

Evaluating the Framework for Public Engagement in Climate Adaptation in Groningen, the Netherlands

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Gardencomplex Vinkhuizen (Photo by Valentin Wittig)

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Summary

This study aims to contribute to research on the nature of public engagement in local adaptation policies and community practices by providing insights into how neighborhood residents can be involved by governments in creating climate-proof urban spaces. With the help of an in-depth case study approach, the possibilities for citizens to have an impact on public spaces in the neighborhood were explored as part of the climate adaptation strategy of Groningen, the Netherlands. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with policy-makers as well as community representatives to identify both perspectives on the issue. The central research question is: In what ways are citizens and communities involved in the implementation of climate adaptation measures? Public engagement is analyzed by categorizing interactions between the municipality and residents as communication, consultation or participation. In addition, Arnstein's ladder (1969) serves as a framework to determine genuine participation. Results show that there are a number of projects from the municipality to involve citizens such as subsidies for green roofs, a 'taxi' picking up removed tiles and the climate ambassador position. Residents report good communication with the municipality, enough possibilities to get involved and feel encouraged to take the lead. Compared with insights from community centers in Berlin, public engagement in Groningen can be described as strong. However, the government is still the main facilitator as it has the knowledge advantage over residents concerning regulations and area-specific conditions. Neighborhood associations spread awareness among residents and start to develop citizen power when they have independent funding systems.

1. Introduction

Only climate mitigation such as the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions will not be sufficient to deal with the effects of climate change because some impacts are already felt and others certain to appear in the near future as numerous IPCC reports show. Cities are going to experience heavy impacts such as increasing urban heat and intense rainfall that sewerage systems cannot cope with (Stone, 2012). Hence, adaptation is necessary and includes changes in infrastructure, behavior and our relationship with the environment (Adger et al., 2009a).

Governments of urbanized areas will have to come up with strategies that recognise the chance to involve citizens to reach their goals. Top-down implementation of measures will have to be supplemented by individual and community action to enhance the effectiveness of adaptation efforts. As urban areas contribute the most to climate change they will also be at the forefront of dealing with its effects; hence the significance of local knowledge and leadership should not be underestimated (Schurig, 2021). The transition to more sustainable practices is inherently a social issue, therefore public engagement is deeply connected with it (Revez et al., 2022). Moreover, public engagement in adaptation planning increases the overall capacity to deal with the risks of climate change, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2018).

Hügel et al. (2020) conducted a systematic literature review to determine the state of global research on the connection between climate adaptation and public engagement. This revealed the nature of public engagement in local adaptation policies and community practices as one of the gaps because most adaptation planning has been taking place on the regional to national scale. In addition, it is rarely described how public engagement should be designed according to a particular context and how its success should be evaluated. Hence, this research particularly attempts to fill the first gap by analyzing the framework for public engagement in the climate adaptation strategy of Groningen, the Netherlands. For further insight, a comparative approach is adopted by exploring residents' possibilities in adaptation in the context of Berlin, Germany.

This research aims to evaluate the process of public engagement at the neighborhood level in Groningen's climate adaptation strategy. Moreover, it is concerned with how communities are encouraged and given room to implement measures according to local needs and knowledge. Hence, the participative process to implement measures is the focus rather than the type of measures. The process includes how and when contact with citizens is established and how neighborhood communities can approach the municipality with their ideas. The main research question addressed is:

- In what ways are citizens and communities involved in the implementation of climate adaptation measures?

The following sub-questions will be addressed:

- How do policy-makers make use of public engagement as part of Groningen's climate adaptation strategy? (SQ1)
- How have communities in Groningen experienced the process of public engagement during the implementation of adaptation projects? (SQ2)

- What are possible lessons from the public engagement process during adaptation projects in Berlin? (SQ3)

After a discussion of the literature and theory, the most relevant of which is visualized in the conceptual model, the methods of data collection and the operationalisation of concepts are described. The results are split into a description of the adaptation strategy of Groningen, the perspective of policy-makers and residents and lastly some lessons from Berlin, followed by a discussion and conclusion. Hence, the detailed case study of Groningen is the focus while results from Berlin serve as further inspiration. The aim is not to make universal statements about how citizen participation should be structured but rather to gain deep insight into the planning of climate adaptation efforts. Determining successful policies through a case study approach can inspire further discussion and better policy-making.

2. Public engagement in adaptation planning

First, what is public engagement? In general, it is when members of the public take part in decision- and policy-making activities of institutions (Rowe and Frewer, 2005) with the underlying motivation to produce better policies and decisions. These are assumed to be more efficient and politically legitimate as a variety of opinions are taken into account (Burton and Mustelin, 2012). Even though it is time-intensive and demanding, debate between public and governmental actors leads to more robust decisions (Hügel et al., 2020). Ideas of empowerment, representation and the use of local knowledge play a role but are also context-dependent. Public engagement describes different forms of interaction with citizens such as the exchange of information in a dialogue that forms the basis for the execution of solutions. Hence, it also stands for the 'degree of control over decision-making' (Hügel et al., 2020). Participation, however, is more than communication as it requires flow of information in both directions. Adding communication and consultation, there are three types of public engagement based on Rowe and Frewer, (2005; Figure 1). Perhaps the most influential theory in this field is Arnstein's 'Ladder of Citizen Participation', first published in 1969. Eight levels describe varying degrees of citizen engagement, starting with nonparticipation, tokenism taking the middle rungs and citizen power describing situations when citizens are genuinely able to participate in planning and decision-making (Arnstein, 2019). The distinction of the different levels helps to assess public engagement in the Groningen case.

Climate change is a wicked problem from a planning perspective and as such difficult to govern due to its high complexity and uncertainty in terms of stakeholders and solutions. Risk assessment, perception and communication have predominantly featured in literature while processes of citizen participation, the approach arguably more suitable for wicked issues, have been insufficiently described (Hügel et al., 2020; Burton and Nalau, 2013). Academics agree that public engagement is necessary to make climate adaptation more efficient. The biggest actors in adaptation planning are still governments, which develop strategies on a national or regional scale, with the local only starting to emerge (Hügel et al., 2020). Activities in climate adaptation

are closely related to this local scale because they are 'based on contextual knowledge' of vulnerabilities and impacts, as Adger et al. find (2009). Instead of mobilizing this knowledge to turn it into action, governmental institutions have focused only on communication and persuasion (Johnson et al., 2012). This could be a reason why 'formal participation by unorganized publics around climate adaptation remains limited' (Hügel et al., 2020). The concept of transition management describes a participative approach in which residents' local knowledge is considered as an asset important to build resilience. Institutions should be flexible enough to incorporate citizen knowledge in such a way that residents are recognised as experts concerning climate risks and building resilience (Frantzeskaki, 2022). This research aims to determine the degree of citizen participation in Groningen's climate adaptation strategy.

3. Concepts of public engagement: from tokenism to citizen power

As stated before, this research evaluates the possibilities for citizen participation in the climate adaptation strategy of Groningen, developed in 2020 for the time frame until 2024 (Gemeente Groningen, 2020). Public engagement will be defined very broadly, consisting of

- Communication - the transfer of information from government to citizen,
- Consultation - the transfer of information from citizen to government and
- Participation - the active exchange of information through dialogue.

The latter has the strongest influence on decision-making. The relative ease and success of the three parts depend on the institutional design: the possibilities to get involved and the ways to contact the authorities have to be clear from the citizen's perspective. Communication can be connected to the rung of 'informing' in Arnstein's ladder as the first degree of 'tokenism', where information is transferred to the citizen without the possibility for feedback. In climate adaptation, this would encompass websites or flyers that offer facts about possible measures. Consultation (also tokenism) includes surveys through which citizens can react to questions from the municipality and convey their knowledge and practices of adaptation. Only at the next level, however, participation becomes an explicitly collaborative process: citizens can be represented in neighborhood councils, with decision-making power equally divided between citizens and the municipality or citizens even taking the lead (citizen power; Figure 1). All these manifestations of public engagement can be detected through the experiences of residents.

As stated in Groningen's climate adaptation strategy, the municipality can take up certain roles: promotion, collaboration and facilitation have relevant connections to public engagement (Kennisportaal Klimaatadaptatie, 2022). Promotion plays out on the level of communication, collaboration means dialogue will be established with other parties while facilitation includes support for societal initiatives. The main actors representing the residents are often the neighborhood associations (e.g. wijkcomités), which support citizen initiatives and also act as a communication channel to the municipality.

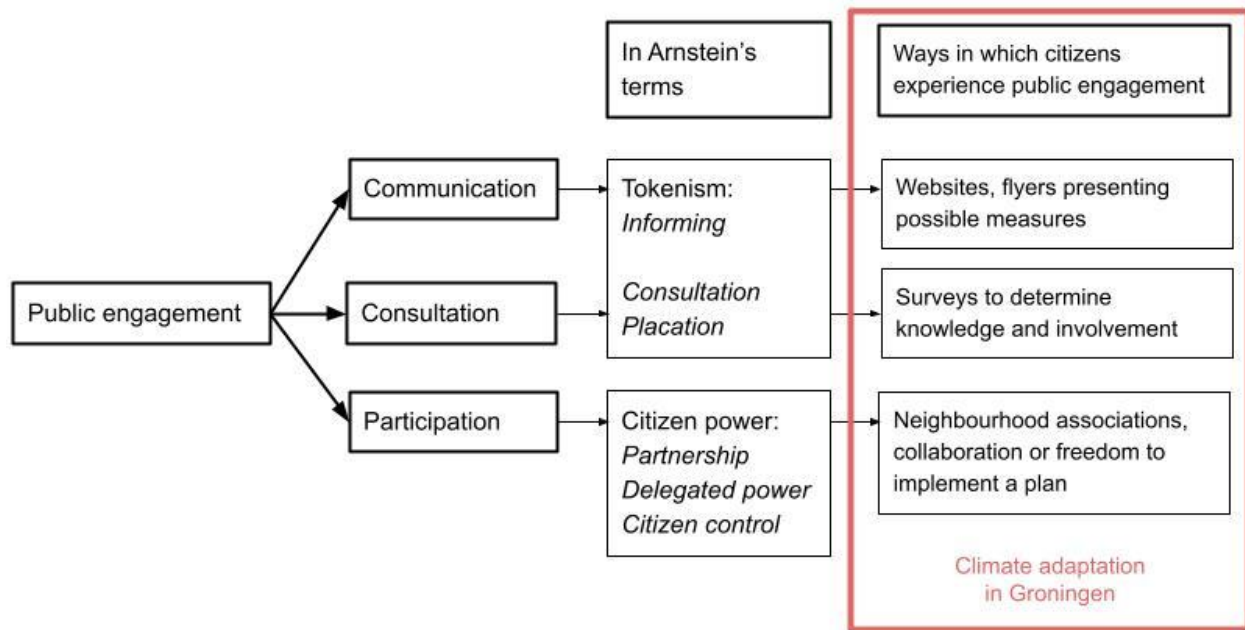


Figure 1: Conceptual model showing the elements of public engagement.

Based on the literature, the following expectations were formulated. The biggest actor in climate adaptation is the municipal government, with bottom-up initiatives resulting from active public engagement playing a minor role. Authorities might focus strongly on communicating and informing instead of giving communities representation and the freedom to implement measures. This includes actions by the municipality to promote measures such as the installation of a green roof with the help of a municipal grant. Situations in which larger neighborhood initiatives are collaboratively discussed by citizens and municipality representatives might be less frequent. Reasons for this could be a lack of flexibility of the institutional design and that local knowledge is not seen as an asset.

4. Method

4.1 Data collection

Data was collected using semi-structured interviews as well as surveys (mixed methods), the latter playing a minor role (Table 1). Interviews were chosen as the preferred data collection tool as they facilitate the goal of gaining a deep understanding of the structure of the public engagement framework, while being flexible on the respondent's side (Clifford et al., 2016). Other methods would not be able to sufficiently capture the descriptions of the public engagement process, both from the municipal and the resident's point of view.

Even though the insights from Berlin only take up a small part of this research, it is important to explain the context and significance of this approach. Fieldwork in Berlin took place

as part of an Erasmus-funded project (Sustainable Transformation of Urban Regions in Europe - STOURIE), involving students from four different European universities. The advantage of the comparative aspect lies in its effectiveness for providing insights into how contrasting planning cultures influence spatial outcomes. In general, case-study research makes it possible to gain a deeper understanding of a situation (Flyvbjerg, 2006).

1. Interviews with representatives of Groningen municipality (SQ1, SQ2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions about the framework for public engagement
2. Interviews with Groningen community representatives (SQ1, SQ2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions about experiences during public engagement process
3. Interviews with Berlin community center representatives (SQ3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions about possibilities for public engagement
4. Survey distributed to residents of Berlin neighborhoods (SQ3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions about adaptation efforts in relation to community center

Table 1: Data collection process

Document analysis was done to prepare the interviews with two representatives of the municipality of Groningen in the department of spatial policy and design (ruimtelijk beleid en ontwerp), who are experts of the climate adaptation strategy and therefore able to describe the ideas behind the public engagement framework (purposeful sampling). During interviews, respondents were asked to refer to individuals involved in community action related to adaptation. Hence, the selection of respondents can be partly described as snowball sampling, with one interviewee leading to the next.

Interviews were conducted with four community representatives of different neighborhoods, where initiatives (e.g. an integrated plan initiated by citizens) are implemented in a collaborative process with the municipality. In Berlin, the aim to explore public engagement in adaptation was framed more broadly as part of the various roles that community centers in neighborhoods can play in enhancing sustainability (contributors Merel Flap and Rafael Rössl). Two representatives of such community centers in two different neighborhoods were interviewed. Surveys were distributed in the neighborhoods that the community centers are located in to learn about the residents' participation in initiatives and their perspective on the role of the community center in facilitating these projects.

Hence, eight semi-structured interviews were conducted in total (around 10 questions, 30 minutes each; Table 2). Respondents were reassured that their participation is voluntary at all times. Information provided by respondents was treated confidentially and anonymously in recordings and transcriptions. Participants receive a copy of this paper.

Respondent	Government/civil society	Position
1.	Policy-maker at municipality of Groningen	Project leader adaptation strategy
2.	Member of neighborhood association, resident	Chairman of working group Duurzaam Helpman of Wijkcomité Helpman (neighborhood association)
3.	Policy-maker at municipality of Groningen	Coordinator Operatie Steenbreek
4.	Member of neighborhood association, resident	Member of working group Groenste Buurt, former chairman of Wijkcomité Noorderplantsoen
5.	Member of neighborhood association, resident	Neighborhood climate ambassador Vinkhuizen
6.	Resident	Initiator of green square in Hoornse Meer neighborhood
7.	Community center representative	Project leader community center Gropiusstadt, Berlin-Neukölln
8.	Community center representative	Neighborhood coordinator Alexanderplatz Berlin-Mitte (at community center Kreativhaus)

Table 2: Respondent characterisation

4.2 Data analysis

Data obtained in the form of interview transcripts was analyzed with the use of codes according to the operationalisation of the three main concepts communication, consultation and participation (Figure 2). The codes are based on examples of measures taken by the municipality of Groningen as well as academic literature describing the levels of engagement and what they entail, particularly in the field of climate adaptation. Hence, deductive (and descriptive) coding was done in order to relate participants' responses back to the theory of public engagement, such as Arnstein's ladder. In addition, analytical codes were added inductively during data analysis. The more codes from the 'participation' section, the more likely that citizens have genuine influence and appreciate their options in the public engagement process. Codes give an insight into the different parts of the framework on the government side and help to categorize citizen's experiences during the process. Surveys were not used as the basis for statistical tests but analyzed generically to obtain percentages of residents active or interested in adaptation.

Reflecting on the quality of the data collected, a clear link can be drawn between the data and the questions this paper aimed to answer. However, a problem encountered during interviews was the mixing up of concepts like mitigation and adaptation by respondents, which reduces the strength of some statements within the scope of this study but also shows that adaptation is just one of many sustainability aspects that respondents find important.

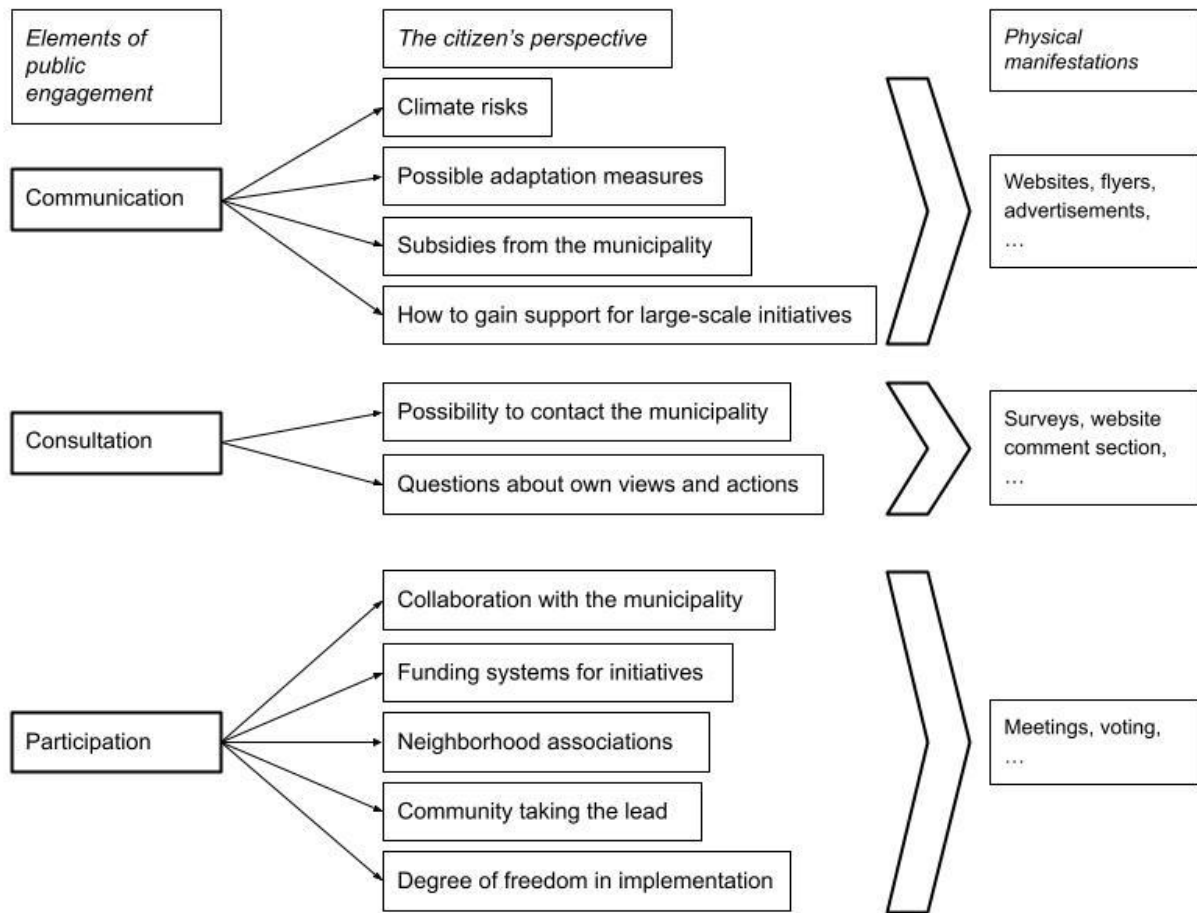


Figure 2: Operationalisation of concepts

5. Results

5.1 Groningen's strategy to adapt to climate change

Before moving specifically to the public engagement element in Groningen's climate adaptation strategy, it is essential to establish the structure of the municipality's approach. From the 6 interviews conducted, a relatively clear image of the strategy can be derived. Three pillars can be distinguished: prioritizing the most urgent effects of climate change using risk profiles, making the municipality's public spaces climate adaptive by 2050 and increasing awareness of private actors to foster activity in private space. Two main ways of interacting with civil society were mentioned by one of the policy-makers: stimulating and facilitating. Stimulating refers to inspiring change in private space through subsidies for green roofs and services like removing tiles (e.g. 'tegeltaxi'). In public space, neighborhood-based activities are facilitated, either paid fully by the municipality or financed together with residents. These activities are coordinated by one person at the municipality, under the umbrella of Operation Steenbreek, an initiative active across the Netherlands. This person connects all the neighborhood climate ambassadors,

different government institutions and companies to each other. Policy-makers hope to inspire changes in private space such as gardens through changes in public space.

Communication

The strategy can be described according to the conceptual model presented previously. Regarding communication, there are of course different websites, among them steenbreek.nl, klimaatadaptatiegroningen.nl and groningenklimaatbestendig.nl. In addition, the municipality organizes neighborhood evenings when major changes are made to the public space (i.e. streets, squares, subsoil) to use the opportunity to inform residents about climate risks and how to reduce them. The neighborhood associations - present in all neighborhoods - are the first contact point for the municipality.

Consultation

When it comes to consultation, the municipality conducts surveys to ask about citizens' views and activities in adaptation: the last one was done in 2019, the next one is planned for 2024. Furthermore, surveys are distributed multiple times a year in different neighborhoods, covering a broader range of topics relating to residents' satisfaction with the neighborhood.

