

Report from Ron Locke regarding Irrigation Water 9-07-2012

- Murcia region has had its hottest June for 70 years.
- We have had major problems with the pumps caused by IRM allowing the water level in the reservoir to drop to a level which caused the pumps to regularly stop functioning properly.
- As a result of the pump problems the gardeners have had to spend a lot of time manually watering during the day, taking their staff off other gardening tasks
- Compared to June last year we have used 13.67% less water. This is because of the pump breakdowns and the switching off of water to zone 1 and 2.
- We are now within 1% of last years half yearly figure but our budget target is for an 11% reduction on last year. This equates to having used 9.555 cm³ too much water so far this year. In costs this means we are over budget by €12.486.
- Resortalia budget model can generate misleading conclusions as it straight lines costs throughout the year whereas we have modelled our forecasts taking into account seasonal fluctuations which we believe provides for a more valid comparison. The Resortalia figures don't yet include the June costs so I have added the costs using the STV meter readings. This gives a total expenditure for Council land of €19673, or 39.34% of the budget total for the year and €85.120 or 43% for Community land. On the face of it this seems like good news but, for the time of year we are €12.486, or 5% over, as mentioned in 5 above.
- IRM are now topping up the water levels in the reservoir to avoid the problems of the last few weeks.
- I have noticed that the level of the lake was well below its normal height but that is now full again, so IRM are also topping that up, which is their source for watering the golf course, although the lake is topped up from the same reservoir we use.