, but not unanimous, is against hunting, although the reduction of the reserve is valued positively as an advance that, for example, will allow to walk by the lighthouse much of the outside of the mountain without incidents.

From the association it is posed the same problem in which we have been insisting for many months, and it is the bad state of the mountain with dead trees, growing bald spots and possible diseases. We insist on arranging a visit with the municipal technician and the mayor to evaluate this problem and other gardening activities. It was already going to be held in March but some more time was needed to prepare the material. The mayor insists that it would be necessary to specify on a map which areas are susceptible to being seen as problematic, or by means of a photograph where the location is recorded.

He asks about the maintenance of roads and signs in the mountains, and the councilman indicates that they will be addressed within the European project URBACT mobility in terms that we will detail as soon as possible.

Security: local police and guardia civil

The chief of police is asked about one of the main demands in the relationship with the police which is to have a direct interlocutor with a group of neighbors involved in security

issues. The chief of police comments that the contact will be a second-tier policeman but that he cannot have one yet.

He is asked about the police presence in the neighborhood and if there really is a patrol car that is here 24 hours a day. In this regard, he comments that he can provide us with the shift quadrant if we see it necessary to show that this is really the case. Only in case of urgent need or extraordinary operation is their presence arranged outside the neighborhood, but it is so.

He is told that the police presence seems insufficient and that there is a sense of insecurity. In this regard, he comments that every time there is a provincial security board where interior officials, national police, civil guards, and local police chiefs go, Santa Pola is always, by far, one of the safest locations in terms of crime, incidents, and other elements by which it is measured. This is at a municipal level, with much lower rates in the Gran Alacant neighbourhood. He acknowledges that there can be a sense of insecurity, he says that he himself lives in Gran Alacant and every time an isolated event happens that perception is accentuated, but the reality of the numbers is that it's a very safe neighbourhood. It is difficult to justify the increase in personnel to resolve this perception, and the same thing happens with the police and the Guardia Civil, when they have gone to request the detention of complaints or other matters: the personnel are concentrated in more conflictive areas.

Along the same lines, the installation of cameras and roadblocks in Gran Alacant is being discussed, which would contribute to having more and better presence, as well as to combating this perception. The Mayor indicates that it is valued, it will be at the entrance to Gran Alacant in front of the shopping center where there was a MASA sales booth, an optimal location according to the police. A project already exists, it is valued and pending only to be put into budgets. It will be equipped with several rooms to cover the needs. When asked about specific deadlines, the mayor does not want to commit herself exactly, but she indicates that it will take very little time after having the budgets approved.

Continuing the debate on the perception of insecurity, the police chief is asked about one of the main demands in the relationship with the police, which is to have a direct interlocutor with a group of neighbors involved in security issues. The police chief comments that the contact will be a second-tier policeman but that he is not yet available.

An old debate is taken up again, that of hiring janitors in the urbanizations, so that every certain number of homes is controlled on foot and every certain number of homes is controlled by vehicle. This already exists in urbanizations, all year round or in the summer season, but various neighbors report problems of communication with the police, inadequate forms or lack of resolution. From the association we think that with a direct interlocutor who coordinates everything, an effective private control could be improved and encouraged to overcome the deficiencies or at least improve the situation.

In the same vein, the inadequate treatment and lack of staff in the summer, there is a debate about the need to expand the workforce, at least in summer. The mayor comments that it is not possible to expand the staff temporarily for legal reasons, neither with police trainees nor in any other way that is not permanent. She indicates that years ago you could and did hire dozens of police reinforcements without problem, which could provide a much better service, but now you can only increase overtime. This problem, together with

a great aging of the body with a majority of officers who are going to move to the second activity creates a situation of difficult solution on which formulas are being sought to solve it.

Finally, the policeman Roberto, in charge of the disinfection of the urbanizations by the COVID presents a document-memorial about the actions taken, for which he is congratulated as it was done in writing at the time. This report is available in the members' area. Additionally, he is asked about the cleaning and disinfection protocols and gives some indications of interest, which will be collected in a document provided to the association for the communities.

Note after the meeting: At the end of the meeting the chief of police is asked about some topics discussed in the news forum, about the ordinance for dog excrement, surveillance and sanction campaigns, abandoned cars, parking lot at the lighthouse viewpoint and others. As there are still things left in the inkwell, he indicates that there will be an additional meeting to discuss them, with some board member of the association.

G.A. Office

Asked about this, the mayor reports that the administrative position is approved but they have a problem in intervening with the payroll and the hours actually paid to officials to resolve the hiring. They have only been able to finish the urgent hiring of two technicians and the next thing will be that position.

The Gran Alacant Councillor said that all of this was covered by social collaboration staff, but these are no longer available, not by a long shot, not by a long shot.

Secondary school and high school

About the second school, the councilman says that he continues to demand its bidding every month, since it is the last step that remains and everything has stopped since Covid.

It indicates that there is a lot of uncertainty about what will happen with the Edificant plans, since there may be a lack of funding. Among them is the construction of the IES. Continuing with this topic, the section IES Cap of the Aljub denied by phone, do not give official response to anything.

The same happens with any subject, in Consellería they are very saturated preparing the entrance of the school, unfolding of spaces and personnel and we are one more, there is no way to know anything.

A needs report was made from the school and a request was made to put in 5 prefabricated classrooms and divide the playground into 9 zones, one per age group, but this has been denied. The town council has asked for explanations about this and only received a generic response from Miquel Soler indicating that the school is informed of the protocols and has expressed its needs (which was already known), without further ado, but in view of what has been seen they are not going to be attended to. He comments that they are available to the school to condition nearby parks for use, and for any need.

The most worrying thing at the moment in the school is the contract for the cleaning of the school, which was expected to be finished by June, but is delayed until December. The councilman said that, given the complication to hire staff through normal channels, try to urgently process a contract cleaning in the meantime until Christmas that can be awarded the final.

Note after the meeting: Regarding the spaces, everything remains the same and there will be no groups of 20 students, nothing has been attended by Consellería. Yes, the parks have been conditioned and cleared, and some road safety adjustments have been made (fences, signs, bus stop) for the entrance and exit of the school. The police presence will also be reinforced. Finally, the contract for urgent cleaning has been implemented and is already working.

Gran Alacant's Performance and PPS Budget

In line with the above, the Mayoress presented a report on how the Public Land Trust (PPS) is going to be spent in Santa Pola, estimated at 1.7 million Euros, and indicating that more than half of this amount will be allocated to Gran Alacant. A breakdown of the items can be found in the documents in the members' area.

The most important part are the roads of the second school, which were paralyzed with an allocated budget of 1 euro and will now receive 803,409 euros. The next item of interest for the whole municipality is the sustainable urban mobility plan, which in Gran Alacant will involve a study of traffic and the adequacy of signage and maintenance of roads in the mountains. Finally there are 76,340 euros to solve the problem of ownership of the street Ménsula, leaving only pending legal justification and signature by the secretary of the council.