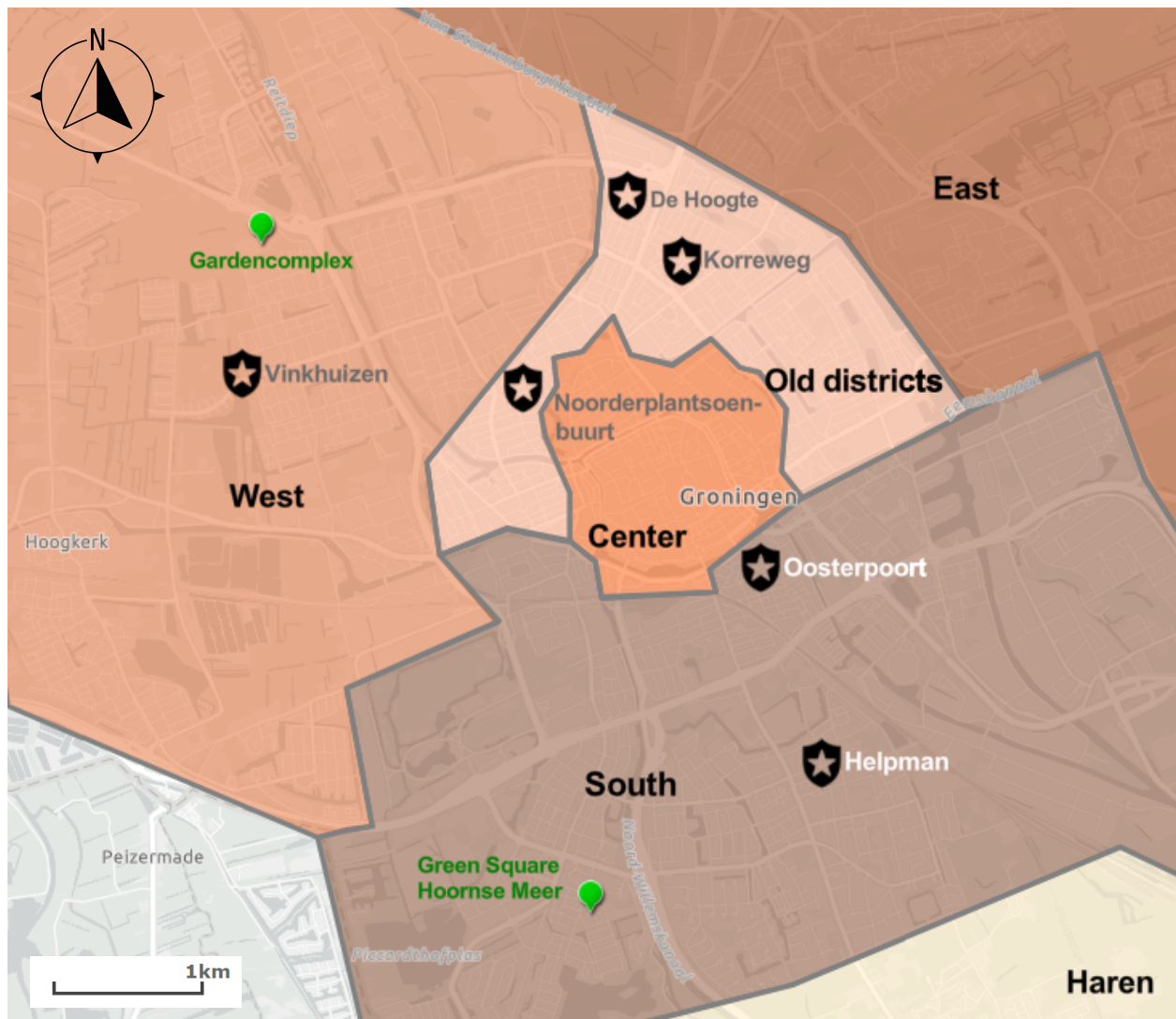
Participation

The main institutions that enable residents to actively influence the development of public space are the neighborhood associations (the decision-making body can be a 'wijkraad' or a 'wijkcomité'). A new position called 'neighborhood climate ambassador', of which there are six in the central districts of Groningen (Figure 3) was launched as a pilot project. This position is filled by an individual or group and receives 1500 Euros to get initiatives of neighbors started. Generally, the first identity that residents should contact at the municipality are the neighborhood teams ('gebiedsteams'; Figure 3).

Current developments

There are a number of additional aspects that characterize the municipality's strategy. For instance, the sewage tax partly finances adaptation measures related to water storage, however, financing greening measures is still difficult as there is no tax directly connected with it. In addition, one of the goals is to increase areas for infiltration not only to reduce flood risks but also to decrease the costs of operating sewers by lowering the volume that has to be transported. The municipality aims to conduct an analysis of the social composition in neighborhoods in order to be able to apply the right audience-specific instruments and participative approaches. There is an ongoing shift of focus towards the less wealthy and less educated neighborhoods, where many are not aware of climate risks and vulnerability to heat stress is high among the elderly. Every year, the municipality focuses their efforts specifically on one neighborhood: this year it is Vinkhuizen. Furthermore, the municipality introduced neighborhood monitoring to make data more accessible as well as a 'green mayor', who coordinates all sustainable activities. Integration of all sustainability aspects such as greening and energy provision is important to the municipality, culminating in the launch of a new website called 'duurzaam Groningen' (sustainable

Groningen). Hence, the municipal adaptation strategy is extensive and seems to recognize the importance of collaborating with residents.



Kadaster, Esri, HERE, Garmin, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS | Kadaster, Esri, HERE, Garmin, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS

Figure 3: The map shows the areas that the neighborhood teams are active in (West, South, East, old neighborhoods and center), the neighborhoods that currently have a climate ambassador (marked with a star) as well as the locations of two large-scale adaptation projects: the Gardencomplex Vinkhuizen and the green square in Hoornse Meer (Gemeente Groningen, 2022).

5.2 The municipality's perspective on public engagement in adaptation

Though there is the possibility of bias in this point of view, it is clear that policy-makers responsible for climate adaptation at the municipality of Groningen make use of public engagement in various ways. Two policy-makers were interviewed, one being the project leader of the adaptation strategy, the other being in direct contact with communities (Table 3 shows a summary of findings per respondent).

Communication

Regarding communication, as one would expect, most information channels are online. However, neighborhood associations are also used by the municipality to convey their information. Local newspapers often play a role in that case. One of the municipality representatives stressed that interventions in a neighborhood need to be well explained to stimulate residents by taking them along during implementation and 'selling' it as a transition towards a better living space. Instead of stressing how important adaptation is, the focus is on practical activities during which residents experience first-hand what can be done:

'If I go there and say we need to do something about climate adaptation, I will plant trees, come and have a look, how we do it, then they are stimulated.'

- Respondent 3, coordinator Steenbreek at the municipality

Consultation

Consultation often takes place in the form of surveys, however, these take time and are expensive. On top of that, results have to be actively used otherwise residents will be disappointed. In other cases, residents send in vague descriptions of ideas, hence it is more efficient to focus on the 18% that want to be active (Respondent 3, 2022). In general, policy-makers agree that residents have many possibilities to voice their opinion: establishing direct contact with the municipality is possible. For instance, the coordinator of the Steenbreek initiative identifies places to green in a certain neighborhood and then gets in touch with residents to determine the uses, problems and desires connected to this location.

Participation

Communities are encouraged to actively participate and take the lead when they have ideas in order for the municipality to take a step back. However, in many cases the latter knows more about the subsurface or planned maintenance so it is natural for them to take the lead. The goal of the local government is to find the people within a neighborhood that want to be active in adaptation, which can be very time- and money-intensive. This element - focusing on climate-aware residents - was mentioned by both policy-makers:

'Every neighborhood has its own agenda and they're mostly volunteers. So they have to have their own motivation to do stuff. If there is none, it ends but if you really want something as a municipality, you have to dig deeper into the neighborhoods to find those people that have it.'

- Respondent 1, project leader adaptation strategy

Ultimately, a network of residents is formed, enabling knowledge exchange between them. The municipality organizes walks with residents, for instance to identify heat islands. This spreads awareness and helps locate places where change is needed. Neighborhood associations can also help to identify these places. Importantly, the municipality has to tell residents early what is possible at these locations to reduce the risk of frustration. Once residents have an idea for a project, they can ask the municipality to implement it; residents will only have to maintain it once finished. Whether this can be termed real participation is a valid question as what is done in the end is still largely influenced by the municipality's requirements. Furthermore, financing schemes

play a significant role in moving towards participation: neighborhood associations do come up with innovative ways to be financially independent. For the municipality, the public engagement process is also one of trial and error, some methods work while others do not. For instance, another idea is a website where residents can add their ideas for the neighborhood.

Barriers & opportunities

One of the barriers mentioned is that awareness of mitigation is still often higher than of adaptation. Furthermore, residents often do not know what is possible without contacting the municipality, which has the advantage of knowing about all rules and regulations (e.g. greening a protected facade is not possible). On the other hand, the risk that people prefer paved areas due to their inability to maintain green (because of mobility issues or too little time) can be reduced by making gardening a social, collective undertaking, where neighbors care for each other’s plants. Both respondents mentioned combining scheduled maintenance of streets or construction works with the opportunity to implement adaptation measures. This integrated neighborhood approach also requires collaboration between governmental bodies and firms such as the sewage company. Hence, policy-makers involve the public differently according to the situation, at times more actively, occasionally rather passively to achieve the adaptation goals faster.

<p>1. Policy-maker</p>	<p><i>Strategy</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Municipality often knows more about subsurface, scheduled maintenance, rules and regulations so they take the lead ● Focus on finding residents willing to be active in adaptation <p><i>Barriers & opportunities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Combining maintenance of streets with adaptation measures (integrated approach) <p><i>Participation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Communities encouraged to take the lead
<p>2. Member of neighborhood association</p>	<p><i>Communication</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Associations have own information channels and topics of interest <p><i>Consultation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clear who to contact at the municipality when in need of knowledge or funding <p><i>Participation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collaboration between neighborhood association and municipality on renovations ● Walks through the neighborhood to identify locations to change ● Association sees itself as facilitator but does not take the first steps ● Climate ambassador position puts adaptation closer to residents

	<p><i>Barriers & opportunities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Possibilities of residents to get involved are sufficient but awareness is lacking
3. Policy-maker	<p><i>Strategy</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Focus on 18% that want to be active ● Better living environment used as argument to stimulate residents <p><i>Communication</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Direct contact with municipality possible in various ways <p><i>Consultation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Survey results have to be actively used otherwise residents are disappointed <p><i>Participation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Walks with residents to identify places to change ● Group of residents can ask for implementation of an adaptation measure, maintenance is responsibility of residents
4. Member of neighborhood association	<p><i>Participation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Associations have their own funding systems ● Working group and association are process managers: inform, foster knowledge exchange and facilitate initiatives ● Climate ambassador has to be a group <p><i>Barriers & opportunities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● People act on threads and are not convinced by subsidies
5. Member of neighborhood association	<p><i>Participation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coordination of different projects in neighborhood lacking ● Walks through neighborhood to identify places of interest <p><i>Barriers & opportunities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Communities encouraged to take the lead but difficult finding out and agreeing on what is possible ● Raising awareness most important to enhance adaptation
6. Resident	<p><i>Participation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ideas developed at neighbor meetings ● Municipality implemented plan for free, residents chose colors and trees ● For some initiatives, other actors/stakeholders important e.g. housing corporations <p><i>Barriers & opportunities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Motivation to make living environment greener rather than the climate ● Communities can take the lead but many do not know how

Table 3: Main findings during interviews conducted in Groningen

5.3 The residents' perspective on public engagement in adaptation

All community representatives interviewed experienced the public engagement process positively. Three individuals were interviewed, who are members of their respective neighborhood associations, being a part of a working group or acting in a special position (e.g. climate ambassador). One respondent was a resident not associated with a neighborhood association (Table 3 shows a summary of findings per respondent).

Communication

Regarding communication, the neighborhood associations have their own information channels such as newsletters, webinars, links to municipal websites or evenings with experts, which are all connected to the direction the municipality is moving in, in terms of spreading awareness. For one respondent, it was clear that the municipality encourages this because it wants residents to develop knowledge on adaptation themselves. However, some respondents pointed to a lack of visibility of the municipality. Many associations split up into working groups, some devoted to sustainability and greening, again informing and giving advice. For instance, the 'Groenste Buurt' group of the Noorderplantsoenbuurt organized an evening, with a policy-maker from the municipality among the guests invited. Hence, the municipality also takes these opportunities to inform about area-specific risks and possibilities to get involved, stressing that they require citizens to participate actively. The role of climate ambassador, on the other hand, transfers information through promotional work to activate residents, for example by being present in local media.

Consultation

For many respondents, it is clear who to contact at the municipality when in need of knowledge or funding. One interviewee made use of the comment section on a municipal website to ask about starting a project.

Participation

The interviewed communities feel that they are encouraged to take the lead in adaptation, however, finding out what is possible is a difficult process involving different views and claims of usage of the space in question. Residents agree that possibilities to get involved are sufficient. In addition, the climate ambassador position moves adaptation planning closer to residents. Some problems have become apparent with this pilot project, namely that the duration of one year is too short and that the person in this position - just like the municipality - struggles to find people willing to become active. The position is sometimes filled by a group of residents instead of one individual to reduce the workload. As mentioned before, walks are often organized through the neighborhoods to identify locations that require a change, with participants from the local association and the municipality. The neighborhood associations see themselves as facilitators of resident initiatives, hence they do not take the first steps in developing project ideas. One respondent described the role as 'process manager', which should equally apply to municipal employees: providing information and a place for knowledge exchange, and facilitating residents' ideas. A difficulty is the coordination of the many different

projects. In addition, associations collaborate with the municipality on renovations including new adaptation measures: these are opportunities for them to stress the importance of a participative approach.

For residents to have a genuine impact, they have to come up with ways to finance initiatives. Projects include money-saving systems based on rewards for driving slower in the neighborhood, helping to collect funds. Furthermore, membership fees enable associations to create funds and become more independent. There was one situation described by a respondent, in which the municipality would pay the association to hire a project manager but the projects themselves would be financed by the association. In some cases, the municipality takes the ideas of residents to make and implement a plan free of charge to the inhabitants, which reduces the residents' participation to a mere selection of colors and trees (e.g. green square Hoornse Meer). This is a quick way for the municipality to become more climate-adaptive but cannot be described as real participation. In these cases, the neighborhood associations are also not involved. This respondent thought that the authorities had even developed a plan before the group of neighbors came up with the idea for a green square:

'To be honest, we had a lot of ideas, but (...) I think the municipality already had a plan. It looks like we had only something to say about the colors.'

- Respondent 6, initiator of green square Hoornse Meer

Barriers & opportunities

Many opportunities and barriers were mentioned by community representatives. On the positive side, meetings of climate ambassadors inspire action across neighborhoods and there is a general interest in learning about practices in other areas. Involving the older, less busy residents of a neighborhood was mentioned as a way to activate the wider group of inhabitants quickly. The lack of awareness of climate adaptation is still a barrier, also for local associations. In addition, a community might not become active simply because the actor ordering it has no valid authority in their opinion, such as the municipal department. Many residents still do not know how to start an initiative while others find the process complicated, even once the difficult step of agreeing on the details of an idea among residents has been taken. Sometimes the start of a project is based on coincidence: one resident reads the local news, another makes use of the subsidy for small gardens ('geveltuin') and another has the essential knowledge that there is funding for larger initiatives available from the municipality. Respondents mentioned two intrinsic motivations to become active in adaptation: either to make their living environment greener or because of an immediate threat like a flooding event. Subsidies or a genuine interest in the climate are less prominent:

'I don't think people would get more active if you give them money. People are living their lives and acting on threats.'

- Respondent 4, member of working group Groenste Buurt Noorderplantsoen

Hence, citizens seem to experience the public engagement process in adaptation rather positively concerning their possibilities to make their voices heard. The stage of implementation, however, still implies many struggles and barriers.

5.4 Lessons from Berlin

The community centers of Berlin are comparable to the neighborhood associations in Groningen even though they differ in the services they offer and the focal points of their work. In Groningen, associations are places where residents organize themselves in groups to make decisions or facilitate developments whereas Berlin's community centers offer places to meet, learn or work on projects but have a weaker focus on changing public spaces in the neighborhood.

Berlin-Mitte

In Berlin-Mitte, residents are involved in some climate adaptation measures, framed as collective planting activities ('Klimabeete') that also aim to build climate awareness and foster social cohesion, ultimately an effective way of activating residents. The initiator for most of these activities is the neighborhood coordination ('Stadtteilkoordination'), a small panel acting as a bridge between the district government and residents, thereby also supporting their ideas. A barrier mentioned is that there are too many programs and options for subsidies on city level without any integration or coordination, hence citizens might easily lose track of their possibilities. Applications for subsidies related to projects in public space are managed by the neighborhood coordination, enabling residents to receive up to 500 Euros depending on the project. Most programs in the adaptation realm are managed by district governments and their associated institutions, leaving the impression of a top-down nature of adaptation planning in Berlin, where residents are not encouraged to take the lead.

'As neighborhood coordination we have a conversation with the district government every quarter year. In addition, we have more frequent meetings as well as workshops.'

- Respondent 8, neighborhood coordinator Berlin-Mitte

Berlin-Neukölln

By contrast, in Berlin-Neukölln, there are almost no adaptation or even greening initiatives. The respondent agreed that environmental projects can increase social cohesion by bringing different age groups together as younger people can play a significant role in convincing older residents of the need for adaptation. Similar to the neighborhood associations of Groningen, the community center sees itself in a facilitating role where residents take the initiative. Normally, however, the district government makes a plan for an adaptation measure and presents it to the public together with the architects involved, selling it as a public engagement process:

'Then a model is presented at an event in the neighborhood. Of course you can sell that as a public engagement process. But then it seems like the plans are already definite.'

- Respondent 7, project leader community center Berlin-Neukölln

While some residents recognise these events as a possibility to voice their opinion, others get discouraged by their official character. Another actor, perhaps more important than the community center when it comes to public engagement in planning is the ‘Quartiersmanagement’ (neighborhood management). Initiated by the municipality of Berlin, this institution is active in disadvantaged neighborhoods and works in close cooperation with the respective district governments. The main idea is to provide residents with more opportunities to realize projects in order to spur economic development and increase social cohesion. Hence, initiatives can be started with the help of the neighborhood management as they have access to available subsidies. The opportunities for residents to get involved in adaptation are present, but the nature of the participatory framework remains top-down. Residents cannot take the lead in adaptation like they can in Groningen.

Overall, support for and promotion of environmental initiatives by community centers in Berlin takes place through transfer of information about climate risks, residents’ options and available subsidies. However, it is often difficult to activate people outside of the usual active circle. Surveys showed that residents have an interest in sustainability initiatives like repair cafés or adaptation projects. Hence, there must be unknown barriers to participation. Possible reasons can be the fragmentation of responsibilities across districts including subsidy regulations, as well as socioeconomic reasons that can lead to a lack of time for adaptation projects among residents. Adaptation programs and projects are mostly initiated by the district authorities or their related institutions that are closer to the residents (neighborhood coordination or management), leaving little space for citizens to exercise genuine power over the public spaces in their neighborhood. Hence, Groningen could serve as an inspiring case to district governments in Berlin, especially regarding the methods of spreading awareness about climate adaptation.

6. Discussion

What becomes evident is that communities are definitely encouraged to take the lead in adaptation projects in Groningen. The municipality wants citizens to have the knowledge needed to start a project so the city can take a step back and increase capacity for other issues. The possibilities for residents are seen as sufficient: those interested in becoming active have all the opportunities needed (Table 4). In Arnstein’s ‘Ladder of Citizen Participation’ (2019), ‘informing’ means that facts are transferred to the citizen without the possibility for feedback (“tokenism”). The municipality seems to make an effort to provide information in simple terms suitable to specific audiences. Unlike expected and described by Johnson et al. (2012), information transfer from government to citizen and persuasion using grants are not the only way public engagement takes place.

Consultation (Arnstein) invites citizens to react to plans and voice their opinion. This method poses a dilemma for the municipality as it is time-consuming and results of surveys have to be used to prevent dissatisfaction. Instead, efficiency is increased by consulting already active residents. This proactive approach towards getting in touch with residents could be a reason why communication with the municipality is portrayed so positively by respondents.

Community representatives interviewed feel they are in control of at least launching the start of a project. This relates to the rung of ‘placation’: citizens have an influence on plans but the authorities have nearly all the decision-making power. An example is the allocation of a plan to a community’s idea, asking residents only to decide on preferred colors or plants. Hence, projects are sometimes only seemingly bottom-up as the implementation is essentially executed by the municipality.

Collaborative undertakings of government and community representatives happen more frequently than expected. ‘Partnership’, as the first rung of citizen power and arguably of genuine participation, implies that decision-making power is shared between citizens and the municipality. In order to increase their influence, communities require financial resources to pay their representatives as well as the trained professionals needed to realize plans. The Noorderplantsoenbuurt is an example where this is the case but many other neighborhoods do not have these resources.

At the rung of ‘delegated power’, citizens even take the lead. Funding is normally of a joint nature between municipality and communities, however, well-functioning funding systems enable neighborhood associations to be more independent. The ladder is topped by ‘citizen control’, meaning associations make and implement their own plans without any consultation with the authorities. In the realm of adaptation planning in Groningen, this does not happen. Arguably, a certain degree of cooperation with the municipality also leads to better outcomes.

Respondent	Positive public engagement process	Residents encouraged to take the lead	Residents have enough possibilities to get involved
1.	Yes	Yes	Yes
2.	Yes	Yes	Yes
3.	Yes	Yes	Yes
4.	Yes	Yes	-
5.	Yes	Yes but difficult to reach agreement	Yes
6.	Yes	Yes but many do not know how	Yes

Table 4: Main indicators for strong public engagement in Groningen

Hence, implementation of projects is often performed by the municipality as they have more knowledge than residents on area-specific conditions such as regulations or the subsoil. Local residents are not seen as experts on their neighborhood regarding opportunities for adaptation as Frantzeskaki advocates (2022), instead local knowledge becomes a prerequisite to determine what citizens desire. The institutional design is becoming more flexible, encouraging

bottom-up initiatives, however, the government is still the largest actor and facilitator in adaptation planning as Hügél et al. (2020) also found.

7. Conclusions

The gap of the nature of public engagement in local adaptation policies and community practices was filled in this paper using an in-depth case study that further research and practice can draw from. Public engagement is context-dependent but the results of this paper can inspire actions by communities and local governments in any setting, in a process of trial and error. Changes in the institutional design such as special positions on neighborhood level (e.g. climate ambassador) and strategies of neighborhood associations to activate their audience are also relevant outside of the topic of adaptation.

