

## **District council meeting of 16 November 2022**

### **Convened and announced on 10 November 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), LAKAFF Laurent (CSV), ARRENSDORFF Jean-Jacques (Déi Gréng), WOLTER Laurence (Déi Gréng), THIERIE Geoffrey (LSAP), Councillors, TAZIAUX Tim, Acting Municipal Secretary, SCHILTZ Nadine, Secretary.

**Apologies:** SCHMITZ Jean-Pierre (CSV)

Mayor Marion ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET (CSV) welcomed residents and advised that, for urgent reasons, an additional item needed to be put on the agenda. It was an item to be covered in closed session.

#### **1. Additional item – Internal discussion**

In closed session

#### **2. Presentation and approval of the Forestry Plan 2023**

Mayor Marion ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET (CSV) invited Gil JACQUEMOTH, Forestry Manager for Contern district, to speak to introduce the Forestry Plan 2023. In his presentation, he outlined in detail how the forests are managed, along with various projects in relation to nature protection that have either been implemented or are awaiting implementation.

In relation to nature protection, Gil JACQUEMOTH reported on the Wald project. Small dams were being created there to hold back water and thus counteract the dry summer months. Next, he presented a new project in Roudebësch forest. Efforts are being made there to introduce structure and variety into the forest boundary. Twice a year, a migratory shepherd crosses Contern district with his herd of sheep, in order to permit natural grazing of the meadows. Soon, a new project will be starting up on the former landfill site. The plan here is to create piles of stones to attract heat-loving animals (such as lizards). In another Wald project, new habitats are being created for yellow-bellied toads, using ponds.

With regard to managing the forests, trees are being felled in the Pleitrang forest and near the water tower in Contern, and processed into firewood. Many of the domestic trees are heavily damaged – this applies particularly for the stocks of beech, which have suffered badly due to the lack of water during the extended hot periods in summer over several years. These present a safety risk, and not least due to falling branches along the edge of paths. The Thuja hedges in the “Am Wald” forest area are to be felled. This non-native hedging species will then be processed into wood chips.

The Forestry Manager was pleased with the purchase of a new van, telescopic ladder and trailer. Next year, he would like to purchase a new machine to deal with a laborious task that requires a lot of physical effort and time. Upkeep and maintenance of the fitness trail, the network of forest paths and the benches also fall under his area of work. The Forestry Manager advised that new wooden benches had already been ordered to replace the existing ones in spring.

Councillor Jean-Jacques ARRENSDORFF (Déi Gréng) enquired about who the benches were ordered from. Gil JACQUEMOTH replied that they had been ordered from the Luxembourg disability organisation A.P.E.M.H.

Mayor Marion ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET (CSV) wanted to know whether more wood had been ordered this year. Forestry Manager Gil JACQUEMOTH stated that no more wood than in previous years had been ordered and supplied this year. It was hardly possible for him to produce and supply more firewood, as he wanted to maintain a certain quality of wood.

Deputy Mayor Fernand SCHILTZ (LSAP) asked whether the Forestry Manager had already received information or even guidelines from management as to whether in future different tree species better

adapted to a drier, warmer climate should be planted for preference. Forestry Manager Gil JACQUEMOTH said that he was using a new Belgian software to inform his management practice, which uses overlapping soil maps to determine the right tree for every site. However, the disadvantage is that the result was not always a native species, which then could not be approved for planting. His understanding was that oaks actually cope with dry periods better than native beeches.

The district council unanimously approved the Forestry Plan for 2023, with expenditures of €280,000 and income of €50,790.

Mayor Marion ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET (CSV) thanked Forestry Manager Gil JACQUEMOTH for his excellent collaboration.

### **3. Special development plan (PAP) for Leessen 3 in Contern – Approval of the implementation agreement and implementation design**

Mayor Marion ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET (CSV) explained that the implementation agreement and the implementation design for the construction project PAP Leessen 3 in Contern had been refused by the Interior Ministry, on the grounds that the cancellation period was too short. Consequently, architect Tom Schmit has reworded this in accordance with the suggested improvement from the legal team at the Interior Ministry.

The district council voted unanimously to remove the item from the agenda and to defer it to a later meeting, in order to examine a question concerning retention of the walnut tree in this area in more detail.

### **4. Approval of a division of land in Oetrange – Rue de Moutfort**

Mayor Marion ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET (CSV) explained that a plot of land located in Rue de Moutfort in Oetrange was being divided, to develop several building sites from it.

The district council unanimously approved the division of a plot of land in Oetrange.

### **5. Approval of a supplement to contract for the Pacte Logement 2.0 agreement**

Mayor Marion ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET (CSV) presented the supplement to contract to extend the Pacte Logement 2.0 agreement.

Councillor Jean-Jacques ARRENSDORFF (Déi Gréng) asked about the current housing advisor. Mayor Marion ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET (CSV) and Deputy Mayor Tom JUNGBLUT (CSV) advised that Mr Andy ANEN from MC Luxembourg currently held this post.

The district council unanimously approved the supplement to contract concerning the Pacte Logement 2.0 agreement.

### **6. Approval of a document – Emphyteutic lease in Contern**

Mayor Marion ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET (CSV) presented a document concerning the sale of a detached house in the affordable housing project PAP Contern South in Contern.

