

# **THE GREENS' PROGRAMME FOR HESPERANGE 2023**

**Shaping the future**

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## A clean, secure and affordable energy supply

Climate change is threatening our planet as we know it today. Therefore, if we want to preserve a planet worth living on for ourselves and our children, and enable them to live in freedom and self-determination, we must limit global warming to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels. **Now is the time to act with full commitment and seize the unique opportunity of our generation to set up our energy supply in a permanently clean, secure and affordable way, as well as to increase energy sufficiency and efficiency.**

For the next six years, we have the ambition and responsibility to further accelerate the energy transition we have started. With the Climate Pact 2.0, we have ensured that the government provides municipalities with significantly more financial resources and consultancy services to achieve this important task. **Now, however, we need the firm political will in our municipality to use these opportunities and to make our municipality climate-neutral as quickly as possible.**

**As Green municipal representatives, we are committed to a carbon-neutral municipality that reduces local energy consumption and uses 100% renewable energy:**

- **We use the full potential within our municipality to produce, use and store renewable energy.** For us, fully exploiting the municipal potential means, for example, using every suitable municipal surface (roofs, facades, parking lots, ...) for solar energy, and approaching private businesses and fellow citizens proactively. To this end, we raise awareness in particular with companies with large roofs to participate in the energy transition. We promote company energy cooperatives and adapt building regulations. In addition, we demand transparency of energy production and consumption.
- **We involve citizens in the climate change** by making communal land available for community installations (e.g., cooperatives), promoting renewable energy communities in the community and beyond, and supporting households with financial support for roof, balcony and facade installations, in addition to national premiums. We also ensure that solutions in the spirit of the energy transition are found for listed buildings.
- **We make outdated municipal building regulations and other municipal regulations fit for the energy transition** by adapting them to the technological possibilities of renewables today and removing hurdles to their installation.
- We plan new settlement projects so that they are energy-sufficient and -efficient, energy self-sufficient and climate-neutral. To this end, we introduce a sustainability check for all public and private building projects.
- **We establish a priority plan for the renovation of all municipal buildings** and increase the renovation rate of old buildings in order to achieve our climate targets. We ensure that the municipality specifically buys protected houses to convert them into affordable, public housing or other public use.

- **We offer financial support to citizens to renovate their homes** and to buy and repair energy-saving household devices, especially for low-income households.
- We invest in education and training for a better use of our resources (e.g., in the field of energy) and strengthen a resource-saving consumer behaviour in our community. By means of a targeted information policy, we are working to reduce public and private energy consumption.

## Protection against the consequences of climate change

**The first dire consequences of climate change have already reached us and are challenging our very foundation of life! We are facing more frequent and intense weather extremes such as heat waves, droughts, floods and heavy rainfall.** We need to prepare ourselves and our villages for what climate change will bring.

**As Green councillors, we will therefore spend the next six years working relentlessly for a more resilient municipality, preventing record temperatures and heatwaves by increasing greenery and reducing concrete in our villages:**

- **We systematically greenspace our towns and villages**, creating cool relief spaces, and planting more tall trees, hedges, shrubs, and more quality green verges along streets and sidewalks. We expand parks and support the greening of facades and roofs. We take action against the increasing sealing of surfaces, e.g., in new housing development projects, in parking areas and in front gardens.
- We ensure that everyone has convenient access to drinking water in their daily lives. We provide water dispensers in public places, on and in public buildings.
- By restoring rivers and streams, we give them more space. Where necessary, we mobilise land to create additional natural flood plains, and we design natural water retention basins and infrastructure.

