

Last night, the plenary hall of Formentera's care centre for dependent persons became the gathering point for islanders curious to learn about a proposal to regulate parking in Sant Francesc. Area residents got a chance to hear Council representatives explain plans for a June trial run, which, by July, could give way to full implementation of a system that includes 450 regulated, blue-zone parking spaces and more than 630 overflow spots.

Formentera Council president Jaume Ferrer explored some of the rationale for taking the regime to Sant Francesc roads—“more rotation in blue-zone areas and more vibrant commerce”, he offered.

Mobility secretary Rafael González spoke about the success of a similar venture in la Savina, a town whose historic parking crunch was brought to heel by regulating how drivers park—a move that involved rebranding commercial areas as “blue zones” and residential ones “green”.

González said officials hoped blue-zone parking would have a similarly soothing effect on the situation in Sant Francesc. While drivers must respect metred parking rules across the town's network of non-pedestrian roads there, overflow car parks and spaces next to the town's roundabout will remain open.

Sant Francesc's blue zone

Formentera residents will receive full rebates on parking fees up to one car per person. By means of one yearly application, local drivers can get authorisation to park across the island, much as with the current system in la Savina. Blue-zone passes will be valid island-wide, for 24 hours in summer and three days in winter. Non-residents must pay to park (€1.20 an hour) from 9.00am to 9.00pm, Monday to Sunday, from May to October. From November to April, metred parking is enforced from 9.00am to 2.00pm and 4.00pm to 8.00pm.

To meet parking demand near popular shopping areas, a new, 15-minute pass will be available to all drivers. To that effect, 15-minute load-and-unload spaces will be created in Sant Francesc. These spaces aim to encourage rotation in points where demand is highest.

Some motorists, individuals with reduced mobility and scooter drivers, will enjoy free parking. So will people operating electric vehicles. Drivers of hybrids will get discounts of 50 per cent. Lorries used for loading and unloading commercial goods will be limited to 30 minutes in appropriate areas. Four-by-fours, meanwhile, are prohibited everywhere—in metred zones and overflow lots.