



FORM BEST PRACTICES CONTEST

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Name project

Area development Veessen Wapenveld – Project Vorchten

Category Certification Criteria: mark the category of your project

- Energy and environmental policies (politiche energetiche e ambientali);
- Infrastructure policies (politiche infrastrutturali);
- Quality of urban life policies (politiche per la qualita' urbana);
- Agricultural, touristic and artisan policies (politiche agricole, turistiche, artigianali);
- Policies for hospitality, awareness and training (politiche per l'ospitalita, la consapevolezza e la formazione);
- Social cohesion (coesione sociale).**

Summary project



The project Veessen-Wapenveld is part of the national programme 'Room for the river'. The goal of this programme is to give the river more room to be able to manage higher water levels. The programme is initiated by de Ministry of Infrastructure en Environment. The high-water channel Veessen-Wapenveld is one of over 30 measures within this programme. In March 2012 the Secretary of State, Atsma, finally decided to allow the construction to take place.

The high-water channel is a diked area of 8 kilometers between the villages of Veessen and Wapenveld that branches off from the main river. The area between the dikes will flood with high water. With the construction of de high-water channel it is possible to discharge a much larger portion of water, so that the water level in the river will be lowered by 71 cm.

The construction of the high-water channel is linked to an area development. The high-water channel and the area development are two separate parts of the project, which have many connections.

The plans for the area development were made to compensate for the infringement of the landscape that results from the high-water channel, and to give a positive impulse to the quality of life, environmental quality and economy in the immediate area. Part of the area development were a number of projects in the village of Vorchten, which are combined under the name of 'Area development Veessen-Wapenveld, project Vorchten'. It concerns the following projects:

- Redesigning the **area** around the church.
- The construction of a multipurpose center (MFC).
- The construction of recreational facilities for the youth, near the church.
- The creation of a new orchard near the church.

Vorchten is a small monumental village in the river area of the municipality of Heerde. It is a characteristic, small, green ribbon village that not only contains residential buildings, but also some companies (mainly agricultural) and a museum. Typically for Vorchten is the oasis of calm en peace that one can find here.

The church in Vorchten is iconic and is the central hub of the village. It is a location with a rich cultural and historical past.

Within the area development there are possibilities to make a better use of the church of Vorchten (one of the eldest churches in the Netherlands) and its immediate vicinity. Nowadays the church and its adjacent vestry are used for activities of the church, village and associations. However, the vestry is dated and too small. Therefor the development of a new multipurpose centre (MFC), where the activities of the church, village and associations can take place in a sustainable way, or even can be amplified, is a long-cherished wish.

With the area development Veessen-Vorchten the challenge for Vorchten is to make a land use plan and a design for the multipurpose centre. For these plans, see the appendices.

Both plans have broad support within the community of Vorchten. This mainly, because the development of the plans has been a process in which a focus group, the church stewards, the council committee for environmental quality and the municipality of Heerde participated. The focus group is a reflection of the Vorchten society and consists of 10 enthusiastic citizens of Vorchten.

The plans for Vorchten are concentrated around the church. This means that all new elements are situated within walking distance from the church. The reason for this is that all these elements can strengthen each other and a good overview is created in this way. The new elements are not situated like loose sand, but have a mutual coherence with each other and the village of Vorchten. One could say that we create a new meeting place in the existing village, since Vorchten is not a planned village, but a village that has organically grown.



#### Goal project

- Redesigning the area around the church. Goal: enhance the environmental quality.
- The construction of a multipurpose center (MFC). Goal: enhance the quality of life and the environmental quality.
- The construction of recreational facilities for the youth, near the church. Goal: Enhance the quality of life.
- The construction of a new orchard near the church. Goal: Enhance the environmental quality.

#### Result project

The final result of the project is the realisation of the four projects, thus strengthening the quality of life and the environmental quality of Vorchten.

The historically and culturally valuable church and the new MFC will form the new central focus of the renewed Vorchten. It was a conscious choice to situate the MFC directly to the Kerkweg. Firstly, because the existing buildings in Vorchten are largely situated ribbon-like along the Kerkweg. The situation of the MFC fits into this image. Secondly, because the location right next to the Kerkweg optimizes visibility (from the Kerkweg) on the historically and culturally interesting church (which is a national monument). Thirdly, because the MFC serves a broad purpose. The MFC not only serves as vestry to the church, but will also be used as a type of townhouse, where local activities will be organised. Furthermore the MFC will serve as an information- and resting point for tourists (walkers and cyclists).

Members of the focus group stated that the MFC will have to serve mainly for the purpose of the citizens of Vorchten. Hereto is made clear that not all citizens are churchgoers. A certain spatial separation between the church and the MFC was therefor desired.

The most important goal of the MFC, and indeed the whole project, is to strengthen the quality of life of Vorchten. Within this context it is good to know that the MFC and the surrounding terrain will eventually be exploited operated by foundation in which the Dutch Reformed church of Vorchten and citizens of Vorchten will participate.

#### Finance (costs and benefits)



The Advice on Area Development (advies GebiedsOntwikkeling -AGO) was adopted by the city council of Heerde on January 31, 2011 and by the provincial council of Gelderland on February 16, 2011. This Advice focuses on the projects and their financial resources. For the project 'Area development Veessen Wapenveld - Project Vorchten' the financial resources are as follows.

- Redesigning the area around the church.  
Total investments € 165,000  
Provincial financing € 148,500  
Municipal financing € 16,500
- The construction of a multipurpose center (MFC).  
Total investments € 348,000  
Provincial financing € 174,000  
Financing by the Dutch Reformed Church of Vorchten € 174,000
- The construction of recreational facilities for the youth, near the church.  
Total investments € 39,750  
Provincial financing € 20,000  
Municipal financing € 19,750
- The creation of a new orchard near the church.  
Total investments € 56,600  
Provincial financing € 28,300  
Financing by the Programme Directorate 'Room for the River' € 28,300

De total investments for the project 'Area development Veessen Wapenveld - Project Vorchten' are **€ 609,350**

Staff (staff involved and use of time)

Municipality of Heerde  
Province of Gelderland  
Programme Directorate 'Room for the River'  
Dutch Reformed Church of Vorchten  
Focus group

Additional information (if necessarily)

See the appendices

Link website [http://www.heerde.nl/Actueel/Projecten/Gebiedsontwikkeling\\_Veessen\\_Wapenveld/Project\\_Vorchten](http://www.heerde.nl/Actueel/Projecten/Gebiedsontwikkeling_Veessen_Wapenveld/Project_Vorchten)

Once filled in this form please send it to: [info@cittaslow.net](mailto:info@cittaslow.net)

- Participation Deadline 15 May 2015 -

