

Formentera Council chairman Jaume Ferrer was joined today by the Balearic Islands' president and land, energy and mobility secretary, Francina Armengol and Marc Pons, plus the head of land and tourism on Formentera, Alejandra Ferrer, in turning over the keys to 14 officially-protected housing units in Sant Ferran.

Ferrer, who was “thrilled to be taking part in the event,” proclaimed: “This is a proud moment for all of us, particularly because it will offset part of the burden of Formentera's housing crunch”. Over and above planned improvements in the centre of Sant Ferran, officials say they will continue efforts to position the town as a social hub. According to Ferrer, the new homes' status as “social housing”—a longstanding request of the administration—means turnover can remain high, making it easier to adapt to changing needs within the community.

A satisfied President Armengol noted that left-wing administrations (first Antich's then her own) were behind both the inception and completion of the project. “It goes to show,” she said, “that we on the left we are aware that public housing is crucial”.

A total of 12 keys were turned over today. One of the homes, which is reserved for applicants with special needs, has yet to be assigned. Another is in the midst of processing.

All selected occupants are given rent-controlled leases which never exceed 30% of their income. Monthly payments start at €197 and are capped at €291 (service charges are extra). The three-year leases are renewable providing tenants can demonstrate they continue to meet criteria.

Specifications

Built on a plot donated by the Formentera Council, the homes incorporate the Balearic Islands' pioneering environmental standards, which means they were eligible for EU funding as part of Life+2012. The €1,373,361 project is called Life Reusing Posidonia, and it received €754,012 in additional assistance from the Life programme.

The project, first drafted between 2010 and 2011, didn't go into construction until May 2014. The building was completed in March 2017 and is the first A-class multi-family building in the Balearics.

Based on building practices and consumption patterns, the Govern estimates that, in their useful life, the new units will equate to energy savings of 75% and a 60% drop in water consumption.

Also on hand for the ceremony were the Council's vice-chairman, Bartomeu Escandell, plus Daisee Aguilera and Vanessa Parellada, the administration's secretaries of environment and social welfare.