## Green urbanism, affordable housing and clean mobility

Quality of life is not about wasting our time in traffic jams but about reaching our destination safely and comfortably. Improved quality of life requires that we allow nature to find its way back into our towns and villages, that we allow people more space in urban areas, and that we create attractive public spaces where adults and children enjoy spending time and meeting each other. **Above all, to protect our quality of life, it is necessary to bring housing, leisure, work and essential services closer together.**

**As Green councillors, we are committed to creating a green and attractive municipality over six years.**

### A high quality of life for everyone

- **We ensure vibrant villages worth living in.** To this end, we adapt spatial planning via the General Development Plan (PAG - Plan d'aménagement général) and the Detailed Development Plans (PAP - Plans d'aménagement particuliers) so that the important facilities and services for daily needs, shopping, schools, offices and public transport are accessible on foot or by bicycle.
- **We create green oases in our villages** by making every effort to green public spaces, open spaces, unused commercial areas, garage roofs and public building.
- **We take our municipality's responsibility for protecting historic structures, town centres and neighbourhoods seriously and take action within the framework of development plans.** We ensure that the municipality buys up listed houses in order to improve their energy efficiency and convert them for social/ affordable housing or other public use ('third places', organic food shops, offices.).
- **We adapt parking space management and the 'parking space key' to today's mobility needs.** In new and alternative projects, we reduce the number of parking spaces per dwelling and group parking facilities in carports. We avoid underground garages, as they require a large amount of earth excavation, and instead prioritise above-ground garages, on the grounds that they are much less expensive, can be used for something else if necessary, and the building components can be re-used.

### Creating affordable, barrier-free public housing and promoting alternative forms of housing for different lifestyles.

- **We plan and build new housing developments and public works projects to the highest environmental, energy and health standards.** We take public transport into account from the outset, ensure short distances and densify where public transport already functions well. We ensure a supply of renewable energy, avoid sealing land and use health- and climate-friendly building materials.
- **We create affordable and social housing by mobilising all land and housing potential owned by the municipality** within the building perimeter (vacant land, buildings and

vacant housing). We simplify the specifications in the PAG (general development plan) for the creation of affordable housing in terms of housing density, volume and mix coefficients. We work with public players (Fonds du Logement, Société Nationale des Habitations à Bon Marché) and contracted private operators (e.g., under social rental arrangements) to cover the full range of housing situations)

- **We support modular buildings and Tiny Houses**, especially on vacant land and temporarily empty building sites, by adjusting municipal building regulations, simplifying administrative procedures and ensuring that a residence can be recorded
- **We will promote co-housing and multi-generational housing**

### Moving around safely and efficiently on a daily basis

- We will **ensure traffic calming**. In order to ensure that everyone can move around safely in the public space, we will make shared spaces and cycle paths more widespread and ensure that through traffic is reduced
- In order to reduce through traffic, **the Hesperange bypass must be built as soon as possible, without forgetting soft mobility**
- In addition, **we will investigate a 30 km/h speed limit for the entire municipality**, with selected streets limited to 50 km/h, and we will rely on temporary and mobile means (e.g. planters) as well as long-term development measures (e.g. central islands, narrowing and reorganisation of parking spaces) to ensure that the speed limit is respected
- We will provide **significantly more space for cyclists and pedestrians**, thus considerably increasing their safety. To this end, we will create a coherent communal and regional network of safe cycle and pedestrian routes, separated as far as possible from motorised traffic and linked to the national cycle route network. A communal cycle path concept will be anchored in the commune's PAG
- **The municipal budget will include a separate** item for footpaths and cycle paths, enabling the municipal administration to respond quickly and unbureaucratically to complaints from users and to carry out specific improvements to footpaths and cycle paths
- **We will ensure that secure and sheltered bicycle parking is available near all public buildings, sports grounds, social services and residential areas**. In addition, we will provide bicycle parking spaces in municipal bylaws near new commercial and residential buildings and in business parks, and we will ensure that bicycle paths are appropriately signposted

