

## **District council meeting of 19 October 2022**

### **Convened and announced on 13 October 2022**

**Present:** ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET Marion (CSV), Mayor, SCHILTZ Fernand (LSAP), Deputy Mayor, JUNGBLUT Tom (CSV), Deputy Mayor, EIFES Eric (DP), ZHU Dali (DP), DI GENOVA Jean-Pierre (CSV), SCHMITZ Jean-Pierre (CSV), LAKAFF Laurent (CSV), ARRENSDORFF Jean-Jacques (Déi Gréng), THIERIE Geoffrey (LSAP), Councillors, TAZIAUX Tim, Acting Municipal Secretary, SCHILTZ Nadine, Secretary.

**Apologies:** WOLTER Laurence (Déi Gréng)

#### **1. HR matters**

In closed session.

#### **2. Approval of the new collective agreement of the Southern Districts**

Mayor Marion ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET (CSV) emphasised that the collective agreement was an important support for workers, and spoke about individual, key new features of the agreement in detail.

The district council unanimously approved the new collective agreement (2022–2024) of the Southern Districts.

#### **3. Approval of the project to design and execute several school buildings and extensions on the Um Ewent campus in Contern: set specifications including cost estimate & tendering procedure**

Mayor Marion ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET (CSV) invited Andy ANEN from the engineering consultants MC Luxembourg to speak. He presented the project to design and execute several school buildings and extensions on the Um Ewent campus.

Andy ANEN described the three main construction phases for the project. In Phase 1 (2023–2025), work will start on the new building for Cycle 1 and the expansion of the “Maison relais” daycare centre. In Phase 2 (2025–2027), work will start on the new building for Cycle 2–4. In the third and final phase (2027), a crossing will be built, the Cycle 2–4 buildings converted, and the existing kitchen enlarged. Andy ANEN then briefly explained the procedure in relation to procedural law: as soon as the Interior Ministry has approved the project developed in collaboration with the teaching staff, it will be tendered to find a construction company to execute the conversion in accordance with the specifications. From the five applicants, one company will be retained. In all eventualities, the construction project was to begin before the collective holiday dates 2023. MC Luxembourg will support and monitor the construction company during the works, in order to ensure the conversion runs to schedule. The Maison relais is to be enlarged to be able to accommodate 300–500 children from now on.

The budget to implement the project totals €13,644,444.

Councillor Jean-Jacques ARRENSDORFF (Déi Gréng) had two questions concerning the specifications. He wanted to know whether the rockwool could not be replaced with an environmentally better insulation such as cellulose or hemp. He also asked whether the planned rainwater tank could not be enlarged to hold twice or even three times the capacity.

The architect from MC Luxembourg advised that the choice of insulation material was a compromise between sustainability, the energy performance of the insulation and the financial aspect. For that reason, the decision had been taken in favour of rockwool as the best option. The size of the rainwater tank was directly related to the roof area being used as the capturing surface.

Deputy Mayor Tom JUNGBLUT (CSV) advised that the tank volume had already been increased in the last working session, from 10 to 20 m<sup>3</sup>.

Councillor Jean-Jacques ARRENSDORFF (Déi Gréng) also asked about the economic viability of the heat pump. He asked about its power consumption and whether the PV system was able to provide this.

Mayor Marion ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET (CSV) and Deputy Mayor Tom JUNGBLUT (CSV) advised that the district council was collaborating with the EnerCoop Syrdall cooperative over the PV system. The legislation governing this is likely to be further amended in future. As a rule, 2 kW of electricity is needed to produce 1 kW of heat.

Councillor Eric EIFES (DP) advised that an increased volume of traffic at the campus was to be expected if, under the planned expansion of the school campus, 500 children were attending the school. For that reason, he favoured the idea of distributing the school over multiple locations – in anticipation that the district will continue to grow. He also asked whether the project financing, at over EUR 13 million, was sustainable. After all, this is on top of planning a new council building, the Conter Stuff renovation, and the redesign of the village centre. He feared that the financial overview was being lost.

Mayor Marion ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET (CSV) said that the school project now had top priority, and the Cabinet would continue to pull every lever to inform the district council as well as possible about the progress of the works and the financial expenditures. The current school complex was too small, and the preference was for a large school campus in a single location, to avoid children needing to commute back and forth between several sites. The Mayor also noted that multiple sites – in addition to concerns about financing – would also involve more costs for pupil transport, and would then also require multiple Maison relais facilities. In that regard, a single site was more suitable for purpose, since infrastructures were already in place here and there was still enough space for additional rooms.

