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NEWSLETTER MAY 2008

This month, our spotlight is on...

The Cyprus Water Problem



Water – and its waste – is the number one topic of conversation across the island, but a close second is the appalling inconsistency of the organisation associated with the issue. The phrase which springs to mind is that some of the community boards and perhaps even the management levels within government appear unlikely to be able to organise a drunken orgy in a brewery.

The widespread frustration, and even anger, centres around the wholly disparate and selective cuts, reductions of pressure, and crucially, the complete lack of reliable information in some cases, with households losing their supply through five or more days, having no idea when to expect a restoration. When you get a street where one side has no problems, and the other has no water, this inevitably leads to bewilderment, justifiable criticism and a considerable sense of humour failure.

Here is an island where water shortage is endemic and all too easy to anticipate. This is an island where successive governments have taken no more than short-term measures over decades when the responsibility to manage this precious resource couldn't be more obvious or where the call for professional and technical expertise should stand high on the public agenda. No such luck. It appears we have not been blessed with the necessary foresight. And now we are paying for it, in more senses than one.

Some suggest all building construction should be temporarily halted since this uses much water and of course subsequent occupants will be drawing on the dwindling supply. But such a measure would generate unemployment and business failures, so that is no solution. This new government just needs to get a firm, confident, and, most significantly, an efficient grip on a truly serious current situation and at least plan for the future so that we are not again faced with panic measures in the years ahead. I am reluctant to be labelled as a "know all", but I have followed the various articles on the water shortage. I cannot help wondering if there is an obvious measure which would at least alleviate the problem.

When I lived in England, many had a system which collected all of the rainwater from the roof and stored it in underground tanks. Naturally this water was soft, and it was used for the domestic hot and cold water pipes (but not the drinking water). Because of the amount of rain which falls in England we never ran out of our stock of rainwater.

Obviously the rainfall in Cyprus is far less than in England and is concentrated in the winter months. However, such a system of collecting rainwater would at the very least help to increase the supply of available water, since at the moment much water simply runs off and ends up in the sea.

Normally I object to any government telling me what to do, but I would welcome a law which required every new house to collect rain water in this way.



Next Month: Spotlight on The Cost of Living in Cyprus

PROPERTY HOTTIES!

FEATURED PROPERTY—Pissouri

This two bedroom property is located in the highest position of the village enjoying beautiful and unobstructed sea views. The house has two very large double bedrooms, open plan living/dining area, separate kitchen, guest WC, family bathroom, storage room, lager balconies, private parking, communal pools and more. The covered area of this very well presented property is 98m2 plus 52m2 of uncovered areas. More pictures are of course available.



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