- In the event of construction work, we will systematically consider cyclists and pedestrians by ensuring that safe diversions are indicated and signposted correctly. In winter and in bad weather, we will ensure that the snow removal service proceeds without delay to clear snow, ice and snow from pavements and cycle paths.
- We will **promote electromobility by providing the municipality with a fleet of zero-emission vehicles**. When purchasing new vehicles for the municipal services, we will opt for a 100% electric fleet, including electric service bicycles
- We will provide **sufficient charging points for electric bikes and cars in public spaces**, including at disabled parking spaces. We will also subsidise, alongside the state, the installation of private charging points for electric vehicles
- **We will study the feasibility of building a pedestrian and bicycle bridge between "Holleschbiereg" and Howald**
- **We will study the feasibility of a soft mobility link between the Hesperange plateau (Hesperschlass) and the road to Bettembourg**
- **We support the project for a footbridge linking the PC1 (along the Alzette) to the new cycle path along the Drosbach**
- For all infrastructure projects, we will privilege the use of citizen consultation



## Local circular economies with diverse and attractive businesses

In Luxembourg we enjoy a high standard of living. However, we have to admit that our society is currently wasting many resources that we will not have to produce the essential goods we will need in a few decades. In other words, we are systematically passing on major costs to future generations. But we are perfectly capable of doing better.

**As Green municipal representatives will work resolutely for a municipality that strengthens local economic circuits, while supporting diversified and attractive local craft, commercial and industrial activities, and by resolutely banking on the circular economy as a model for the future:**

- We will reduce the cost pressure on retail, start-ups, artists and other creative businesses while taking measures to reduce the amount of vacant space. **We will support access to retail space in town centres with financial incentives and promote the model of municipally operated pop-up stores.**
- **We will create a local trade coordination centre** which will act as a contact point for local traders and support the implementation of our local trade support strategy.
- **We will support innovative start-ups and initiatives**, especially in the field of sustainability and the circular economy, by offering them space and making the most of synergies with the cultural and creative community.
- **We will support restaurants, cafés and cultural institutions** by making more public space available to catering establishments and event organisers in appropriate locations and insofar as noise protection permits.
- **We will ensure that the municipality retains fair trade certification and develops its commitment to this.**
- **We will support farms by helping them**, both financially and organisationally, to sell their local and/or organically produced quality products directly, for example at markets organised by the municipality or at small self-service stalls in the villages.
- **We will support initiatives to implement sustainable and alternative forms of economy in the production of fruit and vegetables in an environmentally friendly way.**
- **In municipal procurement, we will give priority to the cradle-to-cradle principle**, which, based on product circuits in a closed chain, avoids waste as far as possible. For new buildings and renovations, we will ensure that environmentally friendly, environmentally friendly and reusable building materials are used.

- **We will develop the possibilities of repairing, borrowing, exchanging and donating products in our community.** We will further develop the recycling centre by creating a loan and exchange service for materials and tools.

## Conserving our natural resources

More than just a decorative accessory offering magnificent views, intact nature is vital for all the species and organisms that exist on our planet by the millions and are essential to human survival and well-being. Therefore, protecting nature is also protecting people. If we want to preserve all this, we need to better protect our local fauna, flora and waters.

Over the next six years, the Green municipal councillors will work resolutely for a municipality that respects nature. **We act against the destruction of natural habitats, conserve our natural resources and preserve our biodiversity.**

## Preserving the abundance of plants and animals within our villages by greening public spaces

- In our community, **we will ensure that we respect nature when designing public spaces such as playgrounds, play areas and car parks** by planting native, environmentally appropriate and shade-providing shrubs, bushes, hedges and tall trees. We will use a tree register to protect valuable trees in urban areas, while offering citizens the opportunity to adopt trees and plants.
- **We integrate biotopes such as hedges and dry-stone walls into public spaces** and establish flower and wildflower beds or meadows in public areas large and small, along sidewalks and bicycle lanes and streets, in traffic islands, on playgrounds and in cemeteries, giving priority to native plants and nature-oriented planting and maintenance. We install nesting aids for birds and bats, create nesting opportunities for wild bees, hedgehogs and reptiles, and install insect hotels and beehives.
- **We distribute native perennial plants free of charge to interested citizens** and participate in schemes like Sicona's "Aktioun Päiperlek", SIAS's orchards project, or the Environment Ministry's B&B action weeks.
- **We promote the creation of biotopes within the conurbation.**
- **We participate in projects such as "Urban Gardening" and the "Edible City"**, create community gardens, school gardens and raised herb beds, plant fruit and nut trees in public areas and encourage our citizens to harvest them under the "Yellow Ribbon" campaign.
- **We support cooperative farming projects** and provide land for newcomers and young farmers who are prepared to work the land organically.

