

# Alfaz del Pi approves tax hike

## Many Costa towns following suit

By Tom Cain  
ALFAZ DEL PI council has passed, with a majority vote, a rise in three of the town's main municipal taxes.

The taxes affected by the decision are IBI, vehicle circulation tax and construction tax.

Coming into effect next year, IBI taxes will rise by 11.76 per cent giving the council a projected 400,000-euro increase over the 3,400,000 it collected in 2006.

Tax councillor Toni Such said that the rise was necessary because the IBI rate had not been revised since 1999.

The tax rises were agreed by all political parties except the PP who considered them unnecessary.

Sr Such said that despite the rise, Alfaz del Pi still had one of the lowest IBI tax rates in the area. He said that tax on an average dwelling in Villajoyosa was 410 euros, in Benidorm 372, La Nucia 451, Altea 206 and in Alfaz del Pi 206.

As the residents of Alfaz look forward to higher taxes in 2008, others living in towns throughout the Costa Blanca can expect similar increases as local councils look to swell their coffers to offset spending before the next local elections in 2011.

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Alfaz del Pi town hall Photo CBN

## Baby Boom

By Joe Wickman  
FOREIGN mums have helped Valencia Region's birth rate soar in recent years and health authorities are now supplying free information packs for expecting mums.

The packs are available in Spanish, Valencian, English, Arabic and Romanian.

They give important information on how to look after newborn babies, breast-feeding and other post-pregnancy tips.

The number of births in the region has risen by 30 per cent in the past six years, going from 40,775 in 2000 to 52,803 in 2006.

This increase is mostly attributed to the growing number of foreign mothers, who now constitute 20% of the total amount of births, compared to 4% in the year 2000.

The majority of them come from Latin America (37%) followed by Eastern European countries (21%) and North Africa (21 per cent).

Average ages of the new mothers go from 30 to 35 for the Spanish and Western European to 25 to 30 for the Eastern European, South American, African and Asian mothers.

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## Polop swears in new mayor

News Staff Reporter  
AT A SPECIALLY arranged council meeting held in Polop on Friday, deputy mayor Juan Cano was sworn in as the town's new mayor.

Sr Cano was sworn in without complaint from the opposition who refused to put forward candidates for the position due the exceptional circumstances of the situation.

Sr Cano gave a brief speech in which he stated he was deeply saddened by the circumstances in which he had become mayor and that all the projects undertaken by his predecessor would continue to go ahead.

He added that a school in the town would be named in memory of former mayor Alejandro Ponsoda.

## Port enlargement project paralysed



News Staff Reporter  
ALTEA council has reached agreement over the stopping of a Project, presented in 2003, to enlarge the port.

Under the project, which was presented by the PP via the Empresa Pública de Desarrollo Municipal, EPDM, the port would have been extended south to include moorings for passenger liners, an underground car park, leisure zone, diving school, cinemas, theatre, restaurants and a port administration building.

Altea tax councillor Eloy Hidalgo said that

since the project was first presented in 2003, new information has been forthcoming which has highlighted flaws in it.

To that end the council has been able to count on the backing of all political parties to scrap the original project and instead look at renewing the Club Náutico's concession.

He added that the yacht club had put forward a plan to develop new concessions in the port without having to make it any bigger.

This project would allow the public greater access to facilities while at the same time respecting the environment.

### Big band concert date

On Monday December 3 there will be a big band show at the Casa de Cultura Alfaz del Pi.

The 'Swinging Christmas' spectacular will feature Rommy Baker with his Glen Miller sound orchestra - which includes many musicians who were part of Mike Smith's Tuxedo Junction Big Band.

Mike Smith will be flying in from the UK to conduct part of the show. Other guest artists will be singer Melda Hilton, ex Tuxedo Junction singer Shirley Cordingly and the Joanna James Band.

A donation from this concert will be presented to the national cancer charity AECG for the province-wide scanner appeal.

Tickets for the show cost 15 euros available from Margaret's Cards in Calpe, the tourist office and Mary Boutique in Alfaz or phone 96 686 0735, 96 583 4715 or email pdawson8021@ctvgva.es

### Environmental education campaign

Finestrat council is to start an educational campaign to teach residents how to save energy and respect the environment.

The campaign will run from November 11 to December 31 and will give people tips on how to save energy ways in which they can respect the environment.

Mayor Honorato Algado said that throughout 2008 the council will be holding activities designed to protect the environment.

### Primate centre almost finished

Dutch foundation AAP announced this week that it would be bringing in 11 chimpanzees to its new primate centre in Villena in May 2008.

Operating under the project name of 'Primadomus' the primate centre is being built seven kilometres from Villena close to the Sierra de Salinas.

The aim of the centre is offer a home to healthy chimps that cannot be reintroduced to the wild.

### Property exhibition at the Meliá

Fourteen construction companies will exhibit their property plans this weekend at the Inmopoli fair at the Meliá hotel in Alicante.

At a press conference this week the company directors talked about the recent drop in property buyers due to high mortgage interest rates.

Companies such as Acciona, Ballester, Iberdrola-Inmobiliaria, Dentisa, Murcia Puchades and Procumasa will be at the fair.

More than 35,000 homes are set to be built in the areas of Calpe, Dénia, Campello, Villajoyosa, Benidorm, Benissa, Polop, San Juan, Muchamiel Altea and Alicante.

The three-day fair begins today Friday.