

Report Statenkwartier

Phase 2, meeting 3 - 28 June 2022 - Statenkwartier District Citizens' consultation on climate change

Context

On 28 June, the third meeting of the second phase of the Statenkwartier District citizens' consultation took place. Aim of this meeting was to prepare joint recommendations. The meeting took place in the Couvéehuis in the Statenkwartier district, on Frankenslag, from 5 pm to 10:30 pm. The meeting was preceded by a joint dinner. The three-course dinner was provided by Stichting Lichtpuntjes.

Programme

The evening was hosted by Bram Heijkers. During the dinner he welcomed everyone and explained the purpose of the evening's programme. One participant inquired after the status of the recommendations of the citizens' consultations. The answer was that the citizens' consultation provides recommendations to the Municipal Council, which are discussed by the Municipal in a committee meeting and a public meeting. In other words, the recommendations of the citizens' consultation are non-binding.

The evening's programme then started. The ideas that had come up during the previous meeting on 14 July were divided into six themes and hung on flipcharts on the walls. These ideas and themes are [available on the website here](#). During the first round, the participants walked past the themes and, guided by the discussion leaders, suggested initial recommendations. The participants were invited to mention which aspects they believed important for each theme, so that all ideas and objections could be included in the draft recommendations. This was done in the open space; the participants were able to select their preferred themes.

During the second round, the participants, were divided into several groups and prepared the final recommendations, based on the draft recommendations. Each individual recommendation was voted on. If a recommendation received 75% 'green' votes in favour, it was adopted. As 21 people were present, this meant that the recommendation was adopted if 16 voted in favour.

A list of the adopted recommendations is [available on the website here](#). All suggested recommendations and the votes, objections and outcomes are listed below.

Voting on recommendations

#	Recommendation	Voting	Objections/concerns	Result
1	Ensure that households in the Statenkwartier can share electricity at district level, just as is possible in the Groene Mient. The Municipality should lobby at national level to change legislation to make this possible. The privacy should be guaranteed.	Green: 20 Red: 1		Adopted
2	When selling/transferring property, it should be made mandatory that single glazing is replaced by double glazing, while the building's historical character is preserved. This obligation should rest on the buyer.	Green: 21 Red: 0		Adopted
3	The Municipality should make a certain level of insulation mandatory. A generic criterion should be used, e.g. the energy label. Cheap	Green: 19 Red: 2		Adopted

	loans should be made available and remain in place.			
4	Residents of the Statenkwartier should know that no collective heating system will be introduced for the time being. Residents will receive customised recommendation from an independent third party, commissioned and paid for by the Municipality, on alternatives, such as (hybrid) heat pumps. Residents should be able to make their own decision.	Green: 19 Red: 2		Adopted
5	The Municipality should ensure that over the next two years, energy coaches go from door to door to offer recommendation.	Green: 12 Red: 9		Rejected
6	As a product of the knowledge centre, we recommend that the Municipality enables the residents to make a scalable model for an action plan for each street to make the homes more sustainable, and for the financing of this activity (subsidies and loans), including collective procurement. We request the Municipality to act as 'quartermaster' (= initiate, facilitate and advise) for the first two streets. The residents themselves will take care of the implementation.	Green: 12 Red: 9		Rejected
7	The Municipality should reimburse the interest on the Warmtefonds (central government heating fund) loans and raise awareness of its existence at district level.	Green: 18 Red: 3		Adopted
8	The Municipality of The Hague should open a physical knowledge centre on the Frederik Hendriklaan in the near future, where residents can go for independent and objective recommendation on sustainability/the energy transition/climate adaptation.	Green: 20 Red: 1		Adopted
9	The Municipality should consult transport companies about reserving designated seats in buses and trams as social meeting places. They could use stickers saying 'this seat is intended for social meetings'. At least 4 seats should be grouped together.	Green: 9 Red: 12		Rejected
10	In addition to the existing bicycle parking facilities, the Municipality should build bicycle parking facilities where residents can park their bicycles safely and dry, for example a semi-underground bicycle parking facility with a green roof. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Municipality should do this in consultation with the residents and 	Green: 14 Red: 7		Rejected

