Formentera's councillor of town and country planning, Alejandra Ferrer, met today with her opposite number in the Govern Balear, Joan Boned, for a gathering that resulted in an agreement to use the former site of the Govern's Formentera delegation as a local office providing Formentera residents with assistance on housing. Staffed by both CiF and Govern employees, the office — whose ultimate structure will become clear between now and its 2016 opening — will counsel local Formenterencs on housing issues, Councillor Boned explained.

The two officials also discussed the possibility of creating a register in order to bring together homeseekers and property-owners. Another prospect envisioned is that the future housing office compile different government subsidies from both the local and regional administrations and in so doing — says Councillor Ferrer — «incentivise the decision to rent». An upcoming meeting of the Consell d'Entitats will serve to debate such issues.

Redrawing coastal boundaries

Mr Boned declared the new division of public and private land along Formentera's coastline to be «unacceptable» because «it runs counter to a previous consensus reached by the island as a whole». According to the Govern councillor, «private property which was lost under the contested coastal law should indeed be returned to its rightful owners, but protective measures along the coastline must remain in place». The Palma administration has assured it will study the issue to determine how it can intervene effectively.

Officials gather to tackle zoning

On his visit, Mr Boned will meet with members of the Formentera Council, the local ajuntament and other urbanism professionals and go over the Govern Balear's current plan for zoning regulations. The code of regulations — says Mr Boned — aims to consolidate and simplify the different mechanisms, concepts and parameters used by town councils when tackling zoning issues.