## Protection of natural habitats and reversal of unnecessary soil sealing

- We will ensure that green spaces inside and outside the settlements are connected to each other to create natural corridors.
- We will **prevent unnecessary sealing of additional areas by changing the building regulations, for example by preventing the creation of new gravel gardens by laying down rules for as large an area as possible to be greened. Furthermore, we will help citizens to replace their existing gravel garden with an ecological solution by introducing premiums for the work in question.**
- We will protect the municipal forests by postponing the felling periods for beech and oak trees by several years. In cooperation with the Nature and Forestry Administration, we will define forest reserves.
- Together with **the Nature and Forestry Administration, we will monitor the effects of climate change and droughts on the trees in the areas of forestry that are being used and support targeted measures to rejuvenate the forest.**
- We will raise children's awareness of nature conservation through activities such as Dag am Bësch (A Day in the Forest), which includes information stands, workshops, guided hikes, herb collections and workshops for children.
- We will set up nature and **cultural trails with information** panels on the plants or crops in the surrounding meadows, forests and fields. We will organise thematic walks on the protection of biodiversity in and around our localities. In addition, we will include a special section on nature conservation in the Gemengebuet (municipal newsletter).
- We will strengthen our inter-communal cooperation in nature conservation or nature park associations (membership of SIAS Naturpakt).

## Support for natural water courses and improvement of water quality

- **We make drinking water supply networks safer** by maintaining or reactivating council-owned drinking water sources and protect them by reducing the pesticide and chlorine input.
- **We re-naturalise rivers and streams** with streamside vegetation, boosting the amenity value for people and wildlife.
- **Wastewater treatment solutions should be adapted to the current and future needs of the community.** We will demand that they are also able to filter out micro-particles and drug residues from the wastewater.

## Stopping the pollution of our natural resources

- **We formulate a strategy for reducing the use of road salt**, with a view to terminating its use entirely and using sustainable alternative products instead.
- **We are active in tackling light pollution.** By using energy- and light-efficient bulbs and warm-white light colours with as little blue as possible and motion detectors, we reduce power consumption and lessen our impact on nature. We also convert the large floodlights in sports installations, for example, to LED and build in deflectors to ensure that the light is focused on where it is needed: the playing surface. We also reduce decorative lighting on buildings and historic objects.
- **We take action against littering in public spaces.** We increase the number of trash cans with separation systems in public areas. We raise awareness by way of public information campaigns and involve volunteers in clean-up campaigns.

## Conserving important resources through modern waste and water management

- **We establish a local strategy for waste prevention.** Our long-term goal is a circular economy in which resources that end up in the trash today will be recycled in the future. We reward businesses and citizens who reduce their waste. To this end, **we are reforming our waste charges so that they will be calculated by weight in the future.** We further motivate our citizens by telling them clearly on their bills where they stand in comparison to the municipality's household average.
- **We implement exemplary waste prevention and sorting in all municipal facilities and at community festivals or sporting events.** For events organised by local associations, we support them with public facilities (e.g. dishwashing carts) and make financial support contingent on the criteria of a community charter geared to the "Green Events" guide.
- **We are committed to responsible water consumption.** Based on at-cost water pricing, we issue clearly set-out water bills that show comparisons to average household consumption. We reduce water consumption in municipal buildings and facilities (e.g. through water-saving sanitary facilities) and equip municipal buildings with rainwater recovery systems, provide funding for rainwater tanks and encouraging people to get such tanks installed.

