

# English pages

EDITORIAL MENORCA S.A. ♦ DIARIO MENORCA'S ENGLISH PAGES ♦ TUESDAY 7TH AUGUST 2007

## AFFECTING AREAS IN ES MERCADAL AND FERRERIES

# Official "no" to windfarms at Son Bruc and Ses Comunes

There has been a lot of opposition locally to the two projects which involved the construction of 14 windmills and 7 kilometres of road in protected areas

CHRISTINE M. WATTERSON

Maó

The Balearic Commission for the Environment, which includes representatives from Balearic Government departments and the four Island Councils, last week issued an unfavourable report on the projects presented by the company Generadora Eólica Illes Balears for the construction of wind farms at Ses Comunes (Ferrerries) and Son Bruc (Es Mercadal).

The Island Councillor for Territorial Planning and Housing, Marc Pons, said that the action showed the protective nature of the new Government, adding the rejection of the proposals will "allow the conservation of the Son Bruc and Ses Comunes areas which are high in environmental value".

The Commission's decision was preceded by negative reports issued the previous week by the Technical Committee for the evaluation of Environmental Impact which said that the two projects, involving the construction of 14 windmills and 7 kilometres of road, would make a strong impact on a natural area of special interest which was



EXCURSION. Organised by GOB to make people aware of the proposed projects

highly protected.

The report draws attention to the existence of a holm oak wood of great natural value and the ecological importance of both zones which are nesting areas for the red kite (*milvus milvus*).

Whilst reaffirming their sup-

port for renewable energy sources, Commission members felt that it was imperative that the locations for such installations be planned in advance. Marc Pons stated that, from September, the Island Council would be willing to work on an energy plan which

would not contradict the Balearic Government's plan, the latter having responsibility for energy matters. He explained that the idea was to draw up a plan which would outline the areas suitable for the installation of renewable energy sources. ■

## IN BRIEF

### Young diver in Fornells accident dies in Palma

■ The young diver who was injured in Fornells on 24th July when a compressed air tank he was handling exploded has died in Son Dureta Hospital after fighting for his life for eight days.

The 27-year old from the Basque country was transferred to the Palma hospital owing to the severity of his injuries.

### Failed attempt to steal inboard boat in Sant Tomàs

■ The owner of a 7 metre inboard motor boat has informed the police of an attempt made to steal his vessel last Saturday morning whilst it was anchored off the beach at Sant Tomàs.

The two suspect thieves reached the boat by means of a jet ski. One of them jumped on board and attempted to hot-wire the engine. However, noticing that he was being observed and having failed in his efforts to start the boat, he returned to the jet ski and fled.

The boat's owner, a holidaymaker from Madrid who has been coming to the island for eight years, believes it to be the work of an organised gang and has informed the Guardia Civil who are investigating the incident.

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