

ALCALÁ

New beach

A kilometre long beach is planned for the area of La Jaquita in Alcalá, Guía de Isora.

Local mayor, Pedro Martín, has already handed over the land necessary to the Spanish government to further his stated intention of boosting the tourism trade in his borough. Martín announced, "we have done everything that it is in the hands of the council to do for the creation of the new beach, which will need an investment of over €3 million. The project has already been drawn up and I hope that it will be awarded to the construction company this year." The new project includes plans to continue the existing maritime walk at La Jaquita to a final length of one and a half kilometres.

The mayor underlined that they have asked to be formally recognised as a tourism borough so that they can benefit from the appropriate investments from all levels of

the administrations. As the Island Territory Plan of the Tenerife Cabildo defines the whole of their coast of interest to tourism, he doesn't expect any problems in obtaining the reclassification.

Private investors have backed his plans with their money and the borough already has a number of top hotels but the mayor announced that, "land is planned for new and unique first class international hotels to add to the current quality offer". He affirmed that they have already received, "projects, with the land already purchased, for three new hotels" in Los Malenas, close to Playa San Juan and in Varadero. If they haven't gone ahead so far it is only because of the administrative restrictions that are currently in operation.

Martín scorns the idea of attending all the tourist fairs, he believes that with their type of borough it isn't necessary, and they go only



Three new hotels are planned for the area

to the specialist fairs which are relevant for their type of tourist offer. They have also created two tourist offices in the main town and in Playa San Juan and run guided tours within the borough. A further and somewhat novel idea is the way the local council bring

together the farmers and the hotels, with no middlemen, so that the hotel guests enjoy the best of the local fresh produce and at the same time the hotels help to maintain the beauty of the agricultural landscape that the visitors come to enjoy.

LOS GUÍOS TRAGEDY

Rock fall fallout

As we go to print and news is released of the regeneration of the beach at Los Guíos in Loa Gigantes, Santiago del Teide where two women lost their lives last November, local mayor, Juan Damián Gorrín, has been called to testify about the tragedy.

The project for the beach renewal will be drawn up in February and sent out to tender, "as soon as possible, depending on the money we have available," declared Gorrín. The beach has been closed to the public, but some bathing areas are likely to be reopened in the near future after investigation into the state of the cliffs has been completed. The areas clos-

est to the cliffs however will remain off limits until the work needed is finished. The rock fall wasn't the first of its kind on the beach, but it was the first to have such heartbreaking effects, burying the two women under masses of rocks with lethal consequences.

The investigation into the two deaths is still open and it is to the judge or judges responsible that Gorrín and others have to respond. The safety of the public beaches is the responsibility of the local council, whilst the safety of the cliffs falls into the domain of the Coastal Department. After weeks of speculation, Gorrín asked the public, neighbours and friends and families of the



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deceased to, "stop running a parallel court case and let justice work with objectivity as it is the courts which have to decide". Worried about the economic effects on the

surrounding businesses, the mayor pointed out, "now we have to reactivate the area, as the businesses are also victims of everything that happened".

TRANSPORT

Train for Fonsalía

The first step in the extension of the proposed train connection for Fonsalía is now underway.

The island council has approved the first draft of the plan which sketches out the proposed route of the new line. The document and a detailed map will

be on public display for 70 days for all those interested, or possibly affected, to inspect and act upon if desired. After studying four alternatives, the selected route will join Costa Adeje with Fonsalía with a 14 kilometre stretch costing an estimated €307 million, and including

five kilometres of tunnels and a further 1.5 kilometres of viaducts. Once operating the train service will connect Fonsalía with Santa Cruz in 52 minutes and with Adeje in just five minutes running at a frequency of every 15 minutes at peak periods.

San Agustín

School transport

More frequency plea

Guía de Isora council has asked the transport department of the island council to consider increasing the frequency of one of the main bus routes operated by TITSA.

The 493, which joins Guía de Isora and Puerto de Santiago, is in heavy use by students at the Manuel Martín González IES. The council has requested that two services are put into force at 7am, one to collect passengers from the main road from Playa San Juan to Guía de Isora along the TF 463, and the other to divert through Agua Dulce and Piedra Hincada. The current routes in operation often mean that the students are unable to reach their classes on time according to the local public transport councillor, Antonio Álvarez. The request was sent in early December and so far they have received no reply, but the councillor is confident that their plea will be accepted by the island administration and the public transport company because, "recently they have always been ready to accept our suggestions".

Tamaimo

Higher education

Santiago del Teide's council have come to an agreement with the Education authorities to extend the teaching facilities in Tamaimo from the school year 2010/2011.

From the new school year in the autumn, the Tamaimo IES, which currently only offers teaching up to the 4th level of ESO, will be extending its teaching by four classrooms to include Bachillerato. Students who wish to study to this level have to travel to other schools and there are over 40 schoolchildren who currently have to make that journey without organised school transport, "they have to go by car or use the normal bus," complained the local mayor, Juan Damián Gorrín.

Tourism

All in disaster

The streets of Playa Paraíso are increasingly deserted and local businesses are crying out for Adeje's tourism department to intervene.

From being a busy and welcoming tourism area, the village increasingly resembles the Marie Celeste as one by one the hotels have switched over to the All Inclusive offer in an attempt to attract dropping tourist numbers. The only hotel which offers bed and breakfast or half board is four star and not the type of hotel which would normally cater to the type of people who used to use the services currently on offer. Many businesses are facing bankruptcy and many more jobs will be lost. It makes it worse because they know there is demand for the old bed and breakfast brigade as old and regular clients ring them to say how much they wanted to return to the village but were unable to find accommodation.

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