## A good way of life and strong healthcare provision

Over the past few years, the pandemic has put us to the test, showing in an impressive way the impact that diseases can have on the lives of all of us. Together we have overcome this enormous challenge! However, we need to learn the right lessons for the future. Today, we are indeed more aware of the importance of health and a good health system.

Many illnesses and physical strains are in fact caused by environmental factors, so clean air and water, good food and protection from pollutants are of paramount importance to our health. This implies the need for a holistic approach to human and natural health. Here again, protecting nature is protecting people! In order to strengthen our physical and mental well-being, we need places for physical activity and a sufficient number of local recreational areas. For this reason, the municipality must assume its responsibility in this area.

**As Green municipal representatives, we are therefore committed to a health-promoting local authority over the next six years:**

### The right to a healthy living environment in our municipality.

- **We will ensure that attractive local recreation areas, parks and forests** are preserved and expanded, and that our communities are developed in such a way as to encourage physical activity in the open air (e.g., bowling). In our forests, we want to avoid the creation of gravel roads, as they damage nature and deprive the forest of its attractiveness.
- **We will support our local sports clubs and invest in recreational sports activities.** We will provide a wide range of leisure activities in all localities. We will ensure that people who do not participate in club activities also have access to sports facilities.
- **We will promote multi-generational housing and supported housing in our community,** including mixed forms of housing to encourage contact between the different generations.
- **We will ensure a broad regional supply of home help services.** We are extending the offer of "meals on wheels" to residents who are unable to look after their own meals due to illness, without age limits.
- **We are setting up a commission for the elderly** to coordinate the work of the various organisations already active in the community.

### A good local health care

- **We advocate the creation of a municipal "Centre médical" (medical centre)** to ensure local basic medical care. To this end, we support the search for a suitable council-owned property in the town centre and make this available at a favourable rent.

- **We are committed to the provision of housing and care structures for the elderly**, such as residential or sheltered accommodation and senior citizens' flats.
- **We bring a contact person for health issues directly to the people in the form of a "Community Health Nurse"**. This person can, for example, be active in the elementary school and in the senior citizens' meeting place, and can be available for public surgeries.
- **We organise health days/weeks** to make citizens more aware of health risks and prevention (e.g. on the subject of strokes). We offer conventional first aid courses and special courses on mental health.
- **We provide menstrual items (pads and tampons), condoms and dental dams in public toilets** for contraception and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases.

## A child- and family-friendly municipality

A family should give children love and security. It is also the first school of life for children. In order to give every child, the best chance of a good life, it is therefore important to help and support parents in their great responsibility.

To strengthen the well-being of our children, parents, teachers, carers and mental health services must work well together in a spirit of trust. All actors in the child and youth sector must share responsibility for the child's well-being and provide safe spaces and freedom to grow, move, learn and play. We want all children to have the opportunity to develop their skills and abilities and to contribute to society in a responsible and self-determined way.

A well-functioning child and youth policy is essential for successful coexistence in our community. For quality inclusive childcare to be successful, the municipality needs good infrastructure and a sufficient number of well-trained staff.

They must be given the necessary space and time to implement needs-based approaches with the children and to respond to individual needs. Child- and youth-oriented leisure facilities, offers and support measures are needed. Such investments must be worthwhile for the well-being of our children and thus for our future!

**As Green municipal councillors, we are determined to work for a child- and parent-friendly municipality over the next six years. We will provide all children with an environment in which they can develop optimally and we will strengthen parents in their important role:**

### Reinforcing the important role of parents while supporting the development of partnerships between teachers, educational staff, parents and the community.

- We will organise special first aid courses for babies and toddlers.
- We will work closely with the new regional parents' forum and create the necessary links between the forum and the municipal contact persons for children and young people.
- We will create a wide range of counselling and continuing education opportunities for families by funding and raising awareness of initiatives such as family promotion and the parents' school.
- We will support parents' representatives at local level with sufficient financial and logistical resources and encourage their participation in school projects, festivals and community initiatives.