Deputy Mayor Tom JUNGBLUT (CSV) advised of his concerns regarding land costs. With regard to the finance question, working groups had been organised and models developed setting out the district's finance options. He also noted that the Maison relais absolutely needed to be enlarged to satisfy the growing demand for free childcare.

Deputy Mayor Fernand SCHILTZ (LSAP) again underlined the advantages of a centrally located school building, and noted the impossibility of finding a plot of land of this size where school, sports and other leisure activities could be carried on together, in the heart of nature.

Councillor Jean-Jacques ARRENSDORFF (Déi Gréng) emphasised various positive aspects of the newly planned school building, such as the heat pump. However, he regretted the conversion of the Cycle 1 building and the sports hall, which reminded him of a barracks yard. This interior space was not ideal for accommodating 500 children. He supported the idea of decentralising the school campus.

The district council voted by 7 votes in favour and 3 abstentions [Eric EIFES and Dali ZHU (DP) and Jean-Jacques ARRENSDORFF (Déi Gréng)] to approve the project to design and execute several school buildings and extensions on the Um Ewent campus in Contern: set specifications including cost estimate & tendering procedure.

#### **4. Opinion of the district council – 13 complaints against the revised version of the PAG (June 2022 version)**

Mayor Marion ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET (CSV) proposed voting collectively on 12 of the 13 objections and then voting on one objection separately, since a councillor was affected by this request. The district council agreed with this proposal.

Mayor Marion ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET (CSV) asked whether there were any further questions about the various objections.

Councillor Eric EIFES (DP) asked about the Cabinet opinion concerning Objection No. 1.

Mayor Marion ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET (CSV) replied that the Cabinet was not opposed in principle to including this part in the build perimeter. However, the request was only submitted by the last house. For that reason, it was not possible to extend the build perimeter just for this plot and to exclude the

other houses located in front of it. The request would have needed to come from the whole line of houses.

Councillor Jean-Jacques ARRENSDORFF (Déi Gréng) wanted to know whether this decision was not in direct opposition to the opinion to Objection No. 8, which was seeking to supplement the build perimeter.

Mayor Marion ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET (CSV) explained that, with this plot, inclusion in the build perimeter had never been envisaged, and for that reason the request was rejected.

Councillor Eric EIFES (DP) asked about the “soft mobility corridor” in Objection No. 10.

Mayor Marion ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET (CSV) noted that the path would actually run over the neighbour’s property. However, the neighbour had nothing to do with it, and therefore the path should not run over his property. Moreover, the Cabinet had worked on the principle of providing a connecting route in each new PAP. However, this can only be defined more specifically at a later point in time. Furthermore, this can also be a natural path.

The district council voted on the Cabinet opinion, developed in collaboration with ECAU engineering office, concerning all objections with the exception of Objection No. 9 and voted by 7 votes in favour and 3 against [Eric EIFES and Dali ZHU (DP) and Jean-Jacques ARRENSDORFF (Déi Gréng)] to accept the 12 objections to the revised version of the PAG (June 2022 version).

Councillor Jean-Jacques ARRENSDORFF (Déi Gréng) moved to the public gallery.

Mayor Marion ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET (CSV) now invited the district council to vote on Objection No. 9, concerning the reclassification of a garden from a green zone to a garden zone. The Cabinet offered a negative opinion on this, because no environmental impact study had been conducted on this area.

Councillor Eric EIFES (DP) asked why this was not possible.

Architect Tom SCHMIT confirmed that the area of land in question had been examined in an initial strategic environmental assessment (SUP1), but not in the second (SUP2).

Mayor Marion ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET (CSV) emphasised that the Cabinet consequently cannot give a positive opinion, since the initiative to amend the general development plan was subject to a strict method of procedure.

The district council voted on Objection No. 9 and accepted the opinion by 7 votes in favour and 2 votes against [Eric EIFES and Dali ZHU (DP)].

## **5. Appointment of a member to a committee**

The district council unanimously agreed to appoint Mike Rennel as a new member of the Comic Festival Committee.

## **6. Exceptional grant – 40-year anniversary of „Frënn vum 3. Alter Gemeng Conter A.s.b.l.“**

The district council unanimously voted to pay an exceptional grant of €500 to the “Frënn vum 3. Alter Gemeng Conter A.s.b.l.” for its 40-year anniversary.

