

Council Meeting July 29th, 2010

At the July Council meeting our group proposed the postponement, until August, of the only item on the agenda. The PP and Paca Sevilla supported this, **because the PSOE would not agree to reach any kind of consensus** It seems as though they are only interested in giving the public an impression, that they are victims of plotting by opposition groups. The reality is quite different.



The item was around their proposal to spend 600,000 Euros (which forms part of a bank loan) on works which had been previously planned, and which we agree are urgent, such as constructing niches in the cemetery, repairing fallen walls, expropriation development fees etc. **...we were only doubtful about one allocation in the package of proposals; the allocation of 150 000 Euros to build more paddle and sports changing facilities at the new sports facility in Altea la Vella.**

This, would be fine if the money had fallen from the sky in the form of a grant as happened with Plan E, it is not reasonable however when it comes in the form of a bank loan which puts the council into debt.

We must distinguish between what is truly essential and what is nice to have. It would be nice to have the sports facilities completed, but it is not essential when they are already very good.

It is however essential to meet basic needs of the people. At a time when we do not have spare money, when we are in debt up to our eyebrows, it is logical to meet only basic needs with what little we do have. We merely wanted for this 150,000 euros with it's corresponding interest be allocated to such basic needs, we did not want to hinder their government team, only to ensure the money was used prudently, and not as an electoral tool.

We want to contribute to governance of our town.

We wanted to approve the motion this month and we want to approve the package of measures at the August Council meeting.

But it seems that the Socialist Group considers it more important to send a message saying that: "CIPAL has passed to the PP." Something, which we deny completely. We will not tire of repeating to those who only understand politics in terms of being on one side or the other that just as we were not with the PSOE before we are not with the PP now; **CIPAL is an independent group that will decide on each issue that arises and affects the people of Altea independently.**

Finally at the end of the session, our group raised various issues and questions:

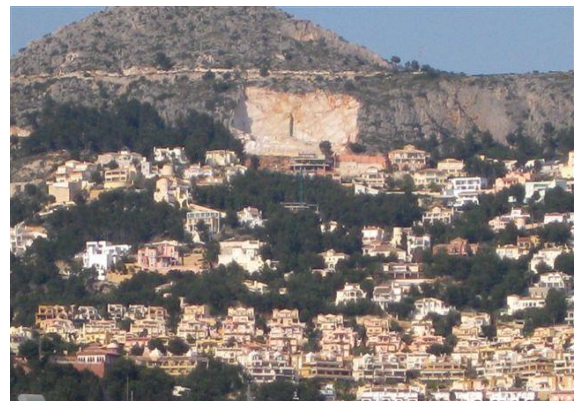
1°.- **We complained about the use of herbicides and pesticides at roadsides and more seriously in the protected wetlands around the area of the mouth of the river Algar to the Councillor for environment.**

While being councillor for agriculture, CIPAL together with the Altea agriculture co operative, has put in place biological pest control in more then 65 hectares of agriculture land, where none of these chemicals have been used. It is inconsistent to ask the citizens to make this effort when the rest of the City Council is not willing to make it too.



2.- The Councillor for urban planning presented more then a year ago a proposal to combat the noise from heavy construction. This proposal was left suspended. We announced that if this is not resubmitted in August we will put it on the table as a proposal ourselves at the September meeting, as we cannot remain passive waiting for the problem of noise to be resolved.

3.- Lastly we complained again about the situation of the "Quarry" in the Sierra. **This enormous crater, which was given it's building license by the socialists. It now appears the building works have stopped.** The response from the urban planning department to our complaint was that " **they are looking at ways to force the company to restore the mountain to its original state**". This seems a mockery. In practice it seems that we will have to live with this hole for a long time, the result of a building licence **that should never have been granted in the first place.**



This licence, and its supposed legitimacy, whether because it failed to take into account the surrounding landscape and laws which govern that or because Altea has not modified its planning ordinances to prevent such travesties, has in either case left the public, yet again, to pay the price.

4.- We again demanded **protection for the ancient irrigation system of ditches (acequias)** and advocate support for their maintenance. Without them much of our agricultural plots will die.