### Quality childcare for every child

- We will ensure the creation of a sufficient number of childcare places. In addition, the pedagogical design of the premises, the organisation of small groups and the intelligent design of the buildings will enable us to bring schools and childcare facilities closer together and to create synergies between them.



- Thanks to well-designed specifications, we will ensure that in our school canteens and halfway houses (SEA), children are offered healthy, seasonal, regional, vegan and vegetarian food, as well as products without recourse to genetic engineering, with a preference for certified organic products. For non-regional products (e.g., bananas), we use fair trade products.

**In general, we will also take measures against food waste in public canteens.**

- We are creating school gardens near all schools.
- The **municipality cultivates its own land with the help of the CIGL and SIAS** in order to enrich the meals served in the childcare facilities with sustainably produced fruit and vegetables.
- We will encourage **multilingual communication** in the field of non-formal education to take into account the multilingualism of families.
- We will strengthen links between childcare facilities and local associations and facilitate access to culture, sport, music schools and nature through joint initiatives and projects. We will guarantee and finance transport to the forest and nature for classes and groups from host organisations, organised at the request of the classes and groups in question.
- We will offer inclusive, nature-friendly and participatory holiday activities during the summer holidays, building on synergies and cooperation with local institutions, services, companies and associations.

**Providing our children and youngsters with a healthy and safe living environment**

- **We will systematically focus on physical, playful and learning activities in the open air** and in nature. Interactive playgrounds, green, nature-friendly playgrounds with sufficient shade and good sports facilities are essential to encourage physical activity
- We will ensure **that playgrounds are inclusive by also providing play equipment for wheelchair users** (e.g., wheelchair swings)
- We ensure regular swimming lessons in schools by **building a swimming pool in the municipality. This swimming pool should be accessible to all residents.**
- We will support the establishment of nature-inclusive kindergartens or nature-inclusive day-care centres and create smaller, respectful learning spaces in basic education for learning in and with nature (forest classes, school gardens, etc.).
- **We will make journeys to school safer, expand the pedibus/bus network and employ more accompanying staff for school buses and pedibuses.** We will make sure that the area around schools is car-free.

- We will actively support the teaching of traffic rules in childcare facilities and at school, to raise children's awareness of safety issues and to increase their awareness of sustainable mobility issues.
- We will take the mental and physical well-being of children and young people seriously, creating optimal conditions for quality school medicine. We will expand the provision of first aid and violence prevention courses, while raising awareness of the importance of mental health and informing about offers of assistance.

### Listening to our children and strengthening their sense of community

- We take the needs and rights of children and young people seriously and will provide forums for exchange and opportunities for democratic participation for our young citizens, by organising communal children/youth councils, youth forums or interactive workshops.
- In particular, **we will support children and young people from low-income households** to ensure that they can participate in social, sporting and cultural activities.
- **We will encourage collaboration with youth representatives from neighbouring municipalities** and the Greater Region and organise joint multilingual events.
- **We will support associations active in the field of socio-educational youth work and encourage projects and initiatives dedicated to sustainable development, creativity, social cohesion and democracy.** We will emphasise the ideas and initiatives of children and young people themselves by accompanying and assisting them in their implementation.
- We will create additional jobs for students and develop the offer of internships in our community structures
- **We will encourage young adults to discover the diversity of Europe in a sustainable way with an Interrail ticket financed by the municipality on the occasion of their 18th birthday.** In this way, we will support the exchange between different cultures and the spirit of international community.

## A Strong social cohesion

We stand for an open and diverse society in which everyone has the same opportunities to develop freely, in their own freedom and with respect for the freedom of others. We live in solidarity with each other, not side by side. In this way, we will continue to work resolutely for social cohesion.

