



Consell de Formentera chief Alejandra Ferrer and Balearic mobility and housing minister Josep Marí Ribas sat down today to sign a deal freeing up a plot of land in Sant Ferran for public housing. Under the agreement, Formentera's government will give the Balearic housing agency a parcel on carrer d'Alacant so it can build 16 to 20 new units of housing, with the regional minister indicating construction could start as soon as May 2022.

The premiere explained to Marí Ribas that access to housing was one of the island's biggest problems and one that has grown worse with the crisis. She also detailed progress on efforts to regulate holiday rentals and free up housing for residents, stressing the need to create a housing office.

For his part, the Balearic mobility and housing minister welcomed the hand-off of the land: "We live in a finite territory where demand for land is high, and we know freeing up buildable lots is difficult, so I'd like to applaud the local collaboration that made this possible."

Last December in plenary, decision makers on the island voted to offer the 784.8-square-metre plot to the regional housing authority for public housing. To set the wheels in motion on a draft project, IBAVI will launch a call for architectural ideas this April, with drafting of the basic project and execution to follow.

### **First inter-administration encounter**

Before the land grant deal was signed, the Balearic minister's first official visit to Formentera found him meeting with Ferrer, local deputy chief and housing councillor Ana Juan and mobility councillor Rafael González too. The officials spoke about regulating ferry connections between Eivissa and Formentera through creation of maritime transport guidelines, part of a twofold effort to meet resident and tourist demand and guarantee environmental sustainability. The officials also discussed formentera.eco and the importance of public moorage points.

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**Communications Department**

## **Consell de Formentera**