	<p>perhaps shopkeepers, who should be given a say in what it should look like and where it should be built.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The parking facility should be within 100 metres walking distance from homes, and there should be place for at least 2 bicycles for each address. • The parking facility should be built on former parking places. • The Municipality should encourage the removal of abandoned bicycles by enforcing a reporting system (residents use an app to inform municipalities about abandoned bicycles and the Municipality responds quickly). 			
11	<p>The Municipality should run a pilot with shared electric bicycles in the short term whereby one of the conditions is that the bicycles must be parked properly in a designated place (and not just anywhere).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 100 m walking distance. • 2 bicycles for each 'location' (place where the bicycles are parked) 	Green: 8 Red: 13		Rejected
12	<p>The Municipality should redesign the whole Fred to become a dedicated cycling street in the short term, in such a way that suppliers and people with disabilities can still access the shops.</p>	Green: 18 Red: 3	This recommendation was scrapped and added to recommendation number 20 as the two are similar.	Scrapped
13	<p>The Municipality should introduce an electric minibus to continuously shuttle between the Fred and the Aart van der Goes, and the continuation of the Fred to the Scheveningseweg, where people can get on and off at will. 1 or 2 low speed minibuses.</p>	Green: 6 Red: 15		Rejected
14	<p>In the short term, the Municipality should ensure that one parking place in every 500 m is reserved for shared cars.</p>	Green: 18 Red: 3		Adopted
15	<p>In the short term, the Municipality should facilitate a fast tram for visitors of the beach.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It should start at ADO football stadium • and have a stop at CS • Parking could be relatively cheap, for example EUR 5 a day and the tram could have a reduced fare. <p>This will reduce the parking pressure caused by tourists.</p>	Green: 16 Red: 5		Adopted
16	<p>The Municipality should assess with HTM the possibility of introducing a fast tram (fewer stops) between the Statenkwartier and the CS</p>	Green: 14 Red: 7		Rejected

	and HS stations. The tram will run every 10 to 15 minutes.			
17	The citizens' consultation wants more space for plants and trees, pedestrians and cyclists in the Statenviertel.	Green: 20 Red: 1		Adopted
18	Turn the district into an environmental zone.	Green: 19 Red: 2	An environmental zone means that old diesel cars are banned from the city centre.	Adopted
19	Make a second parking permit more expensive.	Green: 8 Red: 13		Rejected
20	Turn the Fred into a car-free zone (except for deliveries and people with disabilities).	Green: 17 Red: 4		Adopted
21	Enforce fixed times for deliveries on the Fred.	Green: 19 Red: 2		Adopted
22	Eliminate unused parking places, on the basis of parking pressure.	Green: 12 Red: 9		Rejected
23	Ban all vans from the neighbourhood and set up centrally located collection points in the neighbourhood, or use bicycle couriers. Also applicable to groceries and fresh produce.	Green: 12 Red: 9		Rejected
24	Reward people who give up their cars. For instance by giving them a public transport pass or a voucher for shared cars.	Green: 14 Red: 7		Rejected
25	Remove about 10% of the parking places in the neighbourhood every year.	Green: 10 Red: 11		Rejected
26	Design a comprehensive, inclusive vision for mobility and space for the Statenviertel in which the neighbourhood is made largely parking free (except for disabled parking and deliveries).	Green: 17 Red: 4		Adopted
27	Remove the parking places and charging points in the neighbourhood to the periphery of the neighbourhood.	Green: 4 Red: 17		Rejected
28	The Municipality should remove parking places street by street in the neighbourhood and replace them with plants and trees and bicycle parking.	Green: 11 Red: 10		Rejected
29	Improve facilities for mobility in the neighbourhood, such as bus on demand, bicycles and shared scooters.	Green: 14 Red: 7		Rejected
30	We recommend strengthening the green-blue infrastructure of the city to promote climate	Green: 21 Red: 0		Adopted

