



LËSCHT 5

RÉCKBLÉCK

Är Leit fir Biissen



Dear citizens,

In this magazine we would like to inform you about our recent projects and achievements. The Är Leit fraction has taken responsibility for the college of aldermen since November 2019, with the determination to express our ideas with new projects and to realise them. In March 2020, we were unfortunately severely slowed down in our momentum, and we were forced to adapt our priorities to the prevailing conditions.

It is with great commitment and through spontaneous processes that we tried to be on the side of our citizens as much as possible, and to help them during the Covid. I remember, for example, the solidarity actions aimed at going shopping for our oldest residents, the collection of branches, as well as the vouchers distributed to support local businesses. Even though our environment was slowing down and the social distancing imposed on us made it difficult, we started our studies.

Where in 2021, for the second time in a row, other municipalities cancelled their festivities for senior citizens but it seemed important to us to maintain these events. Even under strict health conditions, we've felt the great need for people to be able to meet again at last. 2021 was a year of hope, with the wish to be able to return to a normal life.

Here it was important for us to support our local associations and to integrate them into the activities of the community. For example, we have provided an extraordinary subsidy to associations to compensate for the losses incurred by the lack of activities during the Covid period.

We have also not forgotten our local businesses, which we have supported through our advent calendar and the "kaf local" action, which means "buy local". In the meantime we have been able to make important acquisitions in the heart of the village. Thus, land of great importance for the future development of our village has become the property of the municipality.

The year 2021 ended very well, but 2022 has started with very bad news on the international level. The war in Ukraine once again presents us with great challenges. The energy crisis, rising construction prices and longer delivery times have become part of our daily routine. A ray of sunshine was the great solidarity shown towards the victims of the war. Here, too, we were able to contribute to various actions as municipality of Bissen, such as sending a lorry full of basic necessities to Ukraine, together with the municipalities of Mertzig and Colmar-Berg.

A quality of life subsidy was made available to the inhabitants of Bissen who are entitled to the cost-of-living allowance, as an additional aid to help them to cope with the rising energy prices. In parallel with these developments, we have continued to work on our dossiers. By the end of 2022 and the beginning of 2023, a number of important projects have been finalised and will be able to come into being. Until the end of 2025/2026, a large number of these important projects will see the light of day (new water basin, forestry crèche, extension of the school, new communal workshop, etc.), these infrastructures and services will contribute to a better quality of life in our commune. In the coming weeks, we will present our team and our programme for the 2023 municipal elections.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the excellent cooperation with you over the past 12 years in the municipal politics of Bissen.

I wish you all a pleasant reading of our magazine.

VIAGGI DAVID
Buergermeeschter

Är Leit fir Biissen



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Communication

We attach great value to good communication with the inhabitants, so that they can be informed at all times of what is happening in our community. We communicate a lot through social media, but also through flyers and screens in the village centre. In addition to the local newspaper "Kloutjen", which has been published four times in the past year, we have also published the magazine BissInfo.

The latter is a report of the contents of the various meetings of the local council, so that the residents are informed in writing of the most up-to-date information.

In addition, we have invested in state-of-the-art equipment for live transmission of council meetings. This

means that residents can not only follow the meetings in real time, but can also view them later at any time of the day.

It is difficult to work in a more transparent way. In the interests of transparency, we are constantly trying to involve our residents in various projects concerning the municipality, such as the survey carried out for the immigration square or the anti-flood measures.



Master Plan 2030

In order to put the right emphasis on the future points to be achieved in our municipality, it was very important for us to have a master plan drawn up. In this context, all of our public buildings are being examined under the microscope.

The aim is to determine where improvements are needed over the next 10 years to ensure the long-term future of our community. One of the main priorities of the municipality is to create and improve childcare facilities. Therefore, after many years of analysis, the PAG of our

municipality has finally been finalised and submitted to the first vote of the municipal council. In accordance with the procedure, the council of aldermen took all complaints into consideration and responded to the complaints of local residents as far as possible.

We are confident that this new PAG can be submitted to the second vote of the town council before the summer, thus bringing to an end a work of more than 20 years.