## **7. Grants to clubs and associations 2022**

The district council voted unanimously to make grants of €179,923.16 to the various clubs and associations for 2022.

## **8. Energy-saving measures by Contern district council – Presentation and voting**

Mayor Marion ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET (CSV) reported that the district council had drawn up a list with tips on energy-saving, in conjunction with Syvicol and the district’s Technical Services department, in

response to the current energy crisis. The recommendations were aimed on the one hand at the district administration, but also at the staff. Above all, energy-minded refurbishment of buildings and restrictions on public lighting were being targeted here. In addition, the Maison relais and teaching staff should apply the 'shock ventilation' method. In addition, the district's clubs and associations, companies and residents should be made aware of the national awareness-raising programme, and be provided with an energy-saving kit, on request, as part of the joint initiative with Enovos. The Mayor emphasised that these proposals were not finalised, and needed to be adjusted repeatedly.

Councillor Geoffrey THIERIE (LSAP) left the meeting.

Councillor Jean-Jacques ARRENSDORFF (Déi Gréng) welcomed the energy-saving measures and noted that the climate team had already worked on such proposals in 2017.

Deputy Mayor Fernand SCHILTZ (LSAP) clarified that they had naturally had regard to these proposals, but that they had also investigated advice given by other district councils.

The district council voted unanimously to accept the Contern district council's energy-saving measures.

#### **9. Confirmation of changes to the traffic orders for Contern district – Temporary changes**

The changes related to a temporary change to the traffic orders in Contern concerning parking options at Muller Pneus in Rue de l'Etang.

Councillor Jean-Jacques ARRENSDORFF (Déi Gréng) left the room.

The district council unanimously approved the changes to the traffic orders for Contern district – temporary changes.

#### **10. Approval of income**

The district council unanimously approved income of €1,862,489.31 for the financial year 2022.

Councillor Dali ZHU (DP) left the meeting.

#### **11. Announcements and councillor questions**

Mayor Marion ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET (CSV) informed the district council that the Ministry of Education, Children and Youth was offering a free study of air quality within schools and that the Cabinet had accepted this offer for the district's school complex.

On request from the district council, Mayor Marion ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET advised that the costs for the Saturday working by the Greiveldinger company totalled €2,096.

Councillor Jean-Jacques ARRENSDORFF (Déi Gréng) re-entered the room.

Mayor Marion ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET (CSV) advised that a working session on the Conterstuff was being held on 7 November at 19.00.

Deputy Mayor Fernand SCHILTZ (LSAP) gave a short report on the success of the 2022 Vëlosummer event. He advised that the district council would be taking part again next year, and that consideration was being given to arranging a bike exchange market.

Councillor Eric EIFES (DP) asked whether there was any news about the SIGI.

Councillor Jean-Pierre DI GENOVA (CSV) advised that the committee was meeting next week.

Councillor Jean-Jacques ARRENSDORFF (Déi Gréng) reported that on 1 October a dog had been bitten to death by another dog, a French mastiff, in Moutfort forest. He wanted to know, in view of the circumstances, whether it was possible for the district council to place this breed on the list of dangerous dog breeds. Mayor Marion ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET (CSV) advised that she had already been

informed about the incident, as Mayor, and that she will submit a written opinion on this for the veterinary inspectorate. Consequently, the case will be investigated and a report written on the dog.

An attentive resident noted that the double-leaf door in the entrance area of Moutfort Cultural Centre opened the wrong way round. It did not open in the direction of escape, and was thus blocking the escape route in an emergency. He also proposed fitting a second advisory notice at the end of the path to the Am Woellenslach memorial in Moutfort, so that this would be easier to find.

In connection with the planning of the new school building, one resident suggested the idea of considering outdoor classes for Cycle 1. She also raised the issue of Objection No. 9, and asked why the consultants had not carried out an environmental impact assessment at that time. Tom JUNGBLUT (CSV), Deputy Mayor, explained in detail the strict method of procedure for changes to the general development plan. He pointed out that this was not respected, because no strategic environmental assessment (SEA) had been performed on the sites. It was agreed that the Cabinet would look again more closely at the request, in order to establish together with the architect Tom SCHMIT why no strategic environmental assessment (SEA) had been conducted at that time. After that, the residents concerned would be informed, in order to find a solution together with them.