It should be pointed out that the positive image portrayed by respondents about public engagement in Groningen might not accurately describe the actual situation as the number of six respondents is quite low and one can assume that some residents have had a more negative experience. The reason for this positive view lies in the fact that most interviewees were part of an organization and do not know about the struggles of the individual resident. If the study was repeated, primarily residents that are not part of a local neighborhood association should be interviewed in order to describe the citizen's perspective accurately. In addition, findings from Berlin have limited comparability to Groningen due to the difference in population size and density, which arguably has an impact on the structure of the public engagement framework.

This paper aimed to answer the question: In what ways are citizens and communities involved in the implementation of climate adaptation measures? In short, residents are mostly involved by interacting with their local neighborhood organization or sometimes directly with the municipality. Neighborhood associations, community centers, councils or other forms of resident organizations are essential for the transfer of information. However, they cannot do more than spread awareness; the residents themselves have to become active. Formal participation remains limited and citizens can only take the lead regarding the details of a plan, which is not congruent with Arnstein's definition of citizen power. However, when residents manage to collect funds in innovative ways to buy materials and hire workers, technicians or consultants, citizens start to move towards having power over their own projects and neighborhoods.

Increasing the effectiveness of adaptation planning does not only depend on public participation but largely on raising awareness of the imperativeness of the issue among citizens. Further research should look at how this awareness-building can be achieved by governments and civil society. One aspect of Groningen's adaptation strategy is the development of audience-specific instruments, tailor-made to a neighborhood's demographics and wealth. Research of the success of such methods can enhance the understanding of how awareness of climate change is influenced by social background and how it can be stimulated at the local level.

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Appendices

1. Interview guides & survey questions

Type & respondent	Questions
Semi-structured interview Representatives of the municipality of Groningen	<p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Could you summarize the Groningen climate adaptation strategy in a few words? - How does the strategy involve citizens in the adaptation efforts? Directly and indirectly? <p>Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How are citizens informed about possibilities to get active and engage? <p>Consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are citizens asked about their views and activities regarding adaptation or before major interventions in their neighborhood?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How does the municipality obtain information on opinions and actions of citizens regarding adaptation? <p>Participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can communities take the lead in implementation as part of the adaptation strategy? - What are the concrete steps when a community wants to implement a large-scale initiative? - Who participates in the decision-making and the implementation of the measure? - Who pays for the implementation? - Describe the process up to the implementation of such a project. How does decision-making unfold? - Do neighborhood councils play a role? - Do you think citizens should be given more freedom and possibilities to get involved? <p>Reflection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How did you experience the public engagement process in practice? - Are citizens satisfied with their options to become active in adaptation? - Do you think opportunities to get involved in adaptation as a community are sufficient? - Are you satisfied with the way of communication between municipality and citizens regarding adaptation? - What could be done to make climate adaptation more effective, overall?
<p>Semi-structured interview</p> <p>Representatives of Groningen communities</p>	<p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What project did you implement as a community? - Did this idea to implement something arise from a specific opportunity in the Groningen adaptation strategy? - How did you personally learn about these possibilities to get involved in climate adaptation? <p>Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How are citizens informed about possibilities to get active and engage? <p>Consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are citizens asked about their views and activities regarding adaptation or before major interventions in their neighborhood? - How does the municipality obtain information on opinions and actions of citizens regarding adaptation? <p>Participation</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can communities take the lead in implementation as part of the adaptation strategy? - What are the concrete steps when a community wants to implement a large-scale initiative? - Who participates in the decision-making and the implementation of the measure? - Who pays for the implementation? - Describe the process up to the implementation of such a project. How does decision-making unfold? - Do neighborhood councils play a role? - Do you think citizens should be given more freedom and possibilities to get involved? <p>Reflection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How did you experience the public engagement process in practice? - Are citizens satisfied with their options to become active in adaptation? - Do you think opportunities to get involved in adaptation as a community are sufficient? - Are you satisfied with the way of communication between municipality and citizens regarding adaptation? - What could be done to make climate adaptation more effective, overall?
<p>Survey</p> <p>Residents in Berlin neighborhoods</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Which neighborhood do you live in? - How long have you been living at this location? - How old are you? - Do you make use of the activities or services provided by the community center? - How familiar are you with the community centers in your neighborhood? - Would you be interested in being more involved in the community through the activities and/or services provided by the community center? - Do you know of any adaptation projects being implemented in your neighborhood or community? - Are you interested in participating in projects/initiatives to make your neighborhood climate-proof? - Does the community center play a role in starting these projects? - Have you ever repaired an object instead of throwing it away once broken?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do you know of any community projects in your neighborhood that are related to repair of objects? - Would you be interested in participating in such a project to learn more about the repair of objects or to help reduce waste? - Did you make new friends through connections at the community center?
<p>Semi-structured interview</p> <p>Representative of Berlin community center</p>	<p>Social cohesion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What does a day at the community center look like? - What kind of activities are usually organized here? And how? - What services are offered by the community center? - Who uses your activities and services? - Are you satisfied with the attendance at the aforementioned activities? - Do you think that the activities and services offered by the neighborhood center contribute to social cohesion in the neighborhood? - Do you feel that friendships have developed among the people who participate in the activities/services offered by the community center? - In what way is an attempt being made to attract the widest possible audience? <p>Climate adaptation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do you have any environment- and climate-related projects at the moment? - Do you as a center spread awareness about environmental topics like climate adaptation? - In what ways do you work together with the Stadtteilkoordination? - Do you think environmental projects in the community strengthen social cohesion? - How does the center facilitate the process when a resident has an idea for an adaptation measure in public space? - Does this work out well in practice or are there barriers? - Do you think opportunities to get involved in adaptation as a community is sufficient? - Do you think environmental projects in the community strengthen social cohesion? <p>Sufficiency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do you offer any activities or projects related to the circular economy or sufficiency such as repair cafes?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are there rooms and tools, maybe even a workshop in your center? - Could you imagine that such projects can strengthen social cohesion?
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2. Interview transcripts

1.

Interviewer: Can you summarize the Groningen climate adaptation strategy in a few sentences?

Respondent: Yeah, sure. We call them pillars of our strategy. We prioritize the effects of climate change in our municipality. We made a risk profile of all those situations of climate change and some of them have an urgent label. So that's the situations that directly affect the health and safety of our inhabitants. They are the most urgent situations we must address in the short term. So that's first, second, our goal is to be climate adaptive for the year 2050. And to achieve that goal, we cannot spend money in just a couple of years. You could say why 2050, why not 2030? When you choose 2030, that would mean we had to spend the next 8 years millions of euros to invest in public space, that's not possible as we don't have the money. So making streets, public space, it's mainly about public space because we, as a municipality are owners of that public space. And that's a big link to public awareness, but that's point 3. So what we are doing now is we connect the things we do in maintenance of streets with new special developments. We make sure that as we have a street in need of new stones or something, we also look at the possibility to make it more climate adaptive. So you make work with work and that's cost efficiency.

I: While maintaining something, you Implement climate adaptation

R: Yes, exactly. And our streets have a life cycle and maintenance of about 30 years. So 2050 would probably be something we could aim at, and we could say public space will be climate adaptive, but, and that's point 3: we only own one third of the total space in our municipality. And the rest is other governments, but mainly it's privately owned. So to frame your municipality as climate-adaptive, also those private owners have to get involved. The private space is very important when you talk about climate adaptation and that's the link with the involvement of inhabitants, maybe housing corporations. That's actually our third strategy. Make sure those owners and those inhabitants - it's not only owners, it's also tenants - know what it is, what they can do and to support them in all those things they can do. And that's a very important third pillar of our strategy.

I: My next question connects to that. So how does the strategy involve citizens, indirectly and directly?

R: We do both. You could say, as a municipality, as a local government, a government has different roles. We can. We can regulate (legislation) of course, people need permits to build their houses and, uh, we have our, uh, uh, our justice system in regard to spatial developments and all stuff like that. Uh, we are owners of the public space so we can do what we want. So we can take the stones out and place a different kind of durable pavement or we can plant more trees. Yeah. when we also can facilitate and stimulate and that's that role, those two facilitating a stimulating that's where we find our actions regarding private owners. And we do a lot of stimulating, also financial, so subsidizing activities. Uh, so we have different subsidies for different goals, as there is now for the private owners, there is now, uh, since the 1st of March, it went online. So you can apply for money for removing stones from your back garden, planting trees, green roofs and stuff like that. So that's one but we're also doing a facilitating role. Um, and that's how our different neighborhood based activities. We used to call that steenbreek. Actually steenbreek is a foundation that's is a neighborhood organization organizing neighborhood day or evening or something like that, uh, we give them the options. They have a. Yeah, green your roof, green your backyard, uh, make plans with your neighbors to get involved in a greener neighborhoods. What can you do or stuff like that. So we help them actively with those.

I: Apart from that, what are the main channels that you use to transfer this information to the citizens?

R: It's mostly the internet of course. So we have different pages for that. We're now just when you're sitting here right now, a colleague of mine, um, presented a new, uh, you could say, uh, uh, platform, digital platform of the, um, the municipality of honing. It is called duurzaam groningen. It's not online, but it's going to be in December online. Um, and it links all sustainable actions that people can do themselves put together. So that's not only climate adaptation. It's also mitigation. So, um, what does it mean when I want some sort of solar panels on my roof? Uh, can I combine solar panels with green roofs? Uh, but also, um, isolation, but all the stuff from Steenbreek will be on that platform. Well it's all sustainability broad it's even circular economy... on communication lines: we also started a pilot, uh, last year, end of last year in November, we started a website called, uh, translated English, that neighborhood climate ambassador, uh, we call it. And that's actually someone who lives in a particular neighborhood of course, but has the motivation to do stuff to activate his own, his or her, uh, neighbors to make, uh, to start making plans with the neighborhood, with their neighbors. in some neighborhoods it's an individual in some neighborhoods it's a group of people already involved in neighborhood organizations or something like that. And we support them actually in the same way as with steenbreek. So we actually gave them a little bit of money. Go ahead. Make plans with this money or get things started with this money. Could also be something bigger. this is a little bit, it's not much, it's a little bit 1500 euros, so there's not much. Just enough to get it started to get awareness, because raising awareness starts always with a cup of coffee and just talking. It's communication participation.

I: Moving on to consultation, a concept where the municipality approaches residents and wants to know their views. Are citizens asked about their views maybe through surveys and activities regarding adaptation?

R: Yeah. Yeah, we did it. We did it on the if you look at uitvoeringsagenda there's a research. Surveys. Yeah, well actually it was pretty big, uh, an amount of 3,500 people who filled into the, the, the surface. Um, and, uh, oh, that's three years ago. So it was, and we didn't do that last year, but we're planning to do it again because we've just started a new project called neighborhood monitoring. And that sounds a bit boring and technical, to be honest, the first step is exactly that, but, uh, the second and the third step are, uh, the goal is to take the monitor, um, take data and information. Make it comprehensible on a neighborhood level, but also to connect with, uh, neighborhood plans, ideas and neighborhood action. So people actually can, we don't know how to do it yet. So it's all part of, uh, thinking how, but, um, uh, you could say that they should, they should, there's probably a website and you can add your own ideas, plans, activities. Uh, so make it a little bit to raise, uh, raise awareness again, but then, um, we're only a facilitator as a local government, but the energy is bottom up.

the residents so they could draw and, uh, uh, put in their ideas on it. And, in the first stages of the project, what do you want, what does it, does it have to look like stuff like that? We didn't talk about the water issues only on the final evening. Um, they saw the total budget and that was a big budget. Part of that budget went underground and they were shocked, but that's a big part of the budget. So that felt a bit, or you could say, yeah. Uh, cheated actually. So, uh, um, so we had to repair it and we did an extra evening. And then we talked about climate change, climate adaptation. We talked about heat stress. We showed them heat, stress maps and stuff like that. Um, and then they were fine. Oh, of course. Yeah, it makes sense. So if you ask me regarding communication in those, projects, uh, uh, talking about climate change, uh, I would start actually, I would start to show them those maps, um, um, And maybe talk also a little bit more about their involvement. What can they do? Uh, cause in Plutolaan, we didn't do that much, but, it should be standard to communicate.

I: You already mentioned these neighborhood representatives, but just as a question, generally, can communities take the lead in implementation as part of the strategy?

R: Yes. actually we, we want that to happen. I'd rather have the problem of not enough money to support them all than to have money not spent. We have a cycle of one year. We have to find more money after the summer, the last two years, the money was gone. So we're already in that problem.

I: What are the concrete steps when a community wants to implement a large scale initiative? So who do they go to?

R: Yeah. Yeah. Well, in the municipality we have what we call gebiedsteams (neighborhood teams), every idea you can send an email, make a phone call to those teams and they'd take it to specialists. And when it's on adaptation in greening, they come to me. Um, but, uh, we also said we need more action on the theme of climate adaptation. So we did the project of the neighborhood ambassadors and they are directly in contact with me or colleagues, but that's specifically on climate adaptation in greening of neighborhoods. Regarding the gebiedsteams. It's pretty big and there are a lot of issues to address, uh, The well, a bit new theme of climate adaptation. Uh, we had to do a little bit more, so that's why we started the pilots. when talking about mitigation, everybody knows a solar panel is good for something, the awareness is there. It is good for climbers costs, less CO2, um, less fossil fuels, And, uh, but a green roof. Its not that common yet. Why is a green roof good in relation to water, rainfall or heat stress? That's not on the same level as a solar panel good. It's not that they're aware. Exactly. So we still need on the, on the theme of climate adaptation, we need still a little bit more. I think, uh, in raising awareness then on the theme of mitigation, mitigation is already on a different level: we have energy coaches though. It's very practical and it's, it's um, um, the step of people, um, they know it's good for something. The next stage is can I pay it? Hmm. And, um, people with lower budgets, they can use energy coaches. We have them in a couple of neighborhoods here and, uh, they're free, I believe, or very cheap. And they come into your house and they bring practical stuff like isolation tape on the radiator. but we're not that far yet for adaptation. So, um, yeah, we still have a little bit more action on raising awareness.

I: But the gebiedsteams are in every neighborhood?

R: Yeah. but one gebiedsteam has multiple neighborhoods. So if, for instance, we have to be steam, um, west and they cover hoogkerk, vinkhuizen, paddepoel...so it's a larger area, you have west, you have north, east, south, inner city. That's five. And then you have one for the former municipality of ten boer uh, and the former municipality of haren, So there's seven teams.

I: Who are the actors in the decision-making? I would assume it's always a few people from the municipality, a few residents that engage in the discussion or are there any other major decision-makers in this process?

R: There are two ways how the residents have the plans, but as a municipality, we also have our plans. So a resident does not know, oh, a heat system through my street this year. Then we are in the lead. But we start the conversation with residents, what do you want? As I said, when there are plans from residents themselves, we actively ask them to come with those ideas. Then we can evaluate them, how much money does it cost, is it spatially possible. If there are plans for public space, there are demands on what can and some things cannot because of all different reasons. Yes, we have our monuments. So if there is a monument building and our five residents and they want to. Completely green the facade, but we have to see monuments, their identity and heritage, stuff like that. So there are different kinds of rules, all kinds of rules. But, um, so sometimes, sometimes, we have to say, no, it's very simple but we can explain them. And maybe it's also a starting point. We say no but we also say this can be done.

I: And let's say a neighborhood or community wants to implement the larger scale measure then who would pay for it? Is there a certain budget?

R: Well, depends on what they want. Of course. Um, but on the theme of climate adaptation we have different budgets. Now the biggest one is the water. cause that's a local tax actually the water and sewage fund Cause we all pay taxes, local taxes to maintain the sewage system and. That is a big part of that is it's labeled climate adaptation. So that's one but we cannot spend that money for different things only on water and sewage measures. So, wadis to store water, disconnect, rainfall water from, the dirt water. We can pay

all from, uh, that, that fund. Okay. Um, and we make plans for that also. So if the neighborhood has some, the maintenance of the service, so that's, uh, that'd be, we can also do things about how adaptations are made that connection and that that's a long-term long term planning. Um, we also have some money for greening, but that's another budget. That budget is much smaller. I will say the financial aspect of greening. So more trees, uh, is very difficult actually. Cause there's not a lot of text that funds that stuff. Um, and also from national governments or regional governments, there is not a stream of money. So it has to come from our own Budget, we have some but it's not much, and that's a problem in all of the netherlands. Only the bigger municipalities, the bigger cities like Amsterdam. They all have some, some money reserved for more trees and greening. when we have to, uh, cut our budgets, it's probably gone. So it's pretty shaky. We also identify neighborhoods where greening in relation to climate adaptation, we have to, uh, pick it up faster. So vinkhuizen is an example, where its only hard pavement, uh, but also, the connection with vulnerable people cause they're in a lot of elderly in those neighborhoods, they're vulnerable to heat stress. So putting up more trees in public space directly has a positive effect on the health of those people. So in the green part that, uh, there are particular neighborhoods where we have to do more. Quicker. And then we have a little bit more money, especially for those neighborhoods.

I: And would it be possible for, let's say a community to supplement the budget?

R: That's exactly what we're doing right now in Vinkhuizen So we have a coordinator of steenbreek, Matia she's talking to the neighborhood climate ambassador. I think she's talking with the housing corporations to make connections. She's talking with our, uh, With our colleagues from stadsbeheer, maintenance of roads, warmtestad, the hit grid. is working already. And on different levels, we are now connecting those budgets. connecting them with inhabitants because Matthia is from, operatie steenbreek. So she's talking directly with the neighborhood climate ambassador and, uh, inhabitants making plans. Do they have, do they have plans? They're now starting to, warmtestad has a project manager in the municipality to connect ideas from inhabitants, but also, uh, our own ideas of a municipality about climate adaptation and greening and stuff like that. So we hope this starts next year

I: I think you mentioned them before, but do neighborhood councils/organisations play like a leading role?

R: yes, residents that are organized in some form of cooperation or something. They are the first identity to talk to in the neighborhoods, but they decide of course, because it's their neighborhood. What is important. So if greening, if there is a, uh, if there's, organization that doesn't care about greening ,only cleaning up dogshit. So if there's no intention to do something, well, maybe we have to talk to someone different. Every neighborhood has his own agenda and the things they think are important and they're mostly volunteers. so they have to have their own motivation to do stuff. If there is none, it ends but if you really want something as a municipality, you have to dig deeper into the neighborhoods to find those people that will. find them, uh, facilitate them, um, um, well, help them to get started. Sometimes we do it. Sometimes we do not. And that has everything to do with, uh, the fact it's very labor intensive Yeah. It costs a lot of time, a lot of hours, a lot of evenings. And, um, when I talk purely on the theme of climate adaptation, We do not have the staff, hours and money to employ people to do stuff like that. But that's not every neighborhood, some are quite independent themselves, but we want people to take action themselves so We can take a step back actually.

I: I think from that you could definitely say that residents have all the freedom and possibilities they could possibly have. There's no barriers.

R: No, We invite them. And we are also thinking about a network of people who interact with each other. So we do not have to tell them what to do and how to do it, but they can tell each other how to do it. Yeah. In Arnhem there is a network of neighborhoods, municipality, businesses that work together...

I: Would you say this public engagement process turns out to be mostly successful in practice or are sometimes problems with residents that don't really see why you would do anything?

R: Of course. Setting up actions, raising of awareness and the willingness to take action, stuff like that. The world is changing rapidly. So people are starting to feel it and show it on the television so they know they have to do something. So, um, but, um, uh, but also people who have done, it's also very, uh, dependent on which, in which neighborhoods you talk to, um, part of our strategy is, uh, we're starting to work on a lifestyle analysis of neighborhoods. So what kind of people live in that neighborhood? Um, uh, if you go to the neighborhoods with your goals, how do we communicate? What participative instruments, um, you can use and that. And, and, uh, and another day, which you probably, um, choose a different set of instruments, different audience. In Selwerd poverty is a big thing there. Uh, there are families that are struggling to feed their children two times a day. Um, Well, hello, I'm from the municipality. Please green your garden, They would kick me out, they don't have to time, other worries. Um, so you need another plan for that kind of neighborhood. If you go to let's say, uh, uh, Wijert-Zuid, expensive houses. Those people have money, are well-educated, and have time. Um, and I already know there is a group of active inhabitants that are already working on greening and climate adaptation. So, um, uh, Maybe only, uh, one evening talking, uh, organizing one evening or put a flyer through all the doors maybe. And, uh, well you have a big, big audience, so that's a very different strategy to communicate. To get people to do something, to do stuff. And then we have our entrepreneurs, or business parks. So it's not only housing, even though we did make it a priority. Like, like I said, health and safety are the biggest aspects. And you find those of course, uh, mainly in residential areas and not that much in business parks, but when you talk about the ambition 2050 to be climate adaptive, you need to involve them.

I: So, do you think citizens are generally satisfied with their options to be active in adaptation?

R: it's hard to know what we, but the survey we did 3 years ago we're planning to do that two years from now. We're going to, uh, ask these questions in a survey again. Um, and this one is probably a good one to ask. Can they find us, do they need more, how can we facilitate better so right now i dont knowl, well, there are a lot of people finding us, so the paths are probably ok to find, but every neighborhood has a different set of inhabitants. Yeah. We've got selwerd. I don't know. There are not a lot of active inhabitants and not a lot of plan making in questions on the theme of greening and adaptation. So probably you could ask yourself, can we do it better in those specific neighborhoods, maybe.

I: But are you satisfied with the way of communication between municipality and citizens?

R: Yes its going to change now because we have a new platform. Duurzaam groningen So it's just a different website and little bit of transition, so it's probably going to dip. Yeah. But we're doing a lot about it.

I: What do you think could be done to make climate adaptation even more effective?