Renovation of the city centre

The Frounert square has been partially redesigned to make it more suitable for events of all kinds. Our associations can now benefit from a fully equipped kitchen next to the Frounert hall as well as a brand new barbecue, making it easier to organise events. For the Är leit team, it is important that our village is attractive, and that the next generations feel comfortable here. The centre of a village like Bissen is its beating heart, so it is particularly important to us to decide for ourselves what will happen there in the future.

This is why we have made numerous property acquisitions in this area. This will enable us to develop the projects necessary for the modernisation of our village, always in the interest and for the comfort of our residents. For these projects, the participatory aspect of the inhabitants is very important to us. Unfortunately, the Covid19 pandemic prevented us from carrying out this participation as planned, on site through workshops.

Nevertheless, we were able to use an online survey. Many residents took advantage of this opportunity to express their needs and proposals for improvement. Subsequently, an architectural competition was organised for the redesign of the immigration square. In the future, this large square will house a new town hall, a cultural and conference centre, space for shops and restaurants and possibly housing. Above all, it will be surrounded by large areas of greenery and nature. Of all the architectural firms that applied, five were selected by the jury.

The final choice was made in favour of the associated architectural firm Du Pont et Decker Lammar. In order to realise this major project, it is also important to relocate infrastructures such as the municipal workshops, which have been too small for the technical and personal needs of the municipality for many years.

Therefore, we contacted the owner of a greenfield site in the Klengbousbiereg business park and took over this site.

Thanks to a very good collaboration with the technical staff of the municipality, the new municipal workshop was planned efficiently and quickly.

The realisation of the new workshop has been submitted to the local council for approval and we hope to see the start of construction in the next few months, as soon as the necessary studies and authorisations have been completed. Afterwards, the former workshop can be used for green spaces and the creation of parking spaces, which are so necessary in the centre of the village. Of the old communal workshop, we will keep the recently renovated part, including changing rooms, showers and living spaces that will continue to be used.

We also plan to build social housing with accommodation for young people between the Grand-Rue and the Frounert site. The first project presented was not convincing for the members of the council of aldermen.

Indeed, this project foresaw the demolition of almost all the old buildings and the construction of new ones. A new architect was commissioned, who had an approach that was much more in line with our visions.

The new architect now plans to maintain all the existing buildings in their entirety. This will allow the creation of new housing while preserving the typical and authentic architecture of the village. In order to realise these projects, we have acquired the necessary properties from the various owners.

The PAP for this project is being finalised and the plans will be presented shortly, with the aim of starting work in 2024.



School and childcare

We had a study carried out after we noticed in the master plan that major improvements had to be made to the childcare facilities and the school in general. The possible development of the number of children attending school in Bissen was taken into account and an analysis was made to check the sustainability of our infrastructure until 2050.

All the measures that Är Leit has initiated or is planning in relation to this subject are aimed at improving and increasing the capacity of our facilities. For example, the planned expansion of the primary school will allow us to expand the care home at the same time. The expansion of the nursery, the construction of a new forest nursery and a new halfway house on the Klengbousbiereg site will contribute to a significant improvement in the situation regarding childcare facilities.

The safety of the pupils will be ensured by the decision to build an extension to the primary school using modular elements. This will provide the classes affected by the work with a safe and quiet space to ensure optimal school conditions. During this work, we also plan to renovate and update the state-of-the-art safety equipment in the school.

In order to respond quickly to the long waiting list in the crèche, we have decided to rent modular and fully adaptable elements, which will allow us to accommodate 50 new places from September behind the old Bissen station.

This way, parents will no longer have to put their children on a waiting list in the hope of getting a place. This is a quick transition situation that will allow us to look more closely at the expansion of the main crèche building.

In order not to block the car park behind the music house with these modular elements, we have made contact with the LFC and agreed a deal that will allow us to use their land behind the car park for an extended period. In addition, we have recently acquired a house close to the site in question, opposite the suspension bridge. This will allow the buildings to be connected directly to the networks via Rue des Moulins, without having to open up the whole road along Rue de la Gare.

This acquisition will also have the advantage of creating a direct pedestrian connection between the suspension bridge, the rue des Moulins and the Maison de la Musique. As regards the construction of our forestry crèche, we are committed to seeing it completed as quickly as possible. However, it will still take some convincing work with the competent authorities to obtain the necessary authorisations and finally start work.

Unfortunately the procedures are long and we cannot progress at the speed we had hoped for, and so precious time that could have been put to good use for our youngest children is lost.