	adaptation, create more water storage, and increase the liveability of the city.			
31	<p>We have read the 2018 'Haagse Iconen' (The Hague icons). We think it is a very valuable report that is relevant for The Hague as a whole. To strengthen the green structures in The Hague, and to improve biodiversity, water storage, the heat island effect, green connections with the surroundings; and increase liveability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report should be updated when necessary - short term. • Select a few iconic projects to start connecting and reinforcing the green-blue networks in the city. • Design specific plans for these iconic projects with residents - medium long term. 	Green: 20 Red: 1		Adopted
32	<p>Make green corridors between trees where possible, for instance along the Frankenslag. For instance planting plants or bushes to create green corridors. Attention should, however, be given to passageways to cross the road. The green passages could be maintained by residents. The Municipality is requested to plant the first batch of plants.</p>	Green: 18 Red: 3		Adopted
33	<p>Give residents a say in street renewal, giving them a choice of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • less pavement • more green in the city • water permeable road surface • fewer parking places • more urban gardens/city jungle/play areas 	Green: 18 Red: 3		Adopted
34	<p>When resurfacing the streets and parking places with water permeable paving, consider using sound-absorbing cobblestones.</p>	Green: 17 Red: 4		Adopted
35	<p>To finance more green in the neighbourhoods, we propose increasing the green budget by 5% every year.</p>	Green: * Red: *		Rejected
36	<p>When tram 16 is rerouted in Mauritslaan, use the space that is freed up to install a green zone. This could be a multifunctional zone with a play area, community gardens, or plants and trees in general. The plan is to start the redesign in 2023. The neighbourhood should be involved in the short term.</p>	Green: 21 Red: 0		Adopted
37	<p>Grow vertical gardens on every empty wall and tram stop.</p>	Green: 9 Red: 12		Rejected

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start with public buildings. • The Municipality will prepare a document offering ideas and options. • Subsidies will be made available to finance this. • Home owners may choose the design and are responsible for the planting. 			
38	Install a VFG container in the neighbourhood by way of experiment, e.g. at the waste collection point on Prins Mauritslaan, to see if it works. The compost can be used for the plants and trees in the neighbourhood.	Green: 13 Red: 8		Adopted
39	A 6-month campaign of the Municipality offering garden owners the opportunity to pick up a rain barrel, to encourage water storage and avoid flooding the sewerage system.	Green: 20 Red: 1		Adopted
40	The Statenkwartier wants to take part in the 'tegelwippen' campaign (national campaign to replace pavement with plants) and in the Duurzaam Den Haag (Sustainable The Hague) campaign.	Green: 18 Red: 3		Adopted
41	Start a campaign to inform people about, and encourage them to plant, façade gardens and tree border gardens.	Green: 20 Red: 1		Adopted

Resolutions on adopted recommendations

After the votes were cast on the recommendations, participants expressed a number of concerns about the adopted recommendations. The group discussed the issues and voted on the following resolutions.

- The number of suggestions for each theme is not proportional. How can we ensure that we provide an overall view and that this is communicated to the Municipal Council clearly? And how can we avoid that there are a multitude of recommendations for one theme but only a few for another?
- It is important to present the recommendations to the Municipal Council attractively.
 - o **Proposal:** Participants write an introduction to their recommendations themselves. They also give a description and an evaluation of the citizens' consultation and add this to the recommendations. What is the participants' opinion of the citizens' consultation and what is done with it? The introduction should also emphasise that the participants are glad that the Municipality offers them the opportunity to take part in a citizens' consultation.
 - o **Vote:** The proposal is accepted unanimously. Participants Benthe, Xavier, Mart, and Johan will write the introduction to the recommendations.
- The recommendations are all phrased differently. Is this acceptable or should they be standardised?
 - o The recommendations as they are phrased and were voted on at the meeting will be retained in the document that will be presented to the Municipal Council.
 - o However, some recommendations may not be entirely clear and may require an explanation to make them easier to understand.

- **Proposal:** The organisers will compile a document containing all final recommendations, and will ensure that they are all comprehensible and provide explanations where needed. This document will be sent to the participants. The participants can consider them and give feedback. This is scheduled for the end of August.
 - **Vote:** Everyone agrees to the proposal. The proposal is adopted.
- Do we think that the concerns of participants on the recommendations should be recorded in an attachment and shared with the Municipal Council? Should the Municipal Council be aware of these concerns?
- The concerns of one individual do not necessarily have to be included in the recommendations. There was some concern among the participants that expressing their concerns would weaken their recommendation.
 - **Proposal:** Are you for or against including concerns/recommendations in our final report?
 - **Vote:** 2 green, 19 red. The proposal is rejected. The concerns will not be included in the recommendations.

Decisions regarding follow-up action

After agreement was reached about finalising the recommendations, a discussion ensued on the follow-up of the process. After voting, the following agreements were made.

Proposal: Participants will receive the recommendations and the report.

Vote: Everyone agrees to the proposal. The proposal is adopted.

Proposal: The organisers will announce when the recommendations will be discussed in the Municipal Council so that the participants can be present.

Question: Is it possible for participants to explain their recommendations when they are discussed by the Municipal Council?

Answer: The public has a right to be consulted and may attend council meetings, at which everyone is granted 3 minutes to state their opinion.

New proposal: The organisers will announce when the recommendations will be discussed in the Municipal Council so that participants can attend. The introduction to the recommendations will state that the participants are open to entering into dialogue on the recommendations with the Municipal Council.

Vote: 19 green, 2 red. The proposal is adopted.

Proposal: We use various communications channels to communicate about the process. As soon as the recommendations are sent to the Municipal Council, we will also communicate about the content.

Vote: Everyone agrees to the proposal. The proposal is adopted.

Proposal: As soon as the citizens' consultation in the Laakkwartier has ended, we will invite you to a session to look back and exchange experiences.

Vote: Everyone agrees to the proposal. The session will probably be held in November/December. The proposal is adopted.

Proposal: Does everyone go home tonight feeling satisfied?

Vote: 20 green, 1 red

Participants' comments:

- I disagree with many of the recommendations. I do not believe that we have come up with anything new. I also think it is a pity that our concerns will not be recorded.
- If individuals have any concerns about the recommendations, they can still voice these by exercising the right to be consulted.
- A few other participants have the impression that the citizens' consultation process is not yet complete. One point of feedback for the Municipality is that the citizens' consultations should be granted more time in the future.

New proposal: State in the introduction that participants were glad to be given the opportunity to take part in a citizens' consultation, but that more time should be reserved for it in the future.

Proposal: Has the advisory phase been completed this evening in your opinion?

Vote: 14 green, 7 red

Participants' comments:

- Very satisfied with the process. There are still a lot of loose ends and the process felt a bit rushed. This is not good for the people who have expressed concerns. The subject of financing is not properly addressed in the final recommendations.
- Green was a recurring theme in the recommendations. There were few recommendations about the energy transition while this may be the most important theme.

New proposal: The organisers will finalise the recommendations. We will meet one more time in September to see if they are complete, to consider any concerns in more depth, and to evaluate whether some issues still need to be looked into at more length, and add them to the recommendations.

Vote: 12 green, 9 red. The proposal is rejected.

Brief summary of the outcome

1. The organisers will produce a file containing all final recommendations and will make them comprehensible and add an explanation where necessary. This file will be shared with all those who took part in phase 2. They are welcome to express their thoughts on it.
2. A small group (Benthe, Johan, Xavier, Mart) of participants will write an introduction to the final recommendations.
 - a. The introduction will clearly state that (1) the participants are willing to enter into dialogue with the Municipal Council on the recommendations.
 - b. (2) There will be a brief evaluation reflecting on the citizens' consultation and the participants' experiences of the citizens' consultation.
 - c. (3) It will be emphasised that the participants would like the citizens' consultation to be granted more time in the future.
3. The participants will receive the recommendations and the report of the meeting from the organisers.
4. The organisers will announce when the recommendations will be discussed in the Municipal Council so that the participants can be present.
5. The organisers use various communications channels to communicate about the process. As soon as the recommendations are sent to the Municipal Council, we will also communicate about the content.
6. As soon as the citizens' consultation in the Laakkwartier has ended, the organisation will invite the participants for a session at which we will look back and exchange our experiences.