Councillor Jean-Jacques ARRENSDORFF (Déi Gréng) asked whether it was possible to have some statistics on the number of applications, in an anonymised form, and on the criteria met or not met.

Mayor Marion ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET (CSV) assured him that this was not a problem, and the request would be forwarded to MC Luxembourg.

The district council unanimously approved the document concerning an emphyteutic lease in Contern.

## **7. Approval of a document – Emphyteutic lease in Contern**

Dali ZHU (DP) left the room.

Mayor Marion ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET (CSV) presented a further document concerning the sale of a detached house in the affordable housing project PAP Contern South in Contern.

The district council unanimously approved the document concerning an emphyteutic lease in Contern.

## **8. Approval of cost estimates ASTA 2023 – Farm track programme**

Deputy Mayor Tom JUNGBLUT (CSV) presented cost estimates for repair of farm tracks at “Im Seilsack” in Contern and “Op der Haart” in Moutfort.

Dali ZHU (DP) entered the room.

The district council unanimously approved the cost estimates for the ASTA farm track programme for 2023.

## **9. Approval of the amended 2022 budget and 2023 budget for the leweschte Syrdall social welfare office**

Mayor Marion ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET (CSV) welcomed Philo GUENTHER-MARX, the new Chair of the leweschte Syrdall social welfare office, and invited her to speak to present the budget for 2023.

Philo GUENTHER-MARX confirmed that there were only minor changes in the 2023 budget compared to previous years. Some new furniture needed to be purchased, as in February 2023 the office was moving into bigger premises at the “old post office” in Oetrange. In addition, due to population growth in the districts, it was also necessary to adjust staffing levels. The contribution from Contern district council was 28.4%. This sum is roughly equivalent to that paid out in salaries. Ms GUENTHER-MARX briefly described the various posts held by her staff. Until now, the food bank being operated was open twice a week; however, the aim for the coming year was to open for an additional day. The feared rush demand triggered by rising energy costs, however, had not yet materialised. It was found that there were increasing numbers of inquiries from those in the middle classes, and that people generally wait a long time, often even too long, before asking for help. According to the latest figures, a family with one child needed to have a monthly income of €3,600 to be able to live with dignity in Luxembourg. The social welfare office supported around 130–150 children every year, or around 30 families.

Deputy Mayor Fernand SCHILTZ (LSAP) explained that the climate team had the idea of producing a flyer on the subject of energy-saving measures, and to distribute this via the social welfare office to those residents who call on its services. Philo GUENTHER-MARX supported this idea.

The district council unanimously approved the amended 2022 budget and 2023 budget for the leweschte Syrdall social welfare office.

## **10. Approval of the balance sheets and income statements for 2019 and 2020 for the leweschte Syrdall social welfare office**

The district council unanimously approved the balance sheets and income statements for 2019 and 2020 for the leweschte Syrdall social welfare office.

## **11. Approval of income**

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

## **12. Announcements and councillor questions**

Mayor Marion ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET (CSV) proposed the following dates for the district council meetings in 2023: 7 February, 15 March, 26 March and 24 April, at 17.00 in each case. She also extended invitations for 2–4 December to the After Work event, the Christmas market with visit from St Nicholas, and the ContArt exhibition in Moutfort park.

Councillor Laurence WOLTER (Déi Gréng) advised that the street lights had been on 24/7 in “Am Daerchen” for three days. Mayor Marion ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET (CSV) understood that this may have been due to the recently-undertaken maintenance. The information would be passed immediately to Technical Services, in order to resolve the problem.

Deputy Mayor Fernand SCHILTZ (LSAP) reported on the SIAS Committee meeting of 27 October. New staff had been appointed and the SIAS syndicate had been approached to be involved in the Environment Observatory. In addition, two new projects had been approved by the Ministry: “Pollination in built-up areas” and “Pollination in vineyards”. On 4 March 2023, a celebration was planned in Manternach by SIAS to mark 20 years of the Biological Station and Tree Day. The budget for 2023 was approved unanimously. After this, Deputy Mayor Fernand SCHILTZ (LSAP) reported briefly on the regional music school. The new head teacher was introduced. The regional music school had grown: at the start of the school year, around 1,000 additional pupils were registered. Contern is stable, with 4,605 minutes. He also announced a couple of dates when people could hear the pupils performing: including on 26 November at the Advent market, and on 3 December at the Christmas market. Moving forward, it was planned to start a pilot project with French-speaking courses.

Councillor Dali ZHU (DP) left the meeting.

Deputy Mayor Fernand SCHILTZ (LSAP) gave a reminder about the “Repair Café” that was taking place on 26 November from 9:00-13:00 in Moutfort Cultural Centre. The Fairtrade team will provide visitors with free coffee and croissants.

Deputy Mayor Tom JUNGBLUT (CSV) invited people to attend Tree Day. This was being held on Saturday, 19 November. He expressed his appreciation in advance to “Gaart an Heem” for providing hot chocolate and mulled wine.

Councillor Geoffrey THIERIE (LSAP) reported briefly on the meeting of the SICEC Committee on 16 November, where discussions included the planned enlargement and renovation of the crematorium.

Councillor Jean-Jacques ARRENSDORFF (Déi Gréng) requested the correction of a statement by Tom Schmit (architect) in the minutes of the district council meeting of 15 June 2022.