R: well, the integrated approach that's a big thing in, uh, in our largest cities, I would say, um, how to connect things with each other and do so when there is. Maintenance on the sewage and the road has to be opened. Yeah. Make sure that's the moment you think, what can I do about adaptation? Do I need those parking spaces or can I make it green, uh, do I have to put back the black asphalt, or should I use, uh, different kinds of permanent pavements? It has to be a normal way of thinking. Um, and, uh, and that's not the case yet, I believe. So it needs more addressing still, the integrated approach. What do inhabitants want? What do they want, what do they need? According to the plans we have. So bringing all this stuff together, that's probably, um, and it's not only about climate adaptation, mitigation, but it's also about traffic safety, liveability, social aspects? Um, it's about coming together. It's about benches, trees, car use car space, bike parking

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R: So that's the green helpman group who do the adaptation part and the rest is more, yeah. Uh, sustainability.

I: So there's these multiple groups within Duurzaam Helpman?

R: Yeah, because we found out quite quickly that most people have their own interests and what we try, we tried to put people with the same interest together. We have some people who are very good in a district like ours. We have people who were former professors of Wageningen at university, which is an agricultural university. So we talked a lot about trees and things, plants. We have farmers. We have people who work at the provinces, working on maintenance and subsidy possibilities. All this kind of rules and regulations So all

the knowledge is there, but the good thing is being together in duurzaam helpman they also exchange the knowledge. And like, if somebody has a question like, oh, you should ask this one. Oh, maybe you should try to talk to that one. Yeah. Okay.

I: So there's all kinds of specializations. Is there any project, where climate adaptation has been implemented in the past or that you're working on right now?

R: We have our own website. This is where we gather all the information. And these are the projects. This one together with the Hanze. We also have a project together with the university dealers and they have a, how do you call it a citizen science project where people can measure in, in front of their own house the pollution, uh, because many people are concerned about, uh, the traffic, the pollution is a good thing to get them involved So what we do now is we have a measurement system that's about 10 meter systems here in our district and they measure the fijnstof. Let's say there's extra traffic here. We can monitor it And that's something where people feel I'm involved and I'm joining, gathering the information. And that's the general website is our air, which is measuring all over the province. So people see It's not something where I can do nothing about it, but it's just around me, but I can see what's happening.

I: And then are there projects that are specifically focused on greening or reducing water?

R: What we do especially in the green helpman that's the one where we do this more, uh, climate adaptation side. We have an irregular newsletter, but about five to six times a year, we had a webinar on this kind of things, how to make a sustainable garden. We had a presentation. The tegelwippen. We are talking as well to the entrepreneurs in the district as to the municipality, because there's two big areas where the shopping area and they are both, uh, In the near future, they should be Redecorated. So they have to make the whole environment around the shop also, and this is going to be sustainable, of course. And it's going to be cadaptation as much as possible. big renovation project. The other one is it's not that far yet, but on the other end, it might be a. There are plans. Let's say that way. It's not worked out yet, but there are plans in combination with the municipality. Well, next to that, we also have to traffic problems. There's a few, uh, streets, which are really extremely busy because of the building up the ring road and in the streets, they have to be a redecoration and what we're going to do at least that's what the municipality also wants Let's

make cars less important so that we have made focus. Yeah. Main focus on the pedestrians and bicycles because that's the main user. Maybe you have to park the car, not in front of your house, but somewhere else. And in this plan, there are five areas where they want to start. And one of the areas is Coendersborg, which is part of our district. So it's try out areas. It's also one where they had some advisory. And these advisory groups have been walking around in this area and see what's happening and see what could be done and what could be improved, making it climate proof. Well, we had some plans for doing, uh, uh, we have a lot of garage boxes here. Many people don't have a. Parking place in front of the house, but they have a garage box behind their house and some of the people in duurzaam helpman said, well, let's make these garage boxes. It's Just an empty roof. Let's make it a green roof. Anyways, second one. Let's put some more solar cells on top of it because everybody wants to have electricity in the near future. They want to charge the car. They want to charge their bike. They want to charge whatever they have, but they need electricity. And until now there's just a box, no lights, no electricity. So it's just storing your car. Unfortunately, it didn't go through in all the owners but the majority said, no, we are not going to put money in solar cells. So. Unfortunately, it didn't go through. Anyway, the plans are there for installation etc. It's all been worked out already, including how, how heavy can it be? How, uh, how much support can the roof, uh, have, et cetera. So maybe next year or the year after.

I: But these ideas mostly come from the working group, not the municipality?

R: No, but it fits along the lines of the municipality. And if it fits we sometimes we take, we need some extra money here. So we got to ask them and say, do we have funding for this? Sometimes we need some knowledge, which they have people for that. So we have good combination in supporting us.

I: So the municipality also has these different websites mainly as the information channels. Like klimaatadaptatiegroningen...

R: We have some support here. We have a cooperation and I guess we have most of these websites. Energy loket We have an energy corporation. We have wind platform, ttthe climate adaptation is not here yet. Maybe I should add it, but it's not a, it's not really a topic. At least it's a planning topic topic, but it's not on the daily level is not the topic

I: Are there any other ways the municipality informs you or others in the neighborhood about possibilities to get active in adaptation?

R: There is a group nederlandse milieufederatie, they have adopted a plan. They have adopted a plan where they try to put in every district, somebody who's called it. A climate ambassador .Well, that's a good idea, but it's also a very hard idea because it needs one person. Who needs some time at least one day a week. To convince all the others around him to be more climate aware in their way, they developed a garden group plan for the streets, et cetera. Its pretty new, we as duurzaam helpman said we don't have one person, because we don't have anybody who has separate time. Yeah. Motivation to do it on their own, especially now with the 10,000 people we have here. So what we said, we got to do this. We picked this group which means we have four or five people who are all involved in these new plans we got to ride out this one. And at this moment, what do we have? I guess six or seven actions this summer where we tried to do something with, uh, for example, how do you develop a vegetable garden? And how do you do this in a sustainable way? So you don't need to do it every year again, but you can plant some plants, seeds, which regrow. So this kind of, uh, topics are being developed with his group at the moment we're looking at how to fill it in and some of them are Done somewhere else in the city already. So we contact them and say, Hey, what do you need? How do you, what kind of information do you need? What kind of brochures are there or weblogs or whatever, which we could use to, to support this. And sometimes it's something which, yeah, anybody, we have some people here who have as a hobby, for example, their own, uh, roof gardens. they do presentations on roof gardens, for example, that's something this organization can do, but the topic and the, yeah, the, the, the real information should come from the experts. we're not experts but facilitators.

I: Have you been asked about, uh, your views or your efforts in the adaptation by the municipality before? Like, I think they've done a survey a couple of years ago where they asked citizens generally about what they think they can do and things like that.

R: They did inquiries every half year or even every three months or something, which is also about the environment, which is also about, uh, pollution, the street, which is also about, uh, traffic, safety, security and things like that. Sometimes there are things that relate to adaptation. The only thing I remember about climate adaptation is this group, like I told you where they try to find climate adaptation ambassadors, which is more specific oriented. Yeah. And we had a meeting about a month ago from all these climate climate ambassadors and they're quite good because you can hear what other districts are doing and see how they take all the same thing. Like you would like to have people get aware: how do they do it?. The other one is doing flyers or brochures. Many neighborhoods have somebody picking this up? Yup. Yup. And sometimes it's some individual who just likes to talk about this, sometimes not, not many where its the Wijkcomite like for us. Like we have most of our groups already in this district thinking about green gardens or more green in streets. And they pick it up and they say, I'd like to be climate ambassador, and then they get some extra funding to promote this idea, but it's not always, wikcomites, they are independent and they have all different, uh, topics. Yeah. And also depends where you live. noorderplantsoen, that's a very active group. Sustainability from houses. So they were also there as a climate ambassador. As a group, but many other areas have a committee, but they also have somebody doing something on sustainability or green or whatever. It might be different groups here. Here We try to integrate as much as possible.

R: Have you heard of the climate adaptation strategy of the municipality? Do you think communities are able to take the lead in implementation of whatever it is they want to do? Or is it mostly facilitated by the municipality itself?

I: It needs to be facilitated anyway. I guess the awareness is still for some people difficult. So as long as there's no awareness, there's nobody doing it. What we see, we have some people who are also involved in the municipality, the climate adaptation group. So that's a good link where we know what's happening over there. And we also have a different initiative, the Green burgermeester. it's somebody who was appointed two years ago just before COVID so it took long time to get him started. And that's somebody who has to all

the green activities, sustainable activities, also climate adaptation, Turning green, uh, into neighborhoods, in one hand and kind of a mayor green mayor and he should be the one who is coordinating. And of course, like this kind of role it's somebody who says, oh, I know what to do. So he had some, uh, networks already extending.

I: So he is part of the municipality then.

R: It's paid. It's paid by the municipality, which is kind of an experiment for one year because of the COVID it's been extended now. So maybe it's still an experiment, but maybe now a little bit more than one year, but yeah, it's very hard for a guy alone to get this kind of things going. So what we are supposed to propose to him, try to find groups in every area and try to get these groups, knowing each other so you can easily work together. It's still difficult. Also many, uh, areas have very busy agenda. they're interested, but they don't have the time. They don't have the knowledge. They don't have the people, they don't have whatever that's hard, but this the green mayor, he had a plan together with the nature promoting group, doing a lot of nature, promoting four schools, public schools, high schools, all, all levels educational programs attended, and they had a plan where they could buy. Oh, they bought, they had money for about 40 tiny forests So it was a forest, which you could put in your own garden garden And it was a few trees. It was a lot of plants and it was some seeds and you could just put them out in your garden and see what comes up and it can be easily sustainable once should be a lot greener than what you had before. And the plan was that people would. Eliminate some tiles and put instead this tiny forest, but the plan didn't work as well as they hoped they make kind of a competition. You could enroll. And you could say, I'd like to have one of these packages because I can really use it very well for this and that. And there were already three or four of the packages were Claimed and the other 38 were still in storage. Yeah. So the guy who was working together with the municipality about, uh, climate adaptation informed us there are a lot of these packages and asked us Do we have people who are interested. Thanks to our, all the activities. I have a long list of our 310 people in helpman with email addresses, where we send our newsletter. And we said this in a special bulletin. If you're like too, we have a very good offer. You could win one of these tiny forests. And we had about 32

people who were joining and they all got their tiny forest. So we had 32 tiny forest around us now. Yeah. So we have the communication channel. That's the main thing. And the idea is the money for these times when, because they were quite pricey packages, each package was about 50 euros. So 40 of these packages. Way over our budget, but it was bought already and they needed to spend it and we can find the people who want to use it and it worked out.

I: So what are the concrete steps when a community wants to implement a large scale measure I guess you probably make a decision first in the wijkcommitee?

R: Not even it's a topic but I guess mostly when we see there's people, uh, interested in, for example, in the new, uh, redecoration of the forest next door. Yeah. Once this is a proposal somewhere we can inform everybody. See if there's a group standing up and say, Hey, we would like to join and then we can organize it. But we're not the ones who are making the first steps.

I: So first there needs to be a group that is actually interested.

R: We can find this group, we are not the ones who do it. Like the groenste wijk noorderplantsoen They are a really small group running ahead of everybody else. We try to be more supportive to energy initiatives, which are in the. Area Okay. And we've not, I know, for example, they are quite good also in the energy plan, how to get rid of the gas and how to make different ways of heating. Yeah. Here we have a very complex region. We have, the oldest house is 1640. And the newest one is still being built and some very modern ones, uh, post world war two. We have some very old ones, 1500, 1700. Yeah. And it's, it's, it's not one plan you need for everybody an individual plan. And we said, well, it's nice. If there's a group who wants to spend time on this, it's good. We've got to support it. Help them as much as possible, but we're not the mouse making the plans and telling them how to do. Yeah, I guess it should come up from the bottom. basically.

I: And once there is an idea, do you then also cooperate with the municipality on budgeting for instance?

R: And that's the way it starts. And of course there's people, uh, for example, one of the streets, many of the streets, now we get a, there's a lot of work going on everywhere because we get new gas pipes. We got the old gas pipes. which means all the streets are open. All the, uh, pathways they're walking, pathways are open and afterwards they are all going to be redecorated. That's the moment where we try to together with municipality, make them aware if it wants to do it, do it together with inhabitants who live next to the street. Of course. Yeah. There's many interests

I: Do you think citizens should be given more freedom, more possibilities by the municipality to get active or do they have what they need. Or is it just a problem of awareness?

R: It's not even the amount of possibility. I guess awareness is very important. One, many people are aware or don't know what they could do, what works well the situation, I think it is best practices. If you have somewhere in the city or somewhere in the Netherlands or maybe somewhere in the world, a good example, how a group of citizens. Yeah, yeah, yeah. And that's something which I would like to, uh, that's also what I said to these green mayor. Take care of that. The best practices. show them then people understand, Hey, as a group, we could reach this situation. We could maybe redecorate our street or we maybe find new ways to work together. Or maybe we don't need it all in our own garden. And we can make a joint garden, many of the houses of the apartments here, they have a joint garden already, and he's just an empty garden

A little bit of grass and then as little plants as possible because it's all maintenance and nobody wants to do the maintenance. So yeah, you could do a lot more with this kind of thing. You could make it a children's playground or he could add other options, but let's try to get people to feel responsible that they are the owner of these kind of things. That should be the best way. Yeah. Uh, I have a complaint that somebody has to do it for me, but I have a proposal and how could we organize it?

I: has there been an instance where the municipality has given you money for a specific measure?

R: not yet. There's one. It's not from the climate adaptation, We just talked about the traffic we have in one of the neighboring streets in that direction. There's a lot of extra traffic because of, uh, re construction of the ring road and what they're going to do now. you have these kind of road systems where you could not drive fast. You should drive 30 kilometers an hour and you get a fine if you go over, but they have a kind of a rewarding system where everybody who is lower than 30 saves money. Okay. And the saving of the money that's also shown how much has been saved already. It has been marked, and this is about 7,000 euros where the people around get the option, where do we want to spend it? Okay. So it's a real first step, as far as I know where the municipality doesn't say, all right, should be done. That we'll have to look for some money. No, There's some money available and. Let the neighborhood tell us what we should do with that, but this might just as well be a children's playground or more parking facilities or whatever they decide is their money Which has been saved by, uh, you know, people not driving too fast.

I: In general, how did you, or how do you experience the public engagement process? Is it positive or are there a problems in communication with the municipality?

R: I have the feeling that for many things, the municipality is also searching for many solutions, which are. Uh, focus on the, also trying to find which things work and how do we get people involved, et cetera. And I think that there is, of course, a lot of, I think this climate ambassador we just talked about, that's a good way to put this problem also on a lower level, closer to the inhabitants and see what's coming up. Yeah. You, you need your, uh, support. You need. this is what we'd like to do. And of course there's an endless number of individuals who all have their own, opinions And who say this is not gonna work. We tried it already, or it's not in my favor, so I don't want it, uh, not a very difficult, very difficult to get them all on one vision. Yeah.

I: What could be done to make climate adaptation more effective overall?

R: Uh, I still feel best practices is a good thing. If you have anywhere in the world, people who have done something, which really worked out well, promote this. make a video on it or whatever, but make people aware that it's possible to change your own environment, that you have influence on it.

And it's not something that, yeah. Sorry. I know it's difficult, but we're not able to solve it. Oh, you are? Yeah. Yeah. You have to be shown a good example and maybe the right tools necessary.

I: Making people feel responsible.

R: I think that's the main problem. And that's what you see with IPCC, uh, reports, et cetera. Everybody knows. Everybody says, yeah, we knew this already, but now we have to do something. Yeah. Uh, next week, uh, we have some more important things at the moment. Yeah. Yeah. Always postponing. But I see also with this group of three other people, we have on our list. There. There's always people who say, ah, it's important enough. I'd like to spend some time on this, or I'd like to spend some ideas on this last week. We had somebody who is also. Uh, shes a master student but she's doing talks on, uh, sustainability and how to do the circular economy and how to not climate adaptation, but Let's see if we can get the CO2 as low as possible. So we don't need to. Adaptation but mitigation. And she proposed to us. Maybe I could do a talk somewhere or I could do an interactive workshop or let people show what could be done. Yeah. I have some examples which I could show. So that's something that they pop up because we are visible. They know. Our organization, maybe there's somebody interested. And once we have these people and they are interested, we send it out to our mailing list and we hope there's going to be a nice talk on, uh, how to do the circular economy. And we have some circle economy, uh, things in the area already. We have a shop. How do you call it? A second hand shop? Mamamini which is quite a big one in, in, uh, Everything from furniture to, uh, electronics and, uh, closing, et cetera. And we have Repair cafe , which is also of course, a good way to not throw away your stuff, but take care of the, you can use them as long as possible. So she said maybe we could do kind of an interactive workshop together with secondhand shop and. Let's see if people are, if we can motivate people to buy less and reuse more, et cetera. Great. But I guess in my vision, it should be bottom up, and of course you have to have your support from the top, the municipality and the, uh, the government, et cetera, even worldwide, it should have your support.

I: so the role of the municipality should be more facilitating.

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R: So if someone from a neighborhood somewhere in the south or north wants to do a project, they can come to us and say that they have a place that they want to green, and then they come to us and we will check it if it's possible there. And then next to it, we have a neighborhood, one every year. This year its Vinkhuizen. We can take as much from the stones out of the ground. Um, and before that we did, it's a heating safari. So we went with people who are living there and also corporations and like a lot of different, um, people from there to go to the neighborhood where they have, uh, places, uh, they suffer from the heat, in the summer. So, and with that, they made a heat map. Yeah. So what they like to do, um, and that's sometimes too much focused on what is nice to see, and that's why we want to focus on the locations where they suffer from heat. So whether the concrete is too much, uh, or the people who are living there are, uh, living, uh, mainly in big buildings. So they don't have an old garden to go to when it's too hot in their houses and the people who are mainly living in those kinds of, uh, housing. Uh, also mainly the people who are old so they need it also more than the rest. So that's a combination with, uh, some, uh, aspects, how we choose the neighborhoods and, um, also choose in the neighborhood, the places that we want to green. So this is the first year we do it. And, um, um, that we, uh, have this, uh, the places where we want to, uh, green it. And now we are contacting the people who are living there. And if it is an area which is, uh, used by a bigger group than only the people that live there then we, um, uh, write a note to people around it so they can also participate. And the first time when you organize an evening with the, uh, with the people you want to know how they use it, is it for children? Is it, uh, for sitting there? Is it not used? Do they want to use it for their, uh, their if you go on vacation and you have like a big tent, you want to yeah. You want to install it or use it for packing it. So do you want to use it for that? Or also we want to know what they like about trees, uh, what they like about, um, the colors of the flowers, because they, they have to live there. So they know what they like and how the people are using it, but also sometimes it's, uh, there are problems like problems with vehicles who are using that area to, uh, cross by in a really fast way. So, and if you, if you don't fix that for them, their solution is, is not good. So you have to, uh, embrace also that kind of problems not just problems of climate adaptation. So that's our two main focus points of, of seenbreek.

I: Could you summarize the Groningen climate adaptation strategy?

R: Thinking about how I work with it's mainly focused on dry heat and the overload of water. Now the other main focus points, and that is mainly climate adaptation and not mitigation. So sometimes I think maybe we have to focus on a little bit more about mitigation. Yeah. There's always climate adaptation. Um, and the focus points of, uh, how we do it. Like the government, people who are making the drainage, sewers. And that's like a part of the government who are, um, working with that. And they, uh, they are, um, they are also doing something about, um, climate adaptation and that is, uh, mainly to take out the rain, you don't want it in a drainage. You want to have it on the ground. So that's, uh, that's, uh, the focus point of them. Um, but when I am, uh, working on, uh, taking off the, the, uh, the tails from the ground, they can also go there at the other moment and take off the, uh, a different sewers. And, um, that's not a really good combination now. We don't integrate it that much. I think it can be better. Um, but we are working on that. Um, and that's also, uh, they pay now also a lot of, uh, costs of the. Taking the tiles, um, because then they have, uh, less water inside the drainage and, um, then they have, uh, less, uh, cost. Yeah. So we get, so there are a lot of different parts of the government who are working on the same problem, but, um, yeah, mainly mine, too much water, too less water and the heat.

I: How does the strategy generally involve citizens? I guess there's a lot of websites where you can get a lot of information. Are there more direct ways?

R: You can contact us to ask about, can I get a, um, a garden at the front of my house and it's in the, in the public space. Uh, and, um, yeah, they can ask it and we, we place it there for them. So that are, um, uh, possibilities. And that's better for. Taking a little more, uh, water in the ground. bricks cannot be that, uh, heat, uh, heat, if there are green. And there's also a little bit more about awareness of the people make, it's not a really big difference if it's there or not. It's really small, but the awareness of people, uh, makes it, um, it's important for that because on the other side of the house, they have a big garden. Yeah. If they see how beautiful it becomes, um, then they will, th th the chance will be bigger that they would also add their back. And, um, uh, we cannot, um, make the only, if we only, uh, take the tiles of the, uh, the public space, then we cannot, um, totally, uh, Get rid of the, the heat and the city. We need also the, the private space. And that's really a big problem. I think in, uh, in a lot of, uh, neighborhoods here I think in whole the world, but because are there a lot of people who are unknown with, uh, that a little garden is not that much work, but they have it in mind and, and then they place only tiles in their gardens. I think that's a, it's a big problem. And the awareness is a big thing. So we try also to stimulate also a lot of, um, communication about, um, uh, the tile taxi. So you can, uh, um, um, we've now they're coming in 10 weeks every day, every Tuesday, uh, the taxi you can, yeah. Um, yeah, yeah, your own garden and put it on the, on the streets and they will pick it up for you. So you need to give them information, you need to, uh, make them easy to do it. And that's how we, how we tried to, uh, also stimulate at the people to do it. Also, if you have like a, in your street, uh, Um, but mainly it's really a ugly underneath it, but you can make it beautiful. And so they can ask us to make it so we will make it for them, but they have to maintain the, retain it. So sometimes it's, um, now also, uh, they do it with the whole street. So the whole street. Two people, two people, two, um, households, yeah, take care of one, uh, three a garden and they stimulate each other to do the same. So then it, it becomes bigger and bigger and that's really nice to see how the awareness then grows. And then the next project is, uh, um, also, uh, collect the tiles by themselves and, uh, uh, So you see that it is growing. If there, if, if someone something starts at a certain point and that's really nice to see, and it's like, yeah, yeah, that's true. We try to, uh, to stimulate as much as we can. The neighborhood climate ambassadors. And that's really important for that kind of, um, uh, growing from, from bottom up. Yeah. And it expands.

