

Expats' home march

Illegal home owners march to town hall

credit to Dave Jones, Costa Blanca News, 10th December 2009

AFTER holding a street demonstration in the village on Wednesday, protestors told Catral's mayor Aurelio Albero they cannot afford to pay the asking price to legalise their homes.

Around 200 illegal home owners met outside the Casa de Cultura at 11.00 in order to march to Catral town hall.

They are angry they are being asked to pay a series of charges in order to legalise properties which were constructed without building licences on rural land.

The demonstrators carried banners stating that they have been the victims of corruption and calling for the builders to foot the bill.

Protester Trevor Bagnall told CBNews he and wife Patricia bought their villa in 2004.

He said everyone in the purchasing chain, from the builders to the estate agents, had assured them the property was legal.

"The council have said that we now have to pay for the infrastructure," he said.

"But we don't want to be urbanised. We live in the country and we want to stay that way".

"We are pensioners and are having more and more charges put on us and we can't afford it".

Mr Bagnall spoke of his frustration because 'every day we are told something different'.

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