A good way of living together is based on a lively life in associations. Clubs, sport and culture are where social cohesion takes place. These are the places where we meet, where we pursue our hobbies, where we have discussions and exchange ideas. This requires voluntary commitment on the part of the citizens, but also a wide range of activities and public infrastructure on the part of the municipality.

**As Green councillors, we have therefore committed ourselves for the next six years to working for a municipality that enables everyone to live in dignity and to participate in a diverse social life:**

- We invest in social housing for rent and we support projects for social housing. The Municipality uses the available State aid to help build social housing.
- **We help to organise private social housing and cooperate with conventional private actors active in the field of housing assistance.** At the same time, we keep an inventory of empty flats and refer their owners to these associations and organisations.
- **We show solidarity with people who have been forced to flee their homes.** We provide appropriate infrastructure to host refugees. We encourage our citizens and local associations to accept refugees. We support volunteers who accompany refugees.

## Social Welfare

- **We ensure transparent, unbureaucratic and coherent social assistance through the Social Welfare Office.** The commune provides comprehensive, easy-to-understand information in several languages about the services on offer and the main contact points, including at regional and national level.
- **We help to set up a social shop or a "Cent Buttek" in our commune or in the region to reduce the cost of food for low-income households and to provide ongoing support.**

## Equal opportunities and equal participation in society for all.

- **We implement legal requirements for the employment of disabled jobseekers and create relevant jobs in administration and technical services.**

### Promoting the “vivre ensemble” togetherness in our multicultural society.

- As a municipality, we provide **information in several languages and offer simultaneous translation, including sign language, at public events.**
- **We guarantee an attractive and dignified performance of secular ceremonies, such as PACS ceremonies, weddings at alternative venues and funerals at a forest cemetery, including at weekends.**

### Promoting gender equality and protect against gender discrimination.

- **We are setting up an office for gender and equality policy at local level.** Together with the Equality Commission, which we want to revive, this office will coordinate the development and implementation of a municipal equality plan.
- **We will ensure a balanced employment structure between women and men in the municipal administration** and eliminate imbalances in the filling of management positions. This also applies to the composition of commissions and municipal working groups.
- We ensure that **streets, buildings and infrastructure** are named after women.

### Well-being of the elderly

- **We raise awareness of the need for continuing education and training, taking into account longer life spans.** We implement specific programmes to involve older people more in our general community education programmes.
- **We take into account the mobility needs of older people** in urban transport and public spaces, enabling them to move around without barriers.
- We specifically increase **sport, exercise and cultural activities for older people.**
- We involve older people **in planning and decision-making processes.**
- **We are increasingly enabling people to live in their own homes. We are also developing intergenerational housing projects and alternative forms of housing that respect the privacy and individual housing needs of older people.**

### Encouraging a vibrant community life and offering a wide range of cultural, sporting and leisure activities.

- **We recognise the enormous importance of clubs to our village life** and support their activities with grants and project funds allocated according to transparent criteria.
- **We are creating the post of "Coordinateur Culturel",** who will draw up an annual plan for the development of local culture, in collaboration with the local cultural

committee, associations and structures.

- **We support the creation of a public library/media library** to provide residents with access to information and resources of all kinds, to promote lifelong learning and to serve as a community meeting place.
- We support initiatives to use church buildings owned by the community and abandoned by their religious community as part of tourism and cultural programmes.
- **We promote and develop sports activities and courses in our community. We help sports clubs to purchase equipment and materials.** We promote recreational sports by facilitating access to sports infrastructure in our community, including signposting running routes through the community, offering yoga in the community, and providing sports equipment in public places.
- **We support the creation of a swimming pool for Hesperange.** We believe that it is essential for the pupils of the local schools who have to take the bus to go to swimming pools in other communes where places are becoming increasingly scarce. It is also essential as a place of leisure and relaxation for all the citizens of the commune.

## Living safe and sound

Everyone must live freely and safely in Luxembourg. Cohesion and the path to self-determination require not only everyone's participation, but also protection from crime and violence. Only if citizens can trust that their safety and especially their physical integrity are guaranteed in everyday life, can an open and democratic society flourish.

