



Earlier today, the Formentera Council (CiF) held its March plenary session. The session brought unanimous approval for a measure to include funding in the CiF's 2017 budget for an overhaul of el camí Vell (the old road) to la Mola. Transport councillor Rafael González explained that the project, which is designed to improve the flow of traffic along the entire length of el camí Vell, will rely on "dialogue with landowners and neighbours". González also assured the project would reflect Formentera residents' various uses of the road as well as traffic flows throughout different segments.

According to the councillor, the revamped arterial will be "safe for cyclists and walkers", underlying the CiF transport department's goal of promoting both those activities. González called the old route "crucial for Formentera residents, past and present", but underscored the vast range of uses el camí Vell is given. "The stretch that is currently closed to car traffic will be reopened exclusively to cyclists and pedestrians", he said, stressing the Council's desire to ensure "safety and tranquillity" for bike-riders and walkers.

Unanimous support for refugees

Representatives at the plenary also voted to pass a strongly-worded critique of the recent agreement on refugee resettlement between the EU and Turkey. In the words of social welfare councillor Vanessa Parellada, the Council's unanimously-approved text calls the agreement "an egregious breach of legislation in place to protect refugees" and insists the bilateral move will "only worsen the humanitarian crisis".

"Members of the plenary have urged the Spanish government to take an active role in the European Commission to ensure that international law is upheld and that refugees receive humane, conscientious assistance", said Parellada. The councillor also called to mind the CiF's own registry of households that have made known their willingness to take in refugees temporarily. She pleaded for all levels of government involved in the crisis to assist refugees in "a compassionate, professional and responsible way".