



The Formentera Council celebrated its September plenary session today, bringing cross-party support for a preliminary motion that will establish criteria in determining which areas can be zoned for holiday rentals and which must be restricted to residential.

Defended by Alejandra Ferrer, who is the Council's land, trade and tourism secretary and a member of Gent per Formentera, the proposal is identical to one adopted this June by the island's coalition of community leaders, the "Council of Entities". Both put urban settlements like Sant Francesc, Sant Ferran, La Mola and Ses Bardetes which have residential ordinances and structural characteristics outside the category permitting holiday rentals.

The proposals envision tourist-use zoning for urban areas with "full tourism" or "mixed" designations, such as La Savina, Es Pujols, Es Ca Marí, Mariland, Es Caló, Punta Prima, Sa Roqueta and any rural properties. In an effort to forestall "urbanising pressure", landowners in rural areas will face one caveat: to obtain a listing as "apt for tourism-use", a structure must have been in place already in 2010, when Formentera's land use strategy took effect.

Secretary Ferrer said the proposal, aside from delivering islanders "a quality of life improvement", is about "bolstering Formentera's stock of year-round housing, improving the quality of our for-tourist offering and reducing the strain that human presence on the island represents".

Other agreements

Gent per Formentera also secured unanimous backing for five more proposals, like guidelines for tourism-related ordinances, the 'strategic plan for children and young people' for 2018-2022, and an appeal for Madrid's buy-in on a new agreement concerning highways.

Meanwhile the Partido Popular won full support for a motion to provide more information about

local restrictions on quads. Three other motions stalled after failing to garner the votes of the remaining groups. The PSOE scored cross-party support for a proposal to oversee upgrades at the island's athletics pitch.

When a PSOE request for improved accessibility to public documents revealed cross-party support for supplying council members with access to pertinent documentation, the original motion took on a transactional quality, ultimately emerging as a request for a detailed legal report from the Council's secretary regarding the extent and way in which the administration ought to facilitate such information. CiF chief Jaume Ferrer assured that the measure would be met with the “full cooperation” of his administration.

Request to fast-track maritime transport decree

During the part of the session dedicated to expedited motions, senior administration members on the Gent per Formentera side aired frustration about delays that have dogged a decree on maritime transport ordinances. They urged the Govern balear to fast-track the drafting of the decree, which is expected as a follow-up to a piece of legislation known as “11/2010” and would fix ferry passage frequency and regulate other aspects of maritime excursions. The expedited motion passed with “yes” votes from Gent per Formentera and Compromís. Partido Popular and PSOE party members abstained.

Report

Taking the floor to provide a report on efforts over the last year in the infrastructures, mobility and new technologies offices, Rafael González highlighted the drafting and presentation before the Council of Entities, and approval from the Palma administration, of a piece of legislation regulating inbound vehicles on the island. He also applauded a recently completed “mobility plan” and described both measures as “extremely important in orienting Formentera towards the future”.