

## **Plans for Aljezur**

**Vale Da Telha has been thrust into the national spotlight with Francisco Nunes Correia, the Minister of Environment, Spatial Planning and Regional Development making a personal visit to unveil long overdue plans for the area's regeneration.**

**And most people living here will be pleased to know that the planned refurbishment is largely geared to maintaining the natural beauty of the plateau that is home to Vale da Telha, Espartal, Monte Clérigo, Arrifana and other smaller districts.**

**One important detail to emerge is that residential building will NOT be stopped in those areas—but it will be strictly controlled, with yet-to-be-confirmed designated 'green areas' that allow no residential building whatsoever. More on that later.....**

**Amovate's growing importance as a valued partner in the area was recognized not just by a personal invitation to President Peter Johnson to attend the signing of protocols for the implementation of the area plan, but by an invitation for Peter and committee members John Bergstrom-Potter and Matt D'Arcy to join the Minister at the top table for a lunch following the June 3 ceremony at Miradouro da Praia da Arrifana.**

**The following day Peter and Amovate's General Assembly President Ian Bedford met with the Câmara Vice-President for a detailed briefing on the draft plan, which we must stress is still in its early stages.**

**Incidentally, Peter and Ian will now be holding a monthly meeting with the Vice-President to discuss all current issues relating to Vale da Telha and raise any questions submitted to them by Amovate members.**

**The Miradouro da Praia da Arrifana ceremony saw the signing of all documents relating to the new Waste Water Treatment Plan for Vale da Telha and surrounding areas, which, according to the documentation, is due to be completed in August next year.**

**The plant, costing an estimated €4.1m, will be located in Vales and Peter and Ian were given an aerial image showing the precise location of the plant, which the Câmara admits is being constructed some 32 years after it was first mooted.**

**LOCATION: As you drive out of Vales towards Aljezur there is a gap after Gabriel's Restaurant before you reach two houses on the left.**

**The plant will be located on the right, opposite the boundary of the final house, with a road frontage of approximately 180 metres and a depth ITR0 of some 600 metres or thereabouts. We cannot give you precise details until we receive more detailed plans which we are assured will be sent to us at the time they are ready to be made available to the general public but we assume the actual treatment works will be at the rear end of the site with administration buildings, car park etc closer to the road.**

**It is safe to assume that in time all properties in the area will be linked to the mains drains which in turn will be linked via a system of pumping stations to the new plant. For example, one of the red lines illustrating the network of sewage pipes begins at Espartal, drops down towards Monte Clérigo then turns up the valley, heading towards Sector E and on to the treatment plant.**

**After the installation of the main drains and their availability to the residents there will, of course, be a need to attach one's house and drainage system to it. Whilst the Câmara will afford the access it is assumed that residents MAY be asked to contribute towards all drains from the house system to at least the boundary, although it is unclear who would pay from the boundary to the mains outlet. That information will become clearer as the work proceeds.**

**As regards the Vale da Telha improvement plan now sanctioned by Lisbon, this is to be drawn up by the same company which brilliantly engineered the regeneration of the derelict Lisbon waterfront to create the hugely acclaimed EXPO site, still a thriving and highly successful attraction for residents of the Capital, and for tourists.**

**Peter and Ian were told the Vale da Telha area will be split into four sectors, still to be confirmed, each with its own plan.**

**There will be green zones and owners of plots in those zones applying for planning permission will be offered an alternative plot of similar value in an area approved for residential development. Otherwise a settlement agreement will need to be reached between the Câmara and the owner of the plot.**

**The thinking behind this draft plan for the whole area, still in its infancy but now given full Government backing and a budget of some €3m, is to maintain the eco systems whilst sympathetically improving facilities for tourism.**

**For example, walkways and cycle paths will be created, observation vantage points with seating and, still in the discussion stages, the**

**possibility of a hotel and some form of golf course—one, we assume, that doesn't come with villas and apartment complexes dotted all around it.**

**Further details will be discussed with Amovate as they become available but no dates can be given whilst the company tasked with the regeneration programme is still completing its surveys.**