- As Green municipal representatives, **we are therefore determined to work for a safe municipality over the next six years by strengthening prevention work, ensuring public order and making public spaces safe**
- We will **strengthen good neighbourly relations**: we will increase citizens' sense of security by supporting initiatives to create places and opportunities for neighbours to get to know each other (e.g., *Duerfstuff* or *Quartiersstuff*, i.e., meeting places for the inhabitants of a locality or neighbourhood, neighbourhood parties or the Neighbours' Day)
- We will analyse the **police regulations of the municipality and, if necessary, make the necessary improvements to strengthen public order**. By extending the powers of the municipal officers, they will be able to punish breaches of public order and provide a citizen-centred service in our municipality
- We will systematically **restructure unsafe public spaces**. We will make these public spaces more attractive and livelier, while ensuring that they are well maintained and that they are well lit and visible.

## People friendly local authorities and participative democracy

Each of us should have a say in the political decisions that affect our lives. But successfully tackling the major challenges facing society also requires everyone. We can only move forward together if different opinions come together, if everyone brings their own knowledge, values and life experience to the search for common solutions.

### **We want a living democracy!**

At the national level, but also in our local community, where decisions have a direct impact on the daily lives of all citizens.

True civic participation means being transparent and open in communicating with citizens. Now more than ever, local authorities can provide detailed and timely information to citizens thanks to digital opportunities. Digitalisation also offers immense opportunities to better serve citizens and reduce bureaucracy. We will take advantage of these opportunities.

**As Green municipal representatives, we are determined to work over the next six years for a transparent and citizen-centred municipality, where citizen participation is a priority and the possibilities of digitalisation are used to serve the citizens best.**

- **We will promote innovative forms of direct citizen participation by creating representative citizens' councils whose composition follows age, gender and nationality criteria**, which exchange directly and regularly with representatives of the college of burgomasters and aldermen and the local council as well as with the local administration.
- We will support citizens' personal engagement and new forms of citizen initiatives, such as local Transition movements, community initiatives, cooperatives, etc., by providing financial and administrative support.
- **We will promote the civic participation of under-represented social groups by systematically removing administrative barriers to participation in elections, by systematically communicating in several languages and in easy-to-understand language, and by encouraging political participation.**
- **We will involve the population at an early stage in major projects**, such as construction projects or the introduction of new regulations. We will organise citizens' meetings for this purpose and publish important documents on the municipal website.
- We will strengthen **institutionalised forms of consultation**. We will ensure the equal composition of advisory committees, involving not only political representatives, but also interested citizens and local associations.

- We will systematically simplify all administrative procedures and ensure that they are also accessible digitally. We will create a central contact point or one-stop shop that makes the various administrative and social services, as well as all the necessary information, accessible from one place.
- **We will extend the opening hours of the administration**, adapting it to the needs of the population.
- **We will take into account the linguistic diversity and language preferences** of the local population, ensuring that all communications and publications of the municipality are in several languages and that information sessions also follow a multilingual approach.
- We will ensure that the municipality's information and communications are accessible to people with special needs, for example by ensuring that public buildings and municipal documents and websites are accessible and adapted to the needs of people with special needs.
- **We will ensure full transparency and detailed information on the work of the college of burgomasters and aldermen, the municipal council, the advisory committees and the municipal services.** In doing so, we will take into account all categories of the population by systematically using electronic means of communication in addition to traditional printed material and information sessions.
- **We will ensure that the decisions and reports of the local council are published quickly and easily on the municipal website and are available in several languages.** These reports must be published in full. We will organise the public meetings of the town council preferably outside normal working hours and make livestreaming available on the Internet so that citizens\* can access them easily and watch them in replay.
- **We will encourage the development of local online petitions.**
- **We will promote the development of a municipal application that makes it possible to carry out all necessary administrative procedures quickly and easily via a smartphone.**