I: What are the general channels where you inform the citizens? Mainly online, right?

R: They're online is, is, uh, yeah, we, we try also to do it in, in, uh, newspapers, from neighborhoods sometimes like for the, uh, think house and now we do it and, um, but many also on their websites. Uh, but online is the most important. Yeah. Yeah. And, um, yeah, you have old people. Not looking at the socials. That's why you also need the local papers for the older people that are not easy on going on, uh, online sites. It's a two way strategy.

I: Do you then also do some surveys maybe sometimes to find out what people are doing and what their opinions are on adaptation?

R: I don't think so. Not about how they think about it. Um, because, if you want to, um, to reach everyone. Um, that takes a lot of time and money. And, uh, if you focus on the 18% who want, then it will grow. If you, if you have the people who want to change and want to do it, and you focus on them, then it's growing. And the people who don't want to change will follow. Yeah, but if you focus on them, it will not, not happen. So focus on the people who want, and then, um, the people who will see their neighbor is doing it. Uh, was it easy or was it, yeah. Oh, nice. Oh, we can do it also, it was pretty easy. And then it, then it will grow.

I: I think the last bigger survey that the municipality did was already in 2019.

R: Yeah, it takes a lot of time. And also if you, if you, uh, get an answer, you have to do something with it. Otherwise it doesn't, it doesn't help. And then the next time they say, yeah, the next time you did nothing with it. So if you ask something, you better show, you can do something with it. And that's my most of the time, the problem is, we did it like with the green plan, the most important one. And they had an idea also to collect the ideas of people. And it came with like so much, so we don't have the money. They don't have the time. We'd have to do something with it. So we now try to take out the things we can do something with. It took so long, the people forget it and that they have sent it in. And sometimes then you heard from here from the, oh, oh yeah. Yeah. It was a long time ago that I sent it in, but nice that you do something with it.

But we have in the, in the, in the government, also the gebiedsteams and they have the connection with the people more than we have. But we did it by ourselves. So then it comes in with no filter. Is it possible? Is it clear? Is it sometimes you get an answer but no idea where on the whole street, to green or make a difference and then you cannot do anything with it? You don't know what they mean with it then? Yeah. If you want to know what their opinion is, be sure what you want to do with it. the more focused on one specific place, the more you can do with it.

I: Communities can definitely take the lead in implementation right?

R: Like it, there is also social gardening. It's something out of and there's people who are doing it for people who cannot do it by themselves. And if they cannot do it by themselves, the result is that they take the tiles again and do it all and make the whole garden paved. And that's not what we want. So if there is like, um, social gardening and they, they help the people. That's what we want to, uh, stimulate. Y you, you, we try to, um, to stimulate where there is, uh, energy. Yeah.

I: And what other concrete steps like when, when a community wants to implement a larger scale measure, does it mostly start from the neighborhood associations?

R: Uh, I know from Vinkhuizen they have like neighborhood and the people who live there and they give like a certain amount of money for, I think three Euro for each person (from the municipality) was living and then they can, um, um, I think in the beginning of the year, they, they say to the people. Where do you want to spend those money for? And people can send their ideas and, uh, if they are, um, um, most, the most, uh,

chosen ones, um, I think three, most Joseph wants to get the money and sometimes there is a green, uh, initiative with it, and then they can, uh, do something, uh, Of the money, what they want to, uh, to do. Yeah. So, um, yeah, there's, there is, there is, uh, for, also for that uh, money and yeah, but not always, uh, enough support from, uh, the government, I think because, uh, if you say to them, make a plan come to us. And they don't, they don't know if there are electricity lines underneath. They don't know about a lot of things. They it's need to be there. And then, uh, we have to say, oh, sorry, it's not possible. So if you, if it's, that's the way it is, you, um, take the energy out of it and it will be, uh, uh, more, um, frustration. Then, uh,

then they say in the beginning, okay, we want to do this location and then we have to check it. Uh, and then we can say, okay, uh, uh, part of it can, is possible. Like we have a certain possibility to, uh, give money to it. And. What are, what are the, what are the clear, what the possibilities are, and then you can, uh, gift them, um, yeah, the freedom to choose. And that's really, um, um, important to do it that way. And, um, Unfortunately, it doesn't go always that way. And then the frustration starts and the government is always

saying yes and it's finally do we know? So you, I heard it. I hear it. Most of the time I hear, are you doing it? And they are surprised because there are a lot of times a big wall (between citizens and municipality) Um,

you, you put money in it and you never see back or it's always no. But it has to be done in the right order. They get the money from the neighborhood teams.

I: But then it's probably also possible for the residents to also have a budget and give some money to implement that initiative. So it comes from both sides.

R: So they need to do something with it. If they don't do anything with it, we won't do it. Yeah.

I: Do you think that citizens have enough freedom and possibilities to get involved?

R: I think they have, if they want to do something. Um, in their own garden, they can get this, um, subsidies. If they want to, uh, do it with a lot of neighborhoods, they can sometimes get it for free. Um, if they want to organize something for the neighborhoods, they, uh, can also get money for it, but they have to do. And, uh, people who are, um, educated can find, more easy, the way to the, to do and find these ways. And that's what we try to change a little. And that's why we go to vinkhuizen where people are not so educated. It will be paddepoel next time, it's the same problem. You have to go to the people and tell them what's possible. If I, if it come to them for the square next to their home. Yeah. And I don't tell them about the subsidy. That's a lack. Because that's the opportunity. If I come there for, um, uh, uh, the heat grid, they try to connect that as much as possible. Exactly. Yeah. And now we also give them information about the possibilities for, uh, climate adaptation, um, more than only the energy. And so that's now how we are. We

try to coordinate, uh, the different parts of, of, uh, climate adaptation. Uh, if you go to the people, take them more information, not only for one sector, but more. And, uh, the new, um, a website, which we make it's, it's called, duurzaam groningen. And that's also, why we want to do it. making it a new website is that I am there for greening, different colleagues for energy, housing etc. it's all segregated. And the new website, I think it will be there in, uh, in beginning of June. And we want to integrate, uh, the information. If you come on the website for your home, we want also to show you what you can do in your garden. We want also to do, to show you what you can do, uh, at the public space and, and give them also information about how someone green their, uh, their roof. If you want to do it, it's always difficult to get to the first step. And so we want to collect all the separated, um, um, aspects of, uh, climate adaptation or one website for the people.

I: Maybe going back to the role of neighborhood councils: they don't really come up with their own ideas within these groups.

R: I don't think so. Like if I say the square is ugly, then they will say what, what, why? Like if I go there and say, okay, we need to do something about climate adaptation. I will plant their trees, but if you want to, uh, help or, uh, Looking with us on the, how we do it, then they are like stimulated. So its both ways. If, um, if the two people who are sitting in the association like that, they walk every week to the whole, uh, neighborhoods and then they see something and then they speak about it. And then they know the people who are living there and they communicate with them. And sometimes it pops up as, as a, as an initiative. Um, and sometimes, um, they walk through the neighborhoods and a neighbor says I want to do something with it. Is it possible? And then they, uh, we'll help them to, uh, make it an initiative. So it's two ways. Yeah. But it is depending on how active the wijkraad is

I: Um, and how did you experience the public engagement process and practice?

R: Oh, so what their opinion is about to change, we will, we want to wait most of the time. It's like, it's you have to, you have to give it to them as a nicer living environment. Um, but not that we want to, um, yeah, if you, if you bring it that way, they mostly are enthusiastic. So maybe they will also, uh, yeah. Be people who say, I only want to have, uh, tiles because the government cannot, uh, do it in the right way. But I never had that. They always like to have a little green in front of their house.

I: Overall you're satisfied with the way of communication between municipality and citizens?

R: I do it by myself. If it can be better. I hope I hear it, but, um, the way we do this, um, By websites by, uh, briefing, um, by, um, nice like, uh, evenings that they can come. So if they can come do the evenings, they there are email addresses to send their opinion. No, I hope that's enough. Yeah. And, um, yeah, we, we also, uh, Inform the wijkraad, also wijkteam that's more the social part of the, of the Gebiedsteam. So they know what the problems are between people or in the whole neighborhoods, or is it, uh, are there a lot of people who are like having problems with their, uh, Um, like if there are a lot of neighborhood fights and you want to organize something better, you better know about that. But when you collect information about, uh, changing the environment, you will get that also. So, yeah, and they always really are willing to help. Wijkraden are not part of the municipality, they are citizens who wants to have, uh, um, uh, something to say about their environment and what they organized. They are not, the wijkraad is not part of the government. Wijkcomite is more connected to the government than to the people. I think I'm well connected to the government and to the people, but I'm not sure how exactly.

I: And both are somehow integrated in the neighborhood associations.

R: Yeah. They all know about it. If there's something changing or a question, they will all have a really short, um, communication with each other. Yeah. And yeah.

I: What could be done to make climate adaptation more effective, overall?

R. Yeah, I think the good change we make is the, is the neighborhood approach. If that happens, you can change a lot of places in one area. Then you, uh, in my opinion, can get a better result in, in a, if you look at heat and the rest, I think if you don't integrate that, uh, we, we made them now a new tool and the tool, um, makes a map where all the not used places are. And, um, we want to use that for parts of the organization who are organizing like, um, the redevelopment of places (renewal). And sometimes it's because of social

problems. Sometimes it's because of, uh, um, a bad, uh, structure of the neighborhood. And sometimes they take the streets out and place it in total. And if you don't think about what is, what do we need as a used paved space, then they will only place the same back. Yeah. And with the two, we, we, uh, try to, uh, let them think about. What is needed and what is not needed and pavement, street. And, um, that's how you can recover. We try to recover everything. What is not used, but if you, if some, uh, some part of the government is, uh, redeveloping in neighborhoods and they don't think about, uh, what is used and what's not used and they totally make the same, what it was, then we cannot make a big difference because you have to think as a whole government about the, the problem. And if I go to, uh, to a Lewenborg take, uh, when the streets are bad. They have to make new streets and they don't think about what is needed. They will only take out and take new ones and not think about what is needed. So if we don't get that idea of climate adaptation by them, yeah, it will not be fixed.. Um, uh, remaking places that are not made in a good way. And that's also what other, um, um, parts of the government do. Not with the idea of, uh, looking at what is better for the environment. Yeah. It's that whole, uh, place needed to be, uh, be having, uh, paved or is half also enough? And that way of thinking is, uh, is coming.

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I: So you're a normal member of the wijkcomite?

R: No, I'm in groenste buurt, I was chairman of the wijkcomite for six years. About seven years ago. And my heart went out to the climate change. So to prevent it. And I want to be active where my heart is.

I: Now you're in this working group called groenste buurt?

R: Yes. It's really it's more or less in dependable working group with its own corporation to get finance going. If you if you have a committee with its own budget, which is a vereniging (corporation). Others are totally dependable, dependable of the local government. They give money and then you spend the money. Yeah. The corporation will be active and have their own members. They pay a member fee, membership fee, and we get in their own money, their own money. And we have placed, for example solar panels and from those solar panels, we have income, so we invest in sustainable things, you know, innovative. And then we get money from that where we can do new things in this. Yes, it's small thing I think about. €10,000 a year. But it's okay. No, it's not even that much. But we have a little spending money of our own. And we used our spending money also to support the the committee. And by buying in the local newspaper. Yes. Advertisements. So. And they need less money to make the buurtkrant. So we create in our own committee or neighborhood money systems to get more sustainable.

I: What kind of initiatives or projects are you working on right now related to climate adaptation specifically?

R: The main thing we have a wijk energy plan, neighborhood energy plan. You can find it in our website. And there we made a plan with the government, the local government, the city council. What is our neighborhood about? It's about 200 years old, badly insulated. And we're dependent on gas. And we have a lot of roofs where we can put solar panels on. But it's all owned by private owners, and that makes it difficult to do

collective things. So what we say is we put. Knowledge, knowledge and knowledge about the climate and about how to. Work with your house? Mm hmm. And then we say, Well, you have two moments in your house where you can do something. You have the moment where your central central heating. It is old and you have to replace it. Do something else than gas. this or you have this moment where you plan a big, um. Change of your house and then take in insulation and then do it step by step by step, so that in ten years time, you, uh, you have a sustainable house with not so much costs where we think that in 2040 the Earth gas will be replaced by hydrogen for. And then our usage has been brought back 30% as of the moment with everything is knowledge, knowledge, knowledge, and they have to trust us. So what we tell is true because if you tell your neighbor, you should take another central heating. Yeah, buy gas and gas becomes €10 per cubic meter. Then they come to you, say, What did you advise me? If you are the company, then you have your product. You want to give. We don't have a product, we only have advice. So this theme evening, we have to evenings in our neighborhood per year. And last year was about gas and insulation and this one is about making our neighborhood more green. So more trees, more bushes, stones out of the gardens and green roofs and all things about our green. Because if a neighborhood is green, you want to live

in it. And if it's only stone, you say, I go away. And so it's about knowledge and sharing the knowledge and also experience. So I have a heat pump which makes noise. Yeah. And so when people come to my house 1 to 2 times a year, we have people coming to our houses and we work together with the power. I don't know if, you know, I talk about that and we organize sustainable housing routes so people can write in and say, I want to look in a house where it is heat active or where insulation is active or. And then they come to us and then we say, Well, you can use a heat pump, but be aware it makes a noise. And in our neighborhood, it's killing. So at night, my heat isn't working. And. If I had good insulation and a better heat pump, it would take over, my gas for I think 90%. Now it's about 50%. But we tell the truth. So we know the disadvantages. Every change has its advantages and disadvantages. And when something is very cheap, it's very hard to leave to get and have the gas go. So for climate adaptation, I think, Mr. Putin very much because I think we are going to make the change more rapidly. If I work, my daughter has her own house. He's paying €350 a month for her energy and she has a type A house. So she said what to do. I can come by to tell you. Well, we can pay. We can manage.

I: Generally, how are you as residents of your neighborhood informed by the municipality about different possibilities to get active, to do, engage in?

R: I think 15 years ago or now, ten years ago. Local people of the whole city, organized a corporation called grunneger bouwer. And they are really active as a corporation to advise and inform people. And they organize things in neighborhoods so that they can be self-supporting. On the other hand, they have a local officer. Mm hmm. And this officer is our contact man, and we talk to him, and he informs us, but also the local government. And then you have energyloket. Yeah, that's the other one. Yeah. Mm hmm. And the municipality organize all sorts of activities. Inform us where you can go and collect your knowledge or meet other initiatives. Groenste buurt is an old one in terms of age. We are here for eight years now. Mm hmm. Um. But there are also neighborhoods where nothing is organized. So you have a Paddepoel now getting the heat grid. And together with Vinkhuizen, Selwerd, but they live on the other side of the railway. Yeah. And it's fairly new neighborhood. Yeah. And we live on this side, so we have our own plan. But we know what they're doing, and they know what we are doing. We have our own energy coaches and we organize training evenings about the mathematics with energy. You know how much, for example, you know, electricity is in an hour. You can use so much energy electric a kilowatt hour. A kilowatt hours. So if you leave it for an hour there, then you have thousand watt per hour? What is the advantage of gas? You can store it so you can make gas, put calories in it, then you can store it and you can get it out. You have the same amount of calories. Doesn't change for years. Yeah. Electricity vanishes. You can make an active battery, but if you leave the battery for years there, it will slowly diminish its capacity. You need ten kilowatt hours to have the same amount of calories as with gas. So one cubic meter gas is the same as ten kilowatt hours. So how to store electricity. () Electricity is becoming cheaper and cheaper and cheaper. And gas is becoming more expensive. More expensive. More expensive. So they're talking about four or €5 per cubic meter. Mm hmm. Yeah. Yeah. So now, you know, the the profitability of Russia is is dying because they have fossil fuels and you can't use them anymore. the problem with electricity is you have to store it. And they're looking for massive storage. Where can you store? Speaker 1: [00:15:43] There, they are studying on the future. Yeah. And once they have this idea, what if you make a big wall inside? No. See? Mm hmm. Where you can level the water independently of the North Sea. You put solar, solar shields, solar panels and windmills on top of them. Mm hmm. And what you do is in the daylight. There's energy. You pump the water up. Yeah. From the sea. Mm hmm. And at the moment that it's dark, you let the water go down, and then as you come free again. But then it's more, you know, white energy, which was white energy. White, white and white energy is in in Scotland and in Norway, where they use the the water falling down as an energy source. And you create your own white energy by leveling the water so you don't have this storage. Mm hmm. So what can we do? We have to store energy and a more effective way to. In Norway. In the north it will be storage for a long summer with a lot of daylight and then a dark winter. Here it will be 5050. And if you go to more to the south, you have more daylight because the sun is there on the equation. Well, where can we store ones? Where can we store electricity? And this for spatial planning. An interesting thing. So. Yeah. Where can you, um. What if. For example. You see, I have a lot of ideas. What if cars are changing, growing and become more a community item like trains? You don't need your parking garages anymore. What if we can create a little storage inside the parking garages for every building, for example?

I: Aso, I was wondering if you have heard of websites groningenklimaatbestendig or operatie steenbreek?

R: It started in our neighborhood and Carla Veldhuis is the founder of Operation Steenbreek. And she was also a member of our group. And she is really into climate and green and I'm more into sustainable. Okay. And we talk to each other in the energy. So we know about it.

I: Have you been asked about your views and activities regarding adaptation by the municipality? Because I know that they sometimes do these surveys. Uh, the last one was in 2019, some time ago, where they ask about the views of residents and their activities in adaptation. So have you participated in or are you aware that they have this?

R: We are always working with the university about these things and always filling the survey.

I: Do you think that communities or neighborhoods can actually take the lead as part of the adaptation strategy? Is it too restricted or is it actually encouraged?

R: It is encouraged because you have to be aware of the possibilities in your neighborhood, for example, and a heat grid in our neighborhood is not feasible unless the government will force it upon us. It is only feasible with isolation. We think that you can create small communities within your neighborhood to do things or the owners, for example, can do things themselves and. Make a lot of things known about how you can get money, where to get your energy and how to help each other.

I: What are the concrete steps when one of the community wants to implement a large scale measure of, let's say, uh, some resident in your neighborhood has an idea of some kind of intervention in public space, maybe a greening initiative. And then they come to you first, right? Or to your working group or the wijkcomite, and then you facilitate that?

R: Yes. For example, there was this guy who said, well, if we have to leave the gas we have to cook on induction. In Amsterdam they give a subsidy on going over to induction cooking. Can you do this also? So we asked, is the government, the local municipality? And we're waiting for an answer. So they know to find us. We give knowledge and we have ideas. And then there is this interaction with the local community. And sometimes with municipality and sometimes. What is important at these municipality officers. They have to become process managers instead of knowledge managers, because if they for example, if you have this contact person with grown up in sustainability. He has his own hobbies. You know, he thinks, well, I believe only in the insulation or I believe only in gas. So they have to become a process manager to facilitate us and the municipality in having contact. Yeah. And by the way, as a community, you have to be really strong in what you want. If you're not strong, they will tell you what to do and you say, I won't do it. If a community is told what to do, they say we won't do it. They want to define their own strategy. And. This funny thing is happening in Holland. A lot of people, highly educated, have grown up and become active without having to work and they know what to do and they know what they want and they can be really active. So if you want to chase something in the neighborhood, you should focus on the 50 plus people. And because they have the time and the means to do things. And for example, we want to organize student challenges and work for sustainability. It is impossible to organize a lot of nice things. Also with my company within the end, it's a lot about the. Having fun, being aware, being good, and not having the results. One of the important things we have done in our neighborhood is, if you measure things, you know, what was heavily so when eight years ago the local government said we have to do smart meters in the bill, we really supported that. We really were active. Get a smart meter. Get a smart meter in our neighborhood, 92% of all the houses have a smart meter line to do it. So we know what is going on. And now we can download this big database. And every year we're doing this and we download all the data and we know what's happening in our neighborhoods and we know that in our neighborhood, this is reducing the energy. Consumers should reduce the energy consumption by 9%. And in the world, energy consumption consumption is growing. So we reduce it by 9% now. Solar panels, awareness. Insulation. Technical measures, etc.. Yeah. Going very slow. Yeah, but it's going.

I: But you as a. As a wijkcomite you don't really give ideas for initiatives to use. You give people the knowledge of the you try to make them aware, but you don't really come up with your own ideas for initiatives?

R: What we hear. Just for example, an evening like this, you know, people can come there and speak and share their knowledge. We organize. It's all about sharing knowledge and sharing experiences. Yeah. So, for example, five years ago there was this pilot of heat pumps in our neighborhood and five people decided to take part. So we have in our neighborhood five heat pumps, old ones and two experience. And people are looking at them and hearing. In the meantime, there are new heat pumps which are much better and. And then they could use them. We know now if you have a heat pump, you should put it on your roof. Not in your garden. It's very easy, but the roof is not always yours. For example, the smart meter of the people who live above me is in our hallway. And and, uh, for the owners association, that is in the old days when the guy came to reach the electricity. Yeah. Yeah. Now it's all smart, so they don't have to come anymore. But if she wants to have solar panels on the roof, they would go to our house. To connect it to her meter. That is what it is. So yes, when we hear new things, we want to try them in cooperation with Grunneger Bouwer in the community, in the local municipality. And there are always people in our neighborhood who want to try other things.

I: And how does the financing work with bigger initiatives? How much do you give? How much money do you get from the municipality?