However, we are following this file very closely and are optimistic that the project will be completed. In order to cope with the growing number of children, the kitchen of the centre had to be enlarged and modernised.

This work was completed in the course of 2021, allowing us to save time until the municipal administration moves to new premises. The current town hall will now be able to accommodate a large central kitchen with a catering service. Last September, we started the pilot project "Pedibus" with a first line going back and forth between the Brill estate and the primary school.

This allows children to walk to school in complete safety, guaranteed by accompanying adults. The new pavilions built in the main courtyard of our primary school allow our children to get fresh air during recess without having to worry about getting wet in case of rain, or being protected from the sun and heat in summer.

In this way we have fulfilled a request made by many residents over many years.



Drinking water

Our drinking water is essential to life and the most precious resource we have. In order to ensure the sustainability of our own water in Bissen, Är Leit has taken a number of important decisions.

In 2021, for example, we acquired land at the top of the North Street "Wobierg" in order to build a new drinking water retention station. In addition to being able to accommodate a larger volume of water, this reservoir will be placed higher than the old one, which will allow for a better supply to the houses.

The plans for the construction of the new reservoir have already been approved by the local council and the construction work should start this year once all the permits have been finalised. The realisation of this project is a top priority for us. At the same time, work is needed on our drinking water well next to the Bissen mill.

A new pump will be installed here to increase the volume of water. Är Leit is also planning to install new drinking water channels from our springs to the new water reservoir. At the same time, we will continue to work towards the regulated protection of our springs at the Scheierbach site in order to ensure the quality of our spring water in the future.

Another problem is the high water hardness in Bissen. New techniques are available to reduce the limescale content of the water at the source. If it turns out that these techniques are applicable to our municipality, we will make sure that they are installed.

Flooding

Heavy rainfall is a recent meteorological phenomenon in our regions which we have to deal with and to which we have already reacted. We have called in a research company with a great deal of experience in this area to analyse our municipality, identify the danger points and propose measures to improve water flow in the event of heavy rainfall in order to minimise the impact on homes as much as possible.

Thus, in 2021, analyses of the risk areas have been listed at the level of springs and inflow areas. Indeed, these areas are the first to be saturated during heavy rainfall. A catalogue of measures has been drawn up.

This can be implemented progressively. Once all the measures have been implemented, valuable time can be saved during heavy rainfall to ensure a controlled flow of water into the valley. The current status of these measures can be viewed at any time at www.hwbissen.lu. A long-standing specific measure to combat the surge of rainwater has been implemented in Rue des Forges. Also, in the Rue des Moulins, we have laid a drain pipe directly to the Attert.

This will prevent the formation of blockages as was the case with the bends in the pipes and will therefore prevent the street and the cellars from being flooded as much as possible. In order to ensure that these measures do not remain an isolated case and that they also have an effect on the Attert in the event of potential flooding, we have presented our project to the neighbouring municipalities.

Environment and energy

SIDEC's new waste management concept has contributed to a significant reduction in the amount of household waste produced. At the same time, organic waste, glass and paper have increased according to statistics. People are therefore more actively involved in waste separation. We are committed to the nature pact and reached the 40% mark in the first audit. Further efforts will be made in the field of ecology, in collaboration with a nature pact advisor within SICONA. From 2017 to 2019, no efforts were made regarding the climate pact.

This could not continue. As soon as the new majority in the municipality was in place at the end of 2019, we reviewed the climate pact chapter by chapter, with the result that during the audit organised last August within the framework of climate pact 2.0, our municipality only just missed the 3rd grade of the certification level.

In order to achieve this goal, we have requested a new audit in the spring of this year, in which we should far exceed the targets required for the 3rd grade, which will allow us to increase the financial allocations received from the state. From January 2020, we have introduced a whole range of subsidies that our residents can take advantage of, for example, when buying a new bike or an electric bike.

Most recently, we have added a subsidy for the installation of photovoltaic panels retroactively from 1 January 2022, when energy prices started to rise sharply. Further information on this subject is available on the municipal website.

Recently, the local council took the decision to change the lights on the football pitches to more environmentally friendly LED lighting. In addition, there are some relatively dark areas on the football pitch with the old lights, which should be solved with the planned installations.

The costs for this work will be spread over 2023 and 2024. The municipality has signed the "Green Charta" with the various local associations, in which we all commit ourselves to organising eco-responsible events by using local products and minimising waste production, in particular by avoiding plastic and single-use materials.



Culture

The renovation of the railway station and its conversion into a music centre was successfully completed. Our municipal brass band "Biisser Musek" now has a brand new rehearsal hall. The Conservatoire de Musique du Nord also holds early music and music theory classes here, and we are currently negotiating with the Conservatoire to be able to hold instrumental classes in the rooms specially designed for this purpose. These special rooms are also available to residents, so that they can come and practice with their instruments without disturbing other residents of the neighbouring buildings.

As far as our church is concerned, studies have been carried out and an overall concept still needs to be agreed. Indeed, the renovation of the church is not limited to a simple paint job. On the contrary, safety measures must be taken, especially with regard to the rood screen, which must be reinforced. Our century-old organ needs to be renovated and the precious wall paintings by the artist Bechius need to be restored.

Also, the outdated electrical system needs to be rebuilt and fire protection measures implemented. On the outside of the church, the main staircase, railings and toilets need to be renovated. This can be done after some property issues have been resolved. In 2022, we have also undertaken the renovation of all the paths in the cemetery. The municipality of Bissen needs a modern cultural and conference centre.

The first stage of this project was initiated by Är Leit, integrating this centre directly into the new site of the immigration square. We will continue to work on this magnificent project. It is important to note that this is a centre that will be designed specifically for cultural events or large meetings such as conferences.

This project must not be deviated from its main mission and end up as an event and party hall. This would devalue the place and its main function, which is the representation of culture, which would itself be devalued. In 2020, Är Leit purchased a mobile stage. This acquisition was approved by all except the opposition. This stage is a significant added value for all our events.

We are much more flexible and independent of rental companies. Moreover, the demand and prices for these mobile stages exploded after the pandemic, which confirms that we were able to anticipate and make the right decision at the right time. In addition to the long-established BisArt in the cultural community of Bissen, we have introduced a new cultural event called BisScene.

The aim of this event is to offer young groups of artists the opportunity to perform on stage, thus giving the inhabitants the chance to discover new musical genres in a warm setting on the evening of the first Saturday in July.

As far as the preservation of old buildings is concerned, we are on the same wavelength as the Sites and Monuments Organisation and try to preserve historically valuable buildings as much as possible or integrate them into new buildings. Although we are aware that it is not possible to preserve everything as a whole in a progressive way, we want to leave a visible trace of the past for future generations.



Associations and events

The everyday life of local associations was severely tested during the Covid-19 pandemic. It was very important for the municipality to support and intervene here so that social life could survive in Bissen by organising events, regardless of the restrictions in force.

This has kept our village alive and gradually brought people back into contact with each other.

For the associations, we also covered all the costs of setting up the Covidcheck and gave them the opportunity to organise food and drink stands at various events:

Biisser Rally, TerraBis, BisScene, Mobility Week, etc.

This allowed them to replenish their coffers and overcome the crisis. At all times, we have stood by our associations, which are so important to the life of our village. During the pandemic, we also supported local businesses by distributing vouchers to residents and motivating them to buy products from local shops.

Sports and leisure

The refurbishment and renovation of the guard house at the railway has been completed. The construction of the Cyclo Croc is in its final phase and the first customers will be able to move in at the end of April - beginning of May. After the outdoor fitness area in the large barbecue area at the top of the rue de la Chapelle, a new fitness facility has been built in the new sports complex. Anyone wishing to exercise outdoors is free to use the equipment provided.

The sports complex has been adapted. A screen in the entrance is intended to help users to be better guided. The outdoor audio system for the football pitches and in the stands has been revised and better adjusted.

The changing rooms will be equipped with new height-adjustable hair dryers. The furniture in the FC Atert changing room has been renovated and the Club now has a shelter to sell tickets in a dry and windproof place. The Tennis Club now has sails to protect them from the rain and sun, giving them a shaded area outside.

Inside the sports hall, the old display panels will be replaced by new LED panels that will allow for a more flexible display of sponsors according to the sports events taking place there.

This multifunctional screen can be used for sports events as well as for viewing films, for example. Är Leit also voted in favour of the acquisition of a more modern outdoor screen for football, making the venue, which is increasingly used for international matches, even more attractive.

Traffic and infrastructure

One of the biggest projects that has affected our residents recently is the laying of a new water drainage channel from the "an der Bléi" housing estate to the lower part of the village. This work was finally completed at the end of 2021. All the infrastructure work on this new housing estate has now been completed. Another project, currently underway, is the redevelopment of the Roost road. This should be completed during 2024.

As far as the Klengbousbiérg and Roost business park are concerned, the council of aldermen is currently working on a concept for better mobility management. In the summer of 2021, all businesses on the site were contacted with the aim of gaining a better understanding of where the majority of traffic comes from and at what times. In this way, we studied which companies were managing the flow of vehicles well and which could still be improved.

Once these studies are completed, we will be able to establish a general concept for improving the management of traffic flow in this area. In addition, we have managed to convince the Ministry of Economic Affairs to support us financially in the realisation of this project. In general, as soon as the new aldermanic council took office at the end of 2019, the traffic regulations were reviewed and reworked.

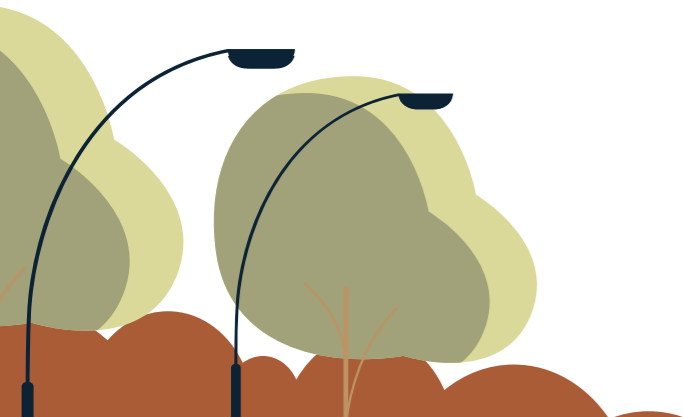
The municipal officer that we hired in 2021, allowed us to further improve these regulations.

New markings and signs are planned. The orders have been placed and the necessary modifications are being implemented. At the red light at the junction between Route de Boevange and Grand-Rue, bicycles stopped at the light were not detected by the system. The installation of new infra-red detectors has enabled cyclists to be recognised and thus to benefit from a green light without having to wait for a car to pull up behind them. New bus stops have been put into operation in the Klengbousbiérg area and a pedestrian path has been laid out.

In general, we worked hard to ensure that our community would have better access to the Mersch train station when the public transport system was reorganised. The results show that our perseverance has paid off. The Mobility Commission has set up a pedestrian orientation system in the municipality.

This project was recently implemented. Signs in the village make it easier to find important places in the community and thus encourage people to walk more. In order to reduce the speed of vehicles entering the village, appropriate devices have been installed on the Mersch road at the entrance to the village and at the entrance to the rue de Reckange.

In the "Am Brill" housing estate and in the Rue des Jardins, the passage of vehicles has been reduced by chicanes, thus forcing vehicles to reduce their speed significantly in these areas. A similar project is planned for Reckange Street.



Youth and senior citizens

During the pandemic, our young people in the youth centre showed great solidarity with the older residents by going shopping for them. We also managed to hire a third youth leader in the youth centre, so that we can better support them and help them overcome their difficulties.

The youth centre has been completely repainted, both inside and out. Soon, our young residents will be able to use a small music studio, where they can express their creativity and produce their own music.

Integration and solidarity

In Bissen, everyone is welcome regardless of their origin, skin colour, sexual orientation or religious belief.

Everyone is accepted as they are, without fear of discrimination. We stand in solidarity with the Ukrainian people and have readily provided accommodation for migrants who have come to us for safety from the war in their country.

We have organised charity events and the proceeds have been used to buy an ambulance for Ukraine. During a solidarity collection with the municipalities of Colmar-Berg and Mertzig, a large number of people were very generous. Never before has the local council given so much support to the associations as it did recently.



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Version FR, PT, EN

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Tornámo-nos amigos do ambiente ao não imprimirmos cópias extra da nossa brochura retrospectiva. Basta digitalizar o código QR para aceder à versão online em português. Esperamos contribuir para a protecção do nosso planeta ao mesmo tempo que oferecemos uma agradável experiência de leitura em várias línguas.

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