Formentera's president, deputy vice president and economy and tax office councillor —Alejandra Ferrer, Ana Juan and Bartomeu Escandell, respectively— met today at local government offices to present the administration's spending plans for 2020. The Consell de Formentera's €30.1-million budget is 0.3%, or €90K, smaller than last year's.

President Ferrer described the budgetary line as "a continuation of previous budgets", pledging to "use the money to keep pushing policies that can take the island closer to sustainability and people-centred policies". In fact, Ferrer pointed out that "the current plan is to keep pushing formentera.eco (scheme to regulate incoming vehicles) while at the same time developing sustainable mobility and public transport".

Estany des Peix and nursery home

According to Ferrer, regulation of Estany des Peix is included in the budgets under the header "preserving emblematic landmarks". A line item has also been set aside to complete the final stage of construction on the nursery home. Ferrer asserted that the first budget of her term also centred particularly on fomenting civic participation.

The vice-president, for her part, pointed out that the 2020 budgets —the first of the current legislative term— "are the product of efforts on both sides of the Gent per Formentera-PSOE governing team" and were designed "to put people front and centre in policies—particularly as regards social and environmental sustainability".

Councillor Escandell gave a detailed overview of the 2020 budget plan, underscoring the fact that "the current budget is the Formentera government's 13th, the 9th that was agreed between GxF and PSOE, and the first to be presented by a woman president of the Consell de Formentera". The local head of the economy and tax office added "these are realistic spending plans in defence of budgetary estability. We're spending only as much as we're taking in, and continuing in the line of zero debt".

Urban upgrades

Among the investment planned for urban betterment projects are the following: phase two of upgrades on Avinguda Joan Castelló i Guasch in Sant Francesc (€715K), Sant Ferran children's park (€210K), improvements in the green area in eastern Sant Francesc and skatepark (€550K) and, finally, upgrades in Es Pujols as part of phase two of a works project that will be tendered during the first half of 2020 and is scheduled for completion by year's end.

Sustainable island
Standouts among the projects related to the island's overarching model for sustainability include the €650K push to reorganise and regulate moorage at Estany des Peix. The bid to cap and count incoming vehicles on the island will also continue to move forward, as will €350K in public transport upgrades and €130K in organic solid-waste treatment improvements.

Other efforts will include developing executive plans for mobility and waste management.

Patrimony
Money is also envisioned for efforts to recover iconic heritage sites, for example, through the refurbishment of Can Ramon, a historic home that will be dedicated to cultural purposes, and the continuation of the island's Catalogue of Trails (Catàleg de Camins), not to mention the purchase of valuable heritage sites like Es Campament.

Public Participation
Policies of citizen participation will be renewed as well, as with €325K for the participatory budgeting initiatives of the Consell d'Entitats. The budget even incorporates €325K from the 2019 budget for initiatives chosen last year and still pending execution.

Senior citizens
The officials also emphasised other star initiatives at the presentation, such as €1.1 million for construction in 2020 of the Sant Ferran Escoleta, and €700K to complete the nursery home. Efforts will also be focused on developing local strategies for children and youth.

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