R: There we had a trick. Um, the local people in our community, our volunteers, and they put in a lot of hours to, uh, to getting things done. The municipality isn't paying their people. Mm hmm. So what we said is, well, we need knowledge about how to realize a project. We have six projects in our energy plan are making cheaper projects we are responsible for. And we put a lot of money into it by volunteers. Mm hmm. Then we said, Well, what? Our volunteer resembles €20 worth. Because if the municipality has to organize it in our neighborhood, they have to pay someone. Mm hmm. And then we said we put up 50% of the project. You put up in cash. 50% of project. And then they gave us money to hire someone, to do things. And what is the advantage? We can select someone we want who is not living in our neighborhood. That's important because you can't support your own people. The municipality has to be very careful on how to select. Um, advisors. If the municipality has to buy something, they have to do it above a certain level of amount. They have to do it based by European rules. Okay. Yeah. We don't have to. Yes. So we are hiring a young woman who is our project manager, and she's governing six projects in our neighborhood and is enthusiastic about things. And we put have a lot of hours into it also. So together with the local municipality, we organize things in those six projects. Um, street ambassadors. Mm hmm. Um. Solar roofs. We want to organize those big roofs where people can put roofs. Because they can't put roofs on their own roofs. Student houses. We have a lot of students. There were six. But she's responsible and she's organizing them. So we get money from them. We have our own corporation to have our own finances. So we pay for all the things by volunteers, but also with our own money. We have money inside of the cooperation to organize things. But we get money from the government also.

I: Have you heard about the neighborhood ambassadors? And in your neighborhood, is it one person who does it?

R: No. We think it has to be a lot of a lot of people because what's the span of attention of one person if you have a neighborhood ambassador. Our neighborhood has about 4000 residents. That's a lot of people in. One person is not up to do that. So you have to get six or seven in our neighborhood who work together. So our local committee has they are also ambassadors. We are the green ambassadors.

I: Do you think citizens should be given more freedom and possibilities to engage in greening initiatives and generally climate adaptation? Or is the level of freedom already good?

R: You know, in my professional capacity, I work also for Emmen, which is a city. About 66 kilometers away. They take a totally different approach. I think for Groningen and this is all right but if you want to have movement for sustainable. The cost of energy has to be high, then people will become sustainable. Or you have to give a little subsidy on how to get sustainable. Yeah, but. A lot of people say, well, I'm going to sell my house in five years. Why should I get sustainable? And I'm 65. Why should I be sustainable? And then I say, well, you can make your house sustainable. You get more money. You get more money. If I sell it. Who will inherit this? You know. So the only thing which you can say is it will lower your monthly costs if you do it, and then people will act on it because then you have more money left to live. So the energy coaches are there for advice. We have a website. Little things are happening. And I don't think people would get more active if you give them money. People are living their lives and acting on threats.

I: Do you think people are or citizens are satisfied with their options to become active?

R: Groningen is more or less left. Municipality. The province has lived with a lot of threats and to survive in threats. You need social cohesion. You need a good government release, insurance, collective measures so the dikes will not be getting higher with local people being active in the neighborhood. They thought they trust that the dikes will be high enough. So. I think in Holland we have a very good government with the municipalities, provinces and the different levels. In Europe, where we are lucky with the Northwest, like Germany and Holland and Denmark, we have really good municipalities and.

I: Are you satisfied with the way of communication between municipality and residents?

R: Yeah, it's working. Well, I think it's working well in Holland. Yeah. Should we have more referendums? Yes, I think we should. Like in Switzerland, where the people decide. But there's a danger if you have a referendum, yes or no, then a small collective. We now discovered that in 2006 there was this big thing in Holland about Ukraine. And a little group. Misinformed a lot of people. So we voted against Ukraine. Now we know that Mr. Putin was funding these people. So you have to be very careful. I think we will. Discover in future times that the Russians are behind Brexit. That they paid money to divide. Yeah. So what you should do is really organize referenda in a way that it's advisory, um, and then you have more choices and that people can inform themselves about what is happening. Informing doesn't mean that they have the right to intervene. For example, you know about the Korrewegbrug. It's gone. Exactly. And now there has to be a new one. And what do we want? We want a high one. Why? So the ships can move through? Yeah. And. But the neighborhood wants something else. But in the end, the municipality has to decide. And they say, yes, we the officer or no, you have to go home and do something else. Five years ago, six years ago, there was this council who won. Now the municipality, they want trams in Groningen. I'm in favour of trams because you can transport lot of more people with less movement. But there was so much opposition from the local people that it was killed. They had the edge in this one. And why? Because trams would go through streets that are very narrow. And they said, well, it's going to kill our business. Yes. But a city like Groningen should have trams. Now we have these silent buses. Yeah. Oh, also nice. Yes. But they are, um, we have used a lot of those buses, and I think we should have trams to, uh, lessen the movements in total, you know? Yeah. We had trams here in the old days.

I: According to you, what could be done to make climate adaptation more effective overall?

R: Raise the price, more taxes on gas? Yeah, it's very effective. Yeah. I think the only way.

I: And regarding heat risks, flooding risks?

R: You know, when someone says, well, in 2050, the sea will be 50 centimeters higher. And I walk by the sea because I love the sea. I like sailing on the sea. I never see any rising of the sea. I don't, I don't see. And all those things happening in America, I don't really feel it. Well, it's getting a little bit warmer here. It's nice. I don't have to go to Greece to be in the water. I can stay here, you know? And it's going very gradually. It's a little bit more and more, and it's a little bit more. And we have the confidence that we have a technical solution for everything. So I will wait and we'll see what happens. Look, at (). It was really massive as a threat and people acted on it. So you really have to have to make that threat acute. And now. Yeah. If the threat is here now. So right then they will act.

I: Right now, you think there's no need for action?

R: I don't say there's no need for action. I say there is a lot of need for action. We are too late. But make the threat now. Okay. So make one cubic meter gas five euros per meter. Then look at what people will do. They would put down their energy. They will complain, they act. They have these little shower things, so they only show for 3 minutes. I want an electric car because gas is too expensive, so people act on it. So make the threat acute. Really now look at Russia. Europe is one again. ()The danger is imminent. And if danger is imminent, we're going to act. () You know, there is a real threat we have to encounter. And behind him, there's the climate change that these are the two real threats.

5.

I: So have you implemented any projects regarding climate adaptation here yet?

R: Yes, we have. Different places. More green. The gardens, more environmentally friendly. Biological, ecological. So that we will have more bees and insects.

I: Maybe also like taking out the tiles like removing pavement?

R: Tiles out. And plants in. In a lot of places, we're busy with it. But also what happens here in this part of town in that a lot of the gardens are all filled with tiles. That's a problem.

I: And did the idea to do something arise from a specific opportunity in the adaptation strategy of Groningen?

R: No. And what I've heard here in Vinkhuizen. There is no coordination on different projects. That's still a new problem. Before it was not necessary. But now everywhere something happens and then the coordination will be important. Yesterday evening, we talked about it. Yeah, that's a must. It starts everywhere. So that's very positive.

I: How did you personally learn about the possibilities to get involved in adaptation?

R: I was always interested in gardens, in green and woods, etc.. Yeah. And now it's changing to climate. And we all know that. That's nice. A small story. I know someone who lives in Kleve. And he is very active for an organization in Berlin about the oceans and the whales. And then three times a week he flies from Kleve in that area to Berlin and. Please take a train.

I: How have you been informed about possibilities to get involved?

R: I was active here in Vinkhuizen. I was chairman of the neighborhood association. And so in that way, I came in contact about this, and the chairman stopped in 2020 and later I came here and. Yeah. So it goes in that way.

I: And what is your position exactly now here in this area?

R: I'm climate ambassador. For a greener Vinkhuizen. And the first thing I did is to have an interview with the local paper. A lot of people know who I am. But what I'm doing now, a climate ambassador. I'm working at the green.

I: There's certain information channels from the municipality like websites. Did you learn a lot from these or is that mainly your own initiative that you take?

R: So in the city there are 6 climate ambassadors and Matia coordinates that. Yeah. And of course, we get a lot of input from them. But personally, I'm very interested in organizations who are working together so I mail them etc. Also the housing associations. And they have also a lot of information of course, you know, but also the people of the municipality.

I: And were you ever asked about your views or your activities in a survey from the municipality? Or maybe you have never really come across these...

R: No.

I: Okay. So all the information you have about climate adaptation and the things you do, you research yourself not necessarily through the websites of the municipality?

R: Climate ambassador is a new function, position. Yes. And I do it on my way. And I think, you know, the others do it their way. And so I'm personally very interested. How are they doing that. Okay. But I know from other climate ambassador, they're doing this now and they have concentrated on that and I'm looking around for information.

I: Do you think that you as a community can take the lead in implementation of climate adaptation measures?

R: Not in measures. We do a lot. But there are also a lot of things. Yeah, they have to organize it from the government or the EU or United Nations, etc. now that we know all how difficult it is in the Western countries. We were always leaving, but now the others, like China, India, etc., they're coming up. yeah, they have a different, different goals

I: But do you think on the level of the city of Groningen: are communities encouraged to take the lead?

R: Yeah, that's possible. That space is there. Also from the community. Oh, you want to do that? Okay, that's good.

I: And what are the steps? Let's say when you as the climate ambassador, have a new idea for an adaptation?

R: Yeah, that's difficult. That's very difficult. Uh, there are some initiatives here in Vinkhuizen and I promote that. I stimulate that. Like throwing a stone in the water.

I: Every time it's different for every initiative it's a different process.

R: Right. Nice thing is on the 31st of May, we had a meeting here, people walking different routes in the neighborhood. The green, the green side, but also architecture. And it was one from architecture we had. 12 points interesting for architecture. Yeah. Okay. And then someone not from this but from another part of Groningen said but do you know that this is very interesting? Nobody knew that. Well good. That's nice. We took it on our walking tour. Yesterday evening there was a meeting from Matia. The idea was to green these places but before we said it's architecture. This park and trees and green in it. Okay, that was a nice discussion. And the man who was very active is also in the political part of Groningen. We never knew about these architectural places before and now we are fighting for it.

I: Who participates in the decision making? Residents and who else? What are the main parties?

R: That's also a difficult part. We can all agree to make Vinkhuizen greener. And then everyone said the community has to do that. Yeah. And we say, okay, but what can we do? You know? Yeah. And there are some initiatives. And then the community is like no, no, no. That's not possible. So what's possible? Yeah,

that's asking for very creative minds. How can you organize that then? Also the *geveltuintjes*, small gardens in front of the house, it's cheap, everything is possible. But there are so many things. Oh, it's on a route used by *rolators*. Unbelievable. Or there is something in the ground. Yeah, that makes it difficult. But when we have an initiative then it's quickly organized. Yeah. But it takes a lot of time to find out what is possible. I: And who pays for the implementation. Is there some budget from the municipality?

R: The community pays most.

I: What role do the neighborhood associations play?

R: As climate ambassador, I can get 1500 euros. From the inhabitants here, comes from the community, of course, but they can give 30000 or so. So when we talk together, I do it once, twice a week about it. Oh, this is interesting. Don't start with 'we have money for you', no never do that, but we can promote and stimulate that. And that takes time and normally the function of a climate ambassador is for one year. Now I think I need five years or something but that's no problem. That's no problem. It takes a lot of time to change something.

I: But do you think that citizens or residents should be given more freedom and possibilities to get involved? Or do you think they have enough? If they want to do something about adaptation, then they have everything they need?

R: Yeah, of course. There's a big group of people. They will do it. But also others. Here in Vinkhuizen, it's interesting, there are 11,000 people, 3500 are one person households. Then 2000 students. They are interested in climate adaptation, but not in their home with six other students. That's also very difficult to start the discussion about it, you know, and of course we all, we all understand that. And of course there are people that are not interested at all.

I: But those people that want to do something they have all the possibilities?

R: Yeah, that's right. So it's very important to promote, well, okay, this is my function. I do this, please send me mail, call me, etc., etc.. But last week was also in the local newspaper here but zero reaction. But that's here on this garden complex also. We need more volunteers, people to, to do something on this park, etc.. Very difficult. Yeah. Sent mails, etc., and zero response. That's difficult.

I: And here in garden, people rent right?

R: Yes.

I: And then they can do whatever they want.

R: That's right. And of course, everything environmentally friendly. Yeah, that's a change from two years ago. That changed the last two years. Yeah. Before it was allowed to use pesticides. But not anymore.

I: But people also grow food?

R: Yeah, 90%. For 30 years. 100%. And then women rent a small garden and they had only flowers in those years. But that was in those years. And it was a revolution. And that's changed.

I: How many different gardens are there?

R: 270. It's a big garden complex, the biggest of Groningen. And I want to change it to. A garden complex park together with the people here. That's also a long process. So it started with this route. You can walk around here. And so that you can all show that it's now on Saturday. Yeah. They come here on the complex.

I: So normally it's not free?

R: No, it's not free. Normally it's not free. So it's closed.

I: How did you experience the public engagement process in practice? Is there positive communication?

R: There's positive communication. Yes. I can say 99% positive communication. Of course there are some things. Yesterday evening at a meeting to start up the new initiative I say, I'm ambassador. I do not do 100% of the work so we have to do this together.

I: What would you think could be done to make climate adaptation more effective overall?

R: If you can make people clear that it is necessary. That's the most important thing. Yeah, that it's necessary. To all the people. Oh, we need more flowers. We need more insects. In earlier days, we made it every week and we had more flowers than at the moment. And then we have to say, we've destroyed it. And then they don't believe it. So it's very necessary that they understand the problem. That's the most important thing.

I: So the awareness. And how do you think it's possible to do that? Is it just the flow of information?

R: The flow of information. And maybe when it's one year dry or one year rainy. We see it. February was extremely wet, extremely stormy, March was extremely dry, extremely sunny. April starts with snow and now it's extremely dry. And also up to the next two weeks I guess. Mhm. So people see that the climate is

changing and then they will be confronted with the problems. Then they will change, then they understand, they have to understand that there's the motion.

6.

I: So you're basically just a resident here in this area, right?

R: Yes.

I: You're not involved in any way in the neighborhood association?

R: No, I'm not.

I: So can you maybe describe the project in a few sentences that you did here?

R: Yes. First, I was involved with the other projects of the municipality for the fitness parcours. So I knew some people there. And when I was doing that, when it's over there and everything is running. Then I will make the street greener. Because it was a lot of stone and not attractive. And there was a man from the municipality saying, well, you can also do that and make it greener because the municipality also wants this. But then there was a neighbor, a woman. She saw the advertisement in the gezinsbode that encouraged to remove tiles. And she said that in the whatsapp group of neighbors. And there was another neighbor. He has little gardens in front of the house. Geveltuinen. And they did it all by themselves, I think four or five. But I, I had heard when you do it together, that municipality also gives plans. So I made it. I invited our neighbors to go with me. So it starts.

I: So you started the initiative.

R: We started this, but I started to do it together. Yeah. And then also, there is on the website. You can ask for a geveltuin. There you can also write something more. And I write that maybe the whole street can be more green and that they picked up by the municipality. And it became a project. So that's the start.

I: What exactly did you end up doing? A green square?

R: Yeah, yeah. Because when it's more green, the neighbors over there, we don't have contact with them. They look on the roofs of the bike sheds. And we thought maybe it's good to make green on the roofs. Now we've thought together what would be nice. We ask in the whatsapp group. Okay, it's going to be a project, not only the geveltuintjes, but also the whole square. Who wants to participate in this? And I think six neighbors joined with another group's app. So we had online meetings with the neighbors to think, what do we want? And then we all make some points that we want, I did make a very, very big list because I think when you dream big, there is also more. And I was on vacation in September, but the neighbors went to the meeting with Matia. And they have all their ideas. And then they make a plan. And then in October or November, they had a plan. And we went there again. And we could choose the colors and trees.

I: But then the municipality had some workers coming in to make it. Or did you make it?

R: No. And to be honest we had a lot of ideas, but I thought already in the neighborhood there are other plans and I thought it would be something like this. I think the municipality already had a plan. It looks like we have only really to say something about the colors.

I: So the municipality already had a detailed idea of what should be?

R: I think so. That's it. That's my opinion.

I: But are you happy with it?

R: Yes, I'm happy because for me, it would be nice to have a wild bush or something like it. Real nature. Yeah. And this is cultivated. And I understand this is possible here. The other is not possible.

I: So this idea to have an initiative, did it come specifically from an opportunity given to you by the municipality?

R: By coincidence, all the small pieces came together because I was very busy with the fitness parcours. And when it's done I thought, okay, it would be nice to make some more green. Then when I saw that a neighbor was planning the geveltuintjes, I guess then I thought I like that. And the other neighbor had the advertisements. So it all came together.

I: What was in these advertisements?

R: It started with the leefstraat. And that was last summer, before last summer. You can change your streets into environments for children to play.

I: And also these subsidies might have played a role from the municipality? You knew at a specific point that they were going to finance some ideas.

R: Yes. And I think it started because I made it a project from the geveltuintjes. And then it became something bigger than just one. And then the cycle started.

I: How did you personally learn about the possibilities to get involved in climate adaptation? Certain websites?

R: It was more the motivation to make it greener. I know it's better for the climate. It's more healthy and looks better.

I: How are you and other neighbors informed about possibilities to get active? So have you ever been on these websites from the municipality?

R: No, it's because I've been working already for 30 years with people from the municipality. And so I know people. And when I want something, I think, oh, maybe that one.

I: You don't need other information channels.

R: I asked the man that did the fitness parcours, listen, I want to make our street green. I wonder what I have to do. And he told me to go to the websites on geveltuintjes. And then I do this and it started. But the other neighbor, she always reads the gezinsbode and there she read that stuff.

I: And were you ever asked about your views or what you're doing personally in adaptation by the municipality? And did they ever send you a survey?

R: No.

I: Do you think that communities can take the lead in implementation?

R: So you ask if we can make the start? I think the citizens can take the lead because a lot of citizens don't know the way, I think. *Me*, I have already noticed that when you want something and you have the right person you can do it because every year at Christmas we have our lights in the trees and every year all the lights went broke and we had to do new ones every year. So I think ten or 15 years ago, we thought we wanted to make it more sustainable. We got a subsidy from the municipality to do that. They gave us money for it and now we still have the same lights. So that's also possible. But I'm very okay, we have to do that. I don't know if it is possible. A politician came for the opening. For the official opening. I think she had a point, she says. For us, it's very good to know how it started, because you did this very well. But I think there are a lot of neighbors, they don't know the way, we want to also do something there. And she was also very social because we had an argument in the street. We wanted to have benches. And I really wanted to have benches because then you also have the social. There are a lot of neighbors who don't want that because they are afraid that youngsters sit there. More people want to have benches and less that don't. But you know, people who don't want benches speak very loud. So now we don't have benches. But the politician says, Oh, I miss the benches here. Gave her applause. Because that's also a very good thing, I think, socially.

I: You can collectively enjoy it.

R: Yes. And the argument of the no benchers was that they already have benches in front of the house, you have your own place. Now they don't understand that part.

I: You already explained it a little bit. But what are the concrete steps when a community wants to implement a measure like this. It starts from a group of neighbors developing an idea. And then they communicate this to the municipality?

R: Yes.

I: Was the neighborhood association here involved at all?

R: No, only this street. We thought about it. What do we want? Some people are very anxious about things. I: Were there any important parties that you want to mention in the implementation of this project, or mainly just you as neighbors and then the municipality?

R: Yes, I think that was it. Yeah, this we have because we said it would be nice to have a green view for the people who live there. We thought about including roofs. And then was also the huurvereniging. They were also involved because they are the owner of the sheds. They have to give approval. We look at the brick wall and it's not very green. Yeah. So we thought maybe you can do some plans. And it's also better because my wild idea was carports, a very large carport with plants. But now they do the plans in front of the wall. Some cars are too big so they have to remove the bumper so there is more space. So they first remove the brick. And then they can do that there. But maybe it's in cooperation with the House Corporation.

I: And who paid for the greening of the square? Only the municipality?

R: Yes. And for the next two years, we don't have to do anything. After two years, we have to maintain this. We would like to have an evening or something to have information. What can we do? So that we once or twice or three times a year do something together. It's also social. I like that.

I: In this project, the neighborhood association didn't play any role. But would you say they can play a significant role in making the neighborhood greener?

R: No, I really don't know who the people of the association are. There is one association of people who. Organized some nice things in the neighborhood, like Koningsdag and Christmas markets. That kind of stuff. I know there is an organization, but I think they only do this.

I: Do you think citizens or residents should be given more freedom and possibilities in adaptation to get active, to implement projects? Or is it enough?

R: I think this when you want something a lot is possible and I think it's also good that the municipality also has an overview. Or it's not nice to see or you have to have a good environment, I think.

I: How did you experience the public engagement process implementing this green square? Were there any problems on the way? How was the communication with the municipality?

R: The communication was very good. Because we have a parking problem, there are a lot of cars. And because of the two trees, there is one car place. It was not an official car place. But when it's very full, you can put your car there. Yeah, that's not possible anymore. It's also forbidden to park your car here on the pavement. They give you a ticket. They warn us. And there are two in a house and they always have the truck on the pavement. When they were building the Green Square, they have the big trucks on the square. Now they can still park their truck there. So do the municipality think with us. Also before we didn't have enough space for the big cars ()

I: Are you satisfied with your options to become active in adaptation?

R: Yes

I: What could be done to make climate adaptation more effective overall? For you, the motivation behind this project was greening and making a nicer place for the community. But when it comes to adaptation, what can be done in the way it's organized that would make it more effective?

R: More info to make people aware. The biggest step is to create awareness.

I: And how could this be done?

R: We also have an activity to activate people around the neighborhood, but a lot of people don't know about the possibility. As I already said to the municipality, you have to make it more visible in the information. Nowadays I think it's Instagram and the socials. I think it works better. Because you have their accounts of the sport. You have all kinds of accounts. Yes. Because I don't follow them all. It's easier to have one big account. And then you can choose your options because you know what you want. For the older people it's the letters. And I think that if you really want to do something, you have to put in a letter in the brievenbus.

7.

I: Gibt es für dich irgendwie einen normalen Tag im Stadtteilzentrum oder bei deiner Arbeit im Zentrum oder wenn man das so sagen? Oder wie ist der Ablauf dieses Tages?

R: Insgesamt kommt bei mir zum Tragen, dass ich sowohl in der Nachbarschaft treff Verantwortung für den Bau von Waren als auch an die, die Koordinations. In der Gropiusstadt für unseren Träger wahrnehme oder die Verabredung mit anderen Initiativen und Trägern habe. Von daher ist für mich der typische Tag, an dem dieser durchgeschlagen hat. War so ein typischer Tag bzw ein typischer Woche, dass ich halt am vier fünf große Verabredungen haben, also sich so zwei drei Stunden treffen, halt am Netzwerktreffen bilateral Geschichten zu gucken, was macht man jetzt mit dem nächsten Nachbarschafts fest? Meinetwegen angucken oder zusammen oder stricken mit ins Team für die ganze Organisation und solche Sachen. Und tatsächlich sind für die für die Koordination Aufgaben bei mir auch 40 % der Stunden, die ich in der Woche habe, auch reserviert. Also Verabredungen auch berlinweit, mit, mit auf andere Nachbarschaft, Häuser mit blick auf die Verabredung der Arbeitsbedingungen, Arbeitsgruppen, die gebildet haben für die organisierte Stadtteilzentrum über den verband für soziale kulturelle Arbeit, also unser Dachverband und Vertretung auch mit Blick auf die großen Verbände bzw auch die da regelmäßig treffen um das dann intern vor Ort in Nachbarschaft, was dann vielleicht auch pro Tag, vielleicht zwei drei Stunden. Oder meine Rolle, aber auch weniger ist, dass ich dann als Einrichtung schaue, was muss die im Hintergrund machen, damit es vorne gut läuft? Also meine Kolleginnen, die vor Ort in die Gruppen betreuen, die Leute begrüßen, dann für die unmittelbaren Fragen ist greifbar, sind halt am, tragen sie gegebenenfalls an mich ran. Und ich schaue halt, dass ich mit meinen Kolleginnen, auch den Besucherinnen und Besuchern, Gästen Gutes eine gute Voraussetzung schaffen kann und so auch fürs Arbeiten wäre, dass es Hintergrund Sommerfeste gibt, wenn es eben dann was nicht Weihnachtsfeier gibt, halt dann auch noch mal alle begrüßen. Mich für das Jahr bedanken. Kurz gucken. Zusammenfassen. Was haben wir geschafft? Vor uns halt. Zweitens Wir sind da so ein bisschen zeigen

haben wir das jetzt. Greifbar werden mit reingehen, in Angebote mitmachen und spielen und das, was es eigentlich überhaupt nicht.

I: Vielleicht kannst du dann noch mal ganz kurz zusammenfassen, welche Projekte ihr macht?

R: Wir arbeiten zu den großen Feldern der Selbsthilfe an der Begleitung oder Unterstützung von Familienangehörigen und der Nachbarschaft. Bisher haben zu allen drei großen Säulen gibt es uns noch nicht mal mit Blick auf Migranten Arbeit Migrations Projekte. Und was war daran denn? Rankommen und gute Arbeit machen bzw auch an Arbeit mit jungen Menschen angedockt ist? Und der Charakter ist der, dass die möchten, dass die das die Besucherinnen, die Nutzerinnen, die haben eben sehr sehr viel aus sich heraus aktiv werden, hin schauen, wenn es noch bis jetzt nicht der Fall ist, so ein bisschen mit auch zu empowern und gucken, wo stehen wir es eigentlich, dass wir das keine Therapie oder sowas uns mitnehmen? Okay, wir bräuchten noch zwei, drei. Also zwei drei Skills, die den mit vermitteln müssen, damit noch mehr Schlagkraft für sich entwickeln. Und dann bräuchten wir auch einen kleinen Supporter. Das ist eine Nummer zu groß, was sie bräuchten, als einen kleinen Companion an der Seite für die ersten Schritte. Das nehmen wir gerne und zwar dann, wenn es bei den Nachbarschafts Gruppen halt eine Idee gibt. Man könnte noch hier und da mal drüber reden. Man stelle sich vor. Was braucht es dafür? Wie kommt man das hin? Und idealerweise intern? Bleibt das ganze dann auch ein Kind von der Person bzw von der Gruppe des anderen? Wir wollen es gerne machen, so dass das gar nicht auf uns das rüberziehen, was heute verlässlich sein müssen, greifbar sein müssen, weil es nicht immer der Fall ist, wenn wir Urlaub haben, nicht da sind. Was passiert in der Gruppe, macht in zwei, drei Wochen nichts. Also man guckt es ja einfach so viel wie möglich handlungsfähig. Also euch auch mal was an Ideen hat und Sorgen habt ihr was das ist Wissen halt angehen können und verabreden können, dass so ein Dialog Charakter kommt.

I: Ihr helft dabei. Aber eigentlich sollten die Gruppen selber aktiv sein.

R: Genau. Genau. Wir können gern. Das ist auch mal so ein Eindruck aus den aus dem Netzwerktreffen als Einrichtungen mit tollen Ideen haben Projekt Gelder. Und so weiter und so fort an der Hand und könnten endlich loslegen. Aber wir machen es ja offiziell nicht für uns, sondern für die Nachbarschaft oder für die Menschen jetzt. Hier hat und bräuchte man so und so ein Gegengewicht, also die interessierte, organisierte Nachbarinnen und Nachbarn, die einfach zusammensitzen, die Bock drauf haben, was zu besprechen hat und dann vielleicht hier auch so ein, zwei unbequeme Jobs mal übernehmen. Nach dem Motto Na gut, dann, wenn es der Bewohner Versammlung gibt, dann müsste uns jemand ja mal einladen oder so was halt. Oder denn er will greifbar werden für wir, für die Orga. Und so weiter. Gerne macht man das und auch den Mut dazu. Damit kann man gut arrangieren und das soll nicht so ein Hemmnis werden von dem. Naja, ich wollte nur sagen, dass das Eingemachte geht. Ich muss da, ich kann da nicht ständig etwas haben. Also gerne sehr interessierte, wache, Bewohnerinnen, Bewohner, kritische auch, die uns einfach wissen lassen, es ist immer gelaufen, es war einfach nicht so richtig gut, hat nicht verfangen oder hat da an die und die nicht gedacht. Danke für das Feedback. Als jemand auch das nächste Mal, damit es einfach besser wird.

I: Auf welche Zielgruppen sind die meisten Projekte ausgelegt? Meistens ältere Leute?

R: Genau

I: Bist du zufrieden mit der Beteiligung? Sind die Bewohner aktiv genug?

R: Da bin ich nicht zufrieden. Also da ist was ja schon mal angesprochen wird, haben wir hier eine sehr, sehr ausgeprägte Schwelle. Und die war, wann immer wir was haben, immer wieder aufs Neue nehmen müssen. Also es gibt nicht so dieses Menschen. Man ist schon drei, vier Mal zusammengekommen und da ist etwas hängengeblieben und hat gute Erfahrungswerte. Das ist mal wieder so, kannst du nicht. Aber ich hab doch schon, ich war schon da und es war alles richtig so, was man auch noch auf dem Schirm hat, die uns auch daran erinnern, wie eingebracht hat. Aber so ein bisschen kriegen ja auch mit dann. Das haben sehr, sehr wenigen auch bei den Einrichtungen sehr, sehr wenigen Hängen, die tatsächlich die Ressourcen haben, eben dann über diesen Auftrag hinausdenken zu können, die übernehmen auch personell gut aufgestellt sind. Es kommt mal jemand im Monat mit zehn Stunden mal reingehen, einfach Netzwerktreffen teilnehmen oder auch anbieten und Hilfe leisten. Und bei den Bewohnerinnen ist das nicht viel anders. Also sehr sehr ausgeprägte am Konsum Erwartung, auch was die Angebote angeht. Und eine Rückmeldung kommt jetzt mal Gab es noch das und das oder nicht hier und da? Und dann sollten wir versuchen, das nächste Mal wieder hinzubekommen. Halt, aber. Das verspreche ich Ihnen. Hinzubekommen haben wir, eine Veranstaltung auf die Beine zu stellen. Das ist wie eine gute Teilnahme oder Nachfrage in meinem Unternehmen beteiligt. Alles abgedeckt werden kann. Okay. Aber ich habe mir schon wünschen, dass. Die Ressourcen Lage sich ein bisschen verschiebt und die Leute tatsächlich

erkennen hey, ich habe meine ich die und die Vernetzungen. Und die Zeiten, wo ich mit anbieten kann und habe auch aber den Brocken, die mich da aufbringen jetzt zu beteiligen. Es ist ein bisschen so dieses, was ich so mitnehme, dass die Leute nicht so richtig Lust haben, so vor die Tür zu gehen, was zu machen. Ja, ich zu den Passagen und kurz einkaufen und okay, dann werden sie hier und da sichtbar. Aber so aktiv nachfragen muss etwas passieren. Und ich habe die Idee, das passiert viel zu selten mal!

I: Glaubst du, dass die Aktivitäten oder Projekte des Zentrums den Zusammenhalt unter den Bewohnern stärkt?

R: Innerhalb der Gruppen jeweils schon, dass sie sich gut finden. Freundliche und freundschaftliche Bande knüpfen halt. Das geht ziemlich schnell. Dabei ist auch ziemlich viel außerhalb des eigentlichen Gruppen treffen. Also verabreden am Wochenende. In der Zeit, die wir auch haben, uns ab und zu von, sagen wir mal zwei, drei Kolleginnen noch auch über Monate zusammen kommen, aber dann drei Wochen warten, so haben wir keine Sorge weiter intern und machen dann mit einem Wir kommen zurück fest. Dann eben die zweite Jahreshälfte. Aber aber außerhalb dieser Gruppen sind glaube ich schon recht geschlossen. Wir haben wieder neue Gesichter bekommen und das passiert auch hier und dort. Aber wenn die sich gut gefunden haben, die für andere relativ schwer ankommen. Und ich bin mir auch nicht sicher. Immer wieder mal so beobachte, wenn ich Leute aus der Gruppe raus und ihre Wege quasi gehen und ab und zu noch und dann hinterher halt. Und hast du den Termin was von A nach B und triffst dann wieder auf die das dann doch auch noch mal so ein Rollenwechsel oder Perspektivwechsel wieder passiert und dann die Gruppen Situation und Erfahrung abgeschlossen ist. Man hat ja Spielrunden, aber man ist wieder diese Privatperson und dann noch wieder ein bisschen anders auf dieses zuzugehen. Es befürchtet, dass dieses intern wir schaffen es, euch was Gutes mitzugeben. Halt. Und ich weiß nicht, wann ich vielleicht doch wieder achtsamer oder sensibler oder nachsichtiger oder so was hat. Das, was in den Gruppen ganz gut geübt wird, halt, wenn man ein paar Witze machen kann. Das ist jetzt gar nicht mehr so selbstverständlich. Ist, dass man ein bisschen wieder auf Distanz. Genau die Gruppen sich gefunden haben. Außerhalb schon, aber so große Interaktion mit Gruppen, Fremden, wenn es mal ist, dann wieder was ganz anderes.

I: Aber generell so innerhalb der Gruppe können schon Freundschaften entstehen.

R: Natürlich sind es auch am Kotti die langen Gruppen von den Besucherinnen seit 789 Jahren. Dabei sind also die, wenn da jemand krank ist oder eine Einkaufsliste übernommen hat. Am Puls sind alle sehr, sehr betagt und unter, aber das ist einfach klar. Wie komme ich dann vorbei und dann mach mal machen und es passiert schon.

I: Wie genau versucht ihr, mehr Leute einzubinden oder die Leute zu aktivieren?

R: Zum einen ist es sichtbar werden, wenn man draußen Sachen machen kann. Also für die Nachbarschaft, was heißt das jetzt für uns? Jetzt, wo wir im Prinzip mit dem Mai, der ist jetzt raus die Angebote rausbringen. Wir haben gerade die ganzen Bewegungs und Sportsachen halt. Wenn jetzt in den auch an einem festen Ort passieren müssen und zum Beispiel jetzt die Mobilität ein bisschen eingeschränkt ist, da muss dann mal in den Stuhlkreis draußen oder das geht dann nach draußen, ändern auf die Promenade oder die Spielergruppe oder oder oder. Das kann man glaube ich, ganz gut umsetzen, auch aus den aus den anderen Projekten intern. Dann werden auch die Außenbereiche benutzt, halt die Angebote in der Nordstadt, die große gemeinsame Veranstaltungen an freiwilligen Börsen, Nachbarschafts, Börsen oder auch Festivitäten, die dann auch genutzt und dann noch mal so auf uns aufmerksam zu machen. Diese Veranstaltungen ziehen sich glücklicherweise auch so durch das Jahr bis Ende Mai das erste Fest und dann so Mitte Ende September, dass es große Veranstaltungen und ein Picknick. Es gibt eine Kaffeetafel, ein Sportfest. Also man kommt da ganz gut zusammen im Sommer. Und dann passiert uns tatsächlich auch durch die Kooperationen mit dem Gesundheitszentrum, dass unsere ganze Infomaterial platziert werden kann an neue Medien mit dran. Aber auch das hat dann so seine Grenzen. Ja, seit zwei, drei Jahren dabei zu machen, dass wir auch jemanden haben, der drei, vier Kanäle permanent speist und teilt. Oder ist das auch was hinausgeschossen, weil dann eigentlich mit Blick auf unsere Klientel irgendwie klar ist, eine gute WhatsApp Gruppe, die reicht dann schon vermittelt werden über so ein Handy, dann finden die sich sowieso selbst. Finden wir gut. Ist ja auch ein bisschen problematisch, halt immer an neue Leute ranzukommen. Halt ich jetzt mal zu gucken hey, Nachbarschaftsstreit zum Beispiel, dann durch ausgegrenzt am Dutzend neuer Gesichter hatten die anderen haben jetzt ein bisschen dünner werden. Am liebsten schauen sie über das gebacken, bekommen aber tatsächlich auch sehr, sehr viel, so dass aus der Situation heraus ein bisschen draußen am Garten. Heinz Gärtner Warum zwei, dreimal im Stehen? Man kommt ins Gespräch und auch mal an den über den Verfall und was ich mal blicken halt aufbauend.

I: Und wie funktioniert so die Verbindung mit den Bezirksämtern scheint dieses Quartiersmanagement erst mal? Der erste Anlaufpunkt. R: Na, wir sind als Träger gefördert vom Land Berlin. Das ist jetzt für uns ganz gut, weil wir immer von allen Begehrlichkeiten im Bezirk haben kamen, erst mal befreit sind. Also alles was läuft oder läuft, kann uns erst mal egal sein. Es ist aber schon anders. Vergeben können ganz gezielt auch aus der Bezirks Ebene heraus ihre Gelder erhalten. Rechenschaftspflichtig sind dann auch Spiegel stellen in der Verwaltung mit regelmäßigen Steuerungs runden. Und so weiter. Und da ist ja schon ein ganz anderer Schnack. Aber wir haben das Glück, dass wir in den Ämtern das müssen wir 13, tatsächlich intern zu Themen zusammenkommen können. Dabei ist Es gibt eben keine Tradition in der Verabredung miteinander. Das heißt, seitdem ich es im Träger bin, ist es 2017 der Fall. Gucken wir, wie wir uns da ganz gut zusammenfinden. So drei, vier Mal im Jahr, eigentlich eher zwei bis dreimal im Jahr. Ist das so große Runden, wo dann alle, die dann eben zum Thema Stadtentwicklung, Stadtteilarbeit mit sozusagen noch angefangen am Standort bis runter zu den, zu den großen koordinierenden, für die ist Management, Behindertenbeauftragte oder Integrationsbeauftragte oder Journalisten durchaus alle mit am Tisch. Wenn wir jetzt unsere unsere Themen dann besprechen und. Am Ende dann schon auf Augenhöhe, also ganz egal, wie betreut die Verwaltung da aufgestellt ist und wie sehr sie auch das letzte Wort hat. Wir sind ein freier Träger. Zum einen die vom Land Berlin gefördert und da kann man schon mit einem gewissen Selbstbewusstsein auftreten und den, sagen wir, unsere Konzepte nicht vor zum Lesen, bevor wir sie wieder einreichen können, sondern wir können diskutieren, was für euch wichtig ist mit rein. Oftmals decken wir uns auch mit den Perspektiven und dann haben wir mal einfach eine andere, eine andere Schlagkraft oder priorisieren es nicht anders. Und da muss dann nach und nach besprochen werden. Und außerdem wir sind ein kleiner Träger intern, aber treten auf Augenhöhe auf und man sagt insgesamt eben die Stadtteilarbeit im Bezirk so ein bisschen zu pushen. Aber wir sind die anderen vom Land Berlin geförderten Stadtteilzentrum. Das sind noch zwei hier in Neukölln, aber auch andere freier Träger, die wieder noch Gelder bekommen. Organisiert im Stadtteil Zentrum Verbund und im Rahmen dessen verabreden wir tatsächlich auch, damit Bereiche Perspektiven den Süden vertreten haben. Es ist tatsächlich ein Problem hier in Neukölln, dass der Süden in der Wahrnehmung verschwindet, aber auch, dass eben dann, um im Norden das ist ein traditionsreiches Haus, 70 Jahre und älter sogar dritte haben wir, anders als wir das jetzt hier können, einfach eine gemeinsame Stimme finden und kommunizieren. Das ist ein Thema für uns. Und da muss man Besucher fragen. Und wir können auch mal kurz angeguckt haben, dass das ein bisschen langgezogener und für uns im Süden halt, das heißt, wo wir alles, was so unter Britz, Britz und dann Gropiusstadt, Rudow ist es ungefähr 2/3 der Fläche von Neukölln, die wir so als Spielplatz haben, umgekehrt aber nur ungefähr 1/3 der Bewohnerschaft, die sich hier verteilt. Also 220 sind alles oben in Neukölln, dieser ganzen Sonnenallee. Und so weiter. Und von daher auch dann das Rathaus und wir innerhalb von zwei drei Minuten bei den zwei drei anderen großen Trägern aus dem Verbund. Von daher sind die ganzen Sachen doch ziemlich alles, was im offiziellen Material passiert, sondern Kartenmaterial, Anweisungen oder ist dann eben so ein bisschen so als groß passiert, wenn man Glück haben manchmal nicht unter anderem auf dem Gemeinschaftshaus oder ist die die Dame vom interkulturellen Treffpunkt? Halt, die geht da auch durch die Decke, weil es heißt ja hier auch, dass ich offenes Neukölln im großen Veranstaltungskalender und der Süden ist nicht dabei. Die gibt es aber durchaus, so 203040 Veranstaltungen bis Wochenende halt so Nachhilfe immer getragen ist. Es kann nicht sein, was mir sehr sehr am eingeschränkte Wahrnehmung halt und da müssen wir so gucken, dass wir dann auch sichtbar werden. Sind ganz froh darüber, dass wir mit dem Verbund dann einfach die anderen Partner mit an Bord haben und dann unsere Themen mit platzieren können.

I: Aber dieser Austausch mit den Bezirksämtern und Management der relativ unregelmäßig oder.

R: Nicht so eng, also regelmäßig schon. Wie gesagt, so zwei, drei Mal im Jahr kommt man da zusammen. Offiziell mit dem Verkehrsmanagement läuft das sehr viel informeller, einfach auch durch die Verbindungen, die ich zum Team habe, immer noch ist? Frage ich kurz zum Kaffee Kasse schnacken und im Rahmen des Netzwerks Gropiusstadt. Was von mir koordiniert wird, gibt es regelmäßig, das heißt also alle 4 bis 6 Wochen ein Netzwerktreffen. Und da sind die Kolleginnen, das würde ich mich auf jeden Fall auch betreuerteam und eins, zwei auf jeden Fall kann es nicht angehen, dass, wenn dieser Austausch auch gegeben ist, bilaterale Anrufe sammeln, sie dann eben kurzschließen. Aber es wird in anderen Bezirken auch sehr viel anders gepflegt. Und diese ganze Zusammenarbeit, die ganze Tradition zwischen Stadtteilzentrum und dem Bezirk, eine andere war mir damals mit der Wiedervereinigung auch nur in den Bezirken ausgelegt, um dann einfach in die Situation anders bewertet worden, dass man sich verabreden konnte und seitdem gemeinsam gewachsen ist. Man kann sich nach 20, 30 Jahren draußen einfach eine ganz andere Sache haben. Jetzt in den letzten Wahlen noch mal die Zuständigkeiten wandern und jetzt

ja, die neue Ansprechpersonen. Ich bin der Baustadtrat in der Rolle des Neuaufbaus. Kurz dazu steht Und wenn sie die Bürgerliste Soziales mal nicht prominent waren, die so prominent lagen wie zum Beispiel jetzt im Auge, jetzt wurde viel zu gucken, Sie haben zu entlasten, viel eingespannt, um in den Hintergrund des Ziels zu verabreden, Objekte zu zu kaufen und für die grunde haben sie nicht wirklich bekommen ist jetzt kommuniziert worden sind in seinem namen, aber die für sich was mitnehmen auf dieser entscheidender Ebene, auf die er als Stadtrat hat und noch nicht wirklich hat.

I: Aber auch wenn die Zusammenarbeit nicht so eng ist, ist die Kommunikation trotzdem gut?

R: Na ja, es ist schon so ein bisschen asymmetrisch, weil es aufgrund der fehlenden Tradition zwischen dem Stadtteilzentrum und im Bezirk dann ihre Ansagen machen, als, sagen wir mal so die Exekutive und dann mitziehen oder nicht mitziehen. Also sanktionieren können sie es nicht. So ein bisschen passiert das subjektive Wahrnehmung, dass wir hier und da einfach nicht dabei sind und am Tisch sitzen, nicht mitgedacht werden. Aber wir müssen auch nicht zu befürchten, irgendwelche Fördergelder, was wir Dinge anders sehen als die. Das könnte sehr viel entspannter sein, wenn auch auf der anderen Seite auch einfach so anders aussieht. Okay, gut, wir erkennen euch als Player an, ihr seid wirklich wichtig, auch wenn ihr das Geld vom Land bekommt und nicht von uns. Aber unabhängig davon haben wir diese Phänomene. Wir haben diese Themen in Bezug auf ihr Verhalten vertreten. Von daher ist es meist gemeinsam hier und das könnte sich ein bisschen entspannen.

I: Seid ihr im Moment in den Anpassungsmaßnahmen involviert oder in welche anderen Umweltmaßnahmen?

R: Und was den Bezirk angeht jetzt gar nicht weiter. Angefangen vom vom Land. Von den Fördergeldern aus gibt es da auch kein konkretes Projekt. Es ist bei uns dann eher so ein Thema, dass des Trägers bzw der Geschäftsführung, dass wir sagen okay. Haben jetzt unsere Agenda und machen wir ganz konkret und bitte nehmt das, was ich unterrichte kaputt werden halt reparieren bzw gucken. Neuanschaffungen sind aus auf den Energieverbrauch undsoweiter halt und schauen, was helfen dort finden. Diese grüne Wende hin ist. Aber das ist das. Was heißt hier wir kriegen 20 30.000 € in die Hand und machen dafür dies und jenes halt. Ist nicht besonders günstig. Passiert aber dann in einem sehr viel größerem Maßstab. Jetzt zum Beispiel für die Gropiusstadt, das dann gesagt worden ist in dem Namen Energiewende intern Neubauten, die jetzt passieren und alles, was da so an Erwachsenenbildung, am pädagogischen Ansatz mit verfolgt werden kann, das wird reintragen. Also hier sind Energy Beauftragte für den neuen Campus Musik zum Beispiel, der entsteht. Das sind dann angedockt an den Schulen, die es da gibt, der Albert Sportverein mit drin ist für Bewegung, Zentrum für Sprache. Wir haben dann die Stadtbibliothek, die dort eine kleine Filiale aufmachen wird, hat zugelassen, dass im Moment machen wir mal auch dieses Ding Green Blue und machen wir es mit der Verwendung von Baumaterial ein bisschen wie Management für den Campus, dann halt das. Und dann gibt es eine Begrünung. Da gibt's dann ganz genau drin.

I: Ist die Aufklärung für die Risiken der Klimaveränderung ein Thema?

R: Bei unserem Träger schon, allerdings sehr viel stärker nebenan im Büro als es in der Stadt der Fall ist. Im Büro ist das ziemlich, ziemlich bald Thema geworden. Seit 2018 ist das aus diesem Haus ist ja alles vermüllt, verdreckt von den Eltern mit dem Programm. Berlin entwickelt neue Nachbarschaften. Wenn anders sein kann, dieses Programm im Team vor Ort eingesetzt hat und genau darauf reagieren konnte, hat man sozusagen die kümmern, die Ressourcen bündeln können für dieses große komplexe unterbrechen. So einen kleinen Meilenstein Fahrplan für uns ist eine AG draus geworden. Ist dann auch ein Verein draus geworden für ein schönes Büro, denn wenn genau zu diesem Thema ökologische Nachhaltigkeit auch unterwegs ist. Nachhaltigkeits feste Nachhaltigkeits Core ist das ganze mit den Familien arbeiten, mit den Kids arbeiten, aufräum Aktionen durchführen, aber auch zu schauen, was bleibt jetzt noch nach zwei drei Jahren hängen. Dann wissen wir vielleicht, dass es vielleicht dann doch erst mal gezielt den Save entsorgen als Backlinks und lassen uns hoffen, dass sie irgendwann mal weggerutscht sind. Auf einem Auge noch zu haben, was Nachbarin macht, man machen Mund aufzumachen, aber insgesamt noch diesen ökologischen Gedanken einfach so ein bisschen weiterzuspinnen auch nicht. Muss in so einem Event passieren, so ein Fest, dass man das, was man auch in so einer Vereinsarbeit aufgehen zu lassen hat, wirklich regelmäßig in den Aktionen stattfinden. Und auch ganz gezielt Was kann man machen mit Kippen? Spender, Hundekot, Beutel Spende ist ein Thema, ganz einfach Nachbarschaft, Haustier, Halterin. Und da haben Sie ganz konkret anzusetzen, kleinteilig, kleinschrittig anzusetzen. Liebe Leute, dann guckt mal ab sofort, könnt eure Unordnung finden lassen und schon haben.

I: Glaubst du, die Stadt oder die Bezirksämter geben den Bewohnern genügend Optionen, um irgendwie Klimaanpassung Initiativen zu starten in die Richtung?

R: Der Bezirk würde sagen ja, ich selber kann es auch so erst mal erkennen, aber es ist eine unglaubliche Übersetzungsleistung notwendig aus diesem ganzen, diese ganzen Denke, jeder Bezirk oder generell die so die Verwaltung hat Beteiligungsprozess. Wir werden jetzt auch gedacht, wann ist es da auf der Seite das ganze einfach gut, wir haben es, es können Leute herkommen und immer mit und sagen ja nichts, haut nicht hin. Also ihr habt 50 Sprachen ziemlich am Start, da geht es los. Wir können gar nicht erst mal alle überhaupt erreichen, mit der Möglichkeit, was so was zu machen, wie es notwendig ist. Ob das so viele Menschen man kann es jetzt so in größeren Bauvorhaben jetzt, wir wollen nicht den Gewinn zu quantifizieren, dann gibt es eine Anhörung, da wird ein Modell vorgestellt, man kommt da kurz zusammen. Klar kann man das als Beteiligungsprozess verkaufen. Wir sind sogar vor Ort, bauen ein Modell auf, machen einen kleinen Umtrunk. Und so weiter halt. Also okay, dann steht schon alles fest. Zum einen das und dann ist aber auch für einige okay, die erkennen darin durchaus eine Möglichkeit sich zu beteiligen. Für andere ist aber auch ein Hemmnis, weil sie im Sinne der Bezirksbürgermeister sind. Noch zwei, drei andere offizielle Architekten sind vertreten untereinander und eine riesengroße Runde viele Anzüge und Kostüme getragen werden. Und ich bin da völlig deplatziert und nicht willkommen. Die, so dieser Eindruck der Würde vermittelt und gesagt, dass sie dieses ganze kleinteilige wirklich denken und die gucken okay, was hatten wir jetzt vor? Warum wir das so machen? Warum kann man da nicht so? Also das bleibt schon mal außen vor. Und da und hier anzusetzen und auch Formate zu finden und dann zu gucken, okay, wen wollen wir da hören? Wenn man dann alle die hier wohnen, hören und gehen entsprechend drauf zu, wenn jetzt auch im Rahmen von aktivierenden Befragungen Tätigkeit und holen wir uns ein paar Meinungen ein oder machen wir wirklich unseren Aushang? In drei Wochen gibt's eine große Bewohner Versammlung zu dem Thema und wenn du magst, kannst du dabei sein. Wir treffen um 17:00, wo auch einige draußen sind, muss es dann heißen oder aus dem Job raus auf dem Weg zurück nach Hause oder so was. Ich habe meine Kinder zu versorgen, wir haben noch Hausaufgaben, Pakete offen und von daher ist es längst nicht so, wie es eigentlich sein müsste, wie man es jetzt im dritten Jahrtausend erwarten kann.

I: Aber gibt es auch irgendwie Subventionen von der Stadt oder von Bezirken mit speziell für Klima Initiativen für die Bürger?

R: Also, es gibt zwei oder 300.000 beantragen halt, um es möglich zu machen. Aber das ist ein Klassiker. Das geht nur über Überträger. Das ist ein großer Verantwortlicher, der das Geld Mensch Teil der Kassen herunterbricht und dann einfach einen Beteiligungsprozess startet. Aber für die für die bewohnerinnen und bewohner. Da war. Andere. Kleinere. Sehr. Viel. Kleinere. Sondern auch. Und darum jetzt als als Einwohnerrat heranzugehen ist, braucht es von meinem Antrag immer wieder diesen Support. Was soll dieser diese Schule auch? Und dann einfach mit den Programmverantwortlichen Kontakt aufnehmen, das Geld beantragen? Und so weiter. Ja, wir haben es. Wir können loslegen, ein Konzept entwickeln. Und so weiter. Was ist das? Das ist unmittelbarer. Kleinteiliger? Nicht so wirklich. Das ist ein Tick zu groß gedacht. Und da braucht man einfach so drei, viermal die Woche woanders machen, halt so 20, 30.000 € managen hinterher. Und jetzt hierfür Für Neukölln ist es tatsächlich so, dass wenn das so einfach von seines Bezirks anerkannt ist, von den Grünen auch in dem Maßstab Arbeitgeber sagt okay, wir machen jetzt hier Zukunftsstadt, Grüne machen das Mobilitätskonzept für den gesamten Grünzug und 1/4 Million wird in die Hand genommen und das Bezirksamt beteiligt wird, wenn irgendwann mal ein kleiner Beteiligungsprozess der betroffenen Bewohnerinnen oder Nachbarinnen passiert, aber so bisschen sein könnte.

I: Wenn jetzt bestimmte Anwohnerinnen dann doch eine Initiative starten, dann seid ihr wahrscheinlich der erste Anlauf.

R: Mit unseren Namen. Mit unseren Standorten? Genau. Sehr viel stärker aber tatsächlich noch das Quartiersmanagement hier an den Orten da. Gerade was das Blick auf die Bezirke angeht und auf die Fördertöpfe, die bereitgestellt werden, da dann sehr viel näher dran sind und dann auch vonseiten des Bezirks so mitgedacht werden. Also dieses Reintragen in die Kieze halt, auch wenn jetzt nicht jeder Ortsteil von Neukölln zum Quartiersmanagement hat. Glücklicherweise. Aber eigentlich. Denn auch wenn man diese Informationen, dann gibt es halt auch wir als Stadtteilzentrum an Orten, wo es dann kein Quartiersmanagement gibt, wie zum Beispiel eine Gruppe Stadt Süd. Da können wir mitgedacht werden. Es gibt einen Topf, beantragt die Gelder und lasst uns was machen, dass wir dann durch. Aber an sich prinzipiell über die Quartiersmanagement Teams drauf.

I: Für euch vielleicht weniger relevant. Aber glaubst du, Umweltprojekte oder Initiativen zur Klimaanpassung können auch den sozialen Zusammenhalt stärken?

R: Unbedingt. Unbedingt. Wir sehen, dass das in Bogota tatsächlich auch so funktioniert. Das ist nämlich ein Phänomen, weil die Jugendlichen die jungen Leute spätestens seit Greta mit aufgesprungen sind. Halt einfach dieses ganze Hey, die Zukunft betrifft uns. Wir müssen in einer Welt leben, die uns da an das Denken und an ihre Eltern überspringen und bei den Großeltern ankommen, weil die kennen die Situation und das auch. Diese ganzen Entbehrungen. Dieses Aufbrechen. Arm sein, bedroht sein. Dieses ganze Nachkriegs denken babyboomer Geschichten einfach sehr, sehr viele von unseren Eltern da mit reingewachsen sind, hüben wie drüben. Das ist ja auch nicht anders gewesen, dass also eine Ausnahmesituation kultiviert worden ist und bis heute so ein Phänomen hast, dass du den Leuten vermitteln musst, ihr habt ein Recht darauf, Auto zu fahren oder so was. Das war einfach Glück für euch, dass wir den politischen Willen haben, jetzt gepusht worden seit. Freie Fahrt für freie Bürger und und und. Aber Ölkrisen hat da auch kennengelernt in den 70er 80er Jahren. Also ist es vom Phänomen nicht ganz so Fremdheit. Und wie gesagt, es gab sehr viel drastischere Zeiten, die eurer Eltern durchlebt haben, wo es dann auch klappen musste, wo man jetzt sehr viel genügsamer und sehr viel auch bewusster umgegangen ist. Von daher also so als Thema funktioniert unbedingt.

I: Haben wir noch mal vielleicht ein ganz anderes Thema? Habt ihr auch irgendwelche Angebote, die in Richtung Wiederverwendung von Objekten oder Ressourcen geht?

R: Ein Kooperation zwei Ecken weiter war der Jung von Müller da ist tatsächlich sondern der Verantwortliche, der das managt, hat dann auch wieder eingeladen. Und wie in unserer Zeit, so als kleine unmittelbare Anlaufstelle für Sachen, die es nicht bis darüber schaffen und begrüßen. Da jetzt wieder ist, wissen wir auch zwei Jahre nicht so wirklich stattfinden, können es aber begrüßen. Dann jetzt am auch bei uns nimmt Leute mit, mit ihren, mit ihren Geschichten.

I: Und informiert ihr auch über Möglichkeiten, Ressourcen, Einsparungen, die man sich irgendwie in den Kontext besser verhalten kann.

R: Um dann zu den zehn Veranstaltungen auf jeden Fall auf einmal diesen Anspruch verfolgen. Okay, was passiert jetzt wieder über diesen Event hinaus zusammenkommen halt und den Leuten von mir hier, wir haben jetzt wir echtes Porzellan am Start. Nehmen es auch wieder mit Halt und kriegen es dann auch ordentlich hin gewaschen und alles. Wir müssen jetzt hier nicht die Müllsäcke produzieren, aber da haben wir auch dann so catchy zu machen, so mit zwei drei Hausaufgaben, die man so mitgeben kann und somit eine kleine Karte, von wegen ich hab heute schon das oder daran gedacht oder so was. Das ist einfach so mit zwei, drei Fragen vielleicht das Bewusstsein so ein bisschen geschafft. Dann im Vorleben, wo ich es auch sehr weiß, am wie und wie erfolgreich das ist von Sachen Vorleben, dass diese Frage aufkommt. Dann wird diese Frage beantwortet und versucht zu überzeugen. Könnte das zwei verschiedene Paar Schuhe es bleiben? Hat das überhaupt zu gucken oder zu machen, was wir machen können, sondern auch, was und wie der Einsatz von Farben, von Lebensmitteln angeht. Oder gucken und mit der Tafel zusammenarbeiten. Wir kommen ja auch in unseren Programmen zu verwenden und auch dieses Bewusstsein zu schärfen und auch so ein bisschen so zu das Stigma abzubauen hat also in dem konkreten Fall, zum Beispiel Jahren haben wir alle Lebensmittel oder schlechte Lebensmittel halt, was immer auch schlecht oder nicht den Ansprüchen genügen kann, bedeutet was haben wir auch dieses Jahr? Guckst dir an nichts dran aussetzen. Also genauso ist es. Lieblings Fernseher der Haut kann nicht hin, den kriegen wir auf mit LötKolben kannst du da was reparieren so weit es geht willst am bringen vorbei. Halt. Wir haben da zwei Spezies, die machen das kleiner Tauschbörsen zusammen. Hin und wieder mal hat es weiß und durch die Flüchtlingsgeschichte noch ein bisschen Fahrt aufgenommen, aber es auch glücklicherweise bald wieder gebremst worden. Okay, die sind versorgt, haben ja Klamotten, die bräuchten wir ja. Das ist auch durch die Medien gegangen. Sie bräuchten Hygieneartikel nachgucken, jeden Tag organisieren können, weniger abgetragen, aber an sich auch in diese Richtung. Was hatten Sie in den Kellern? Tauschen Tauschbörsen, tauschen Märkte und auch das Angebot dann von der BSR kommt in den hier in den Dachböden in die Keller lassen zusammentragen. Über das Jahr gibt es diese zwei drei Terminals, wo man zusammenkommen können auch zusammen und zusammentragen, wer was entdeckt, dann mitteilt, wenn es keine neuen Freunde findet. Und wir verhindern vielleicht, dass ihr eine andere Waschmaschine hat, dann immer noch häufig passiert, dass in den Ecken Jahren kann es wie so was funktioniert, ist eine Wohnung jetzt gefragt worden. Ist halt, aber wir hoffen das einfach so ein bisschen das dabei belassen. Also ich glaube auch, dass solche Projekte auch mal den sozialen Zusammenhalt stärken können. Na ja, also wieder ausschnittsweise jetzt auch da diejenigen, die es einfach so für sich als als Thema prinzipiell angenommen haben, also gerade so junge Leute in der

Versorgung der Umwelt. Und so weiter. Ist einfach ein Ding. Klima ist ein Ding. Es ist jetzt in Krankheit ja ganz gut. Und außerdem die üblichen Verdächtigen können wachsen, aber genauso auch die üblichen verdächtigen Erwachsenen. Diejenigen einfach, die muss nicht überzeugen können. Also so unterwegs bin ich nur an mir. Ist richtig, aber wenn es hier zum Beispiel wirklich eine Hausgemeinschaft, wo es einfach dann vor die Tür geht, was macht, hat dann die Ecke sauber? Oder wie gesagt jetzt hier und wenn jemand, nehmen wir mal einer an einer Station an die Wand und so weiter sprechen, darauf also seinen eigenen Kümmerer hat, aber so ein bisschen Mutter Courage hat und bringt so ein bisschen einfach in soziale Kontrolle mit anderen Familien hier, da ist einfach jemand sich.

8.

I: Wie sieht ein Tag im Stadtteilzentrum aus? Was sind ihre Aufgaben?

R: Ich bin Stadtteilkordinatorin. Das heißt ich bin ans Stadtteilzentrum angedockt und bin für die gesamte Bezirksregion zuständig. In Berlin Mitte haben wir 10 Bezirksregionen und jede Bezirksregion hat eine Stadtteilkordinatorin. Ich bin für zwei zuständig, für Alexanderplatz und Regierungsviertel. Das heißt ich kann so einen kleinen Einblick ins Stadtteilzentrum geben, aber ich arbeite jetzt nicht direkt dort. Ich bin dort angedockt und habe dort auch mein Büro. Wie ein Tag aussieht: Emails beantworten, Post beantworten, aber auch verschiedene Sitzungen, Gremien, AG-Sitzungen an den ich teilnehme. Ich nehme Kontakt zu den engagierten Bürgern. den Netzwerken und den Initiativen vor Ort aus. Ich schaue was dort die wichtigen Themen sind. Habe Kontakt zu den jeweiligen Bezirks- und Fachämtern. Also ganz viel Vernetzungsarbeit. Ich organisierte Feste und Netzwerktreffen mit, aber kümmere mich um die Dokumentation, ums Protokolle schreiben, aber auch Einladungen verschicken

I: Sie sind als Stadtteilkoordination auch so ein bisschen die Brücke zwischen Bürger, Bewohner und den Bezirksämtern, richtig?

R: Ja, perfekt!

I: Welche Projekte werden denn so gerade im Stadtteilzentrum organisiert? Und in welche sind sie organisiert?

R: Im Stadtteilzentrum an sich ist Willkommenskultur gerade ein großes Thema. Sprich Angebote für Ukraine-Geflüchtete wie Ferien-, Kinder-, Jugend- und Familienprogramme. Jeweils an die spezifischen Bedarfe vor Ort angepasst. Das hatten wir 2015, 2016, und 2017 schon einmal. Da hatten wir Kontakt aufgenommen zu den Flüchtlingseinrichtungen vor Ort und haben dort versucht die Familien an das Familienzentrums anzudocken. Das heißt im Bereich Integration zu schauen, was die Flüchtlingsfamilien brauchen und Kontakte aufbauen. Da gibt es zum Beispiel im Familienzentrums eine Hebamme, die macht Sprechstunden oder einen offenen Treff, da könne die Familien hingehen. So ähnlich ist es auch jetzt mit den Familien. Also die Programme zu entwickeln, zu schauen was die Familien vor Ort brauchen: Beratung, Netzwerke und Kontakte aufbauen. Das sind jetzt gerade so aktuell die Themen.

I: Wer benutzt so das Stadtteilzentrum? Wer nimmt an den Aktivitäten so teil? Ist das so gemischt oder können sie dazu etwas sagen?

R: Das Kreativhaus ist Stadtteilzentrum, Mehrgenerationenhaus und Familienzentrums. Das ist jetzt eher für uns wichtig, für die Fördermodalitäten. Den Familien ist es jetzt natürlich egal, ob sie zu einem Förderangebot vom Mehrgenerationenhaus oder Stadtteilzentrum gehen. Das ist für uns die Frage, wer welches Angebot wie finanziert. Das Kreativhaus hat beispielsweise Angebote wie Tanzkurse. Die „Silver Dancer“ also die ältere Generation, die dann tanzt. Das ist ganz wichtig, die haben dann soziale Kontakte, haben Auftritte, sie bewegen sich und das Gehirn wird gefördert. Dann haben wir jetzt gerade durch Corona bedingt oder wegen Corona verschiedene digitale Angebote für ältere Menschen, also im Seniorenbereich entwickelt. Also: „Wie nutzt man das Tablet? Wie geht man mit dem PC um? Social Media? Wie nehme ich Kontakt mit meiner Familie auf? Wie suche ich etwas im Internet?“ Das sind gerade ganz wichtige Angebote. Zurzeit läuft auch ein Projekt „Coffee with the Cops“. Da sind die Bezirkspolizisten als Ansprechpartner da um einen Austausch zu haben. Außerdem führe ich den Runderntisch „Seniorenarbeit“. Das ist ein Netzwerkgrremium, das in den Bezirksämtern mit älteren Menschen arbeitet. Ansonsten haben wir sozial Beratung, Mieterberatung, Rechtsberatung. Auch von verschiedenen Trägern, die von außen kommen. Ansonsten Vernetzungsangebote, Kreativangebote, Chor und tanzen.

I: Sie haben kurz Förderprogramme angesprochen. Was beinhaltet das genau? In Bezug auf die Finanzierung?

R: Die Finanzierung ist jetzt unterschiedlich. Das Stadtteilzentrum wird über den Senat finanziert. Die Stadtteilkoordination über das Bezirksamt. Beim Mehrgenerationen wird es wieder anders organisiert. Mobile Stadtteilarbeit werden über EMS finanziert. Jedes Familienzentrum wird wieder über ein anders finanziert. Jede Säule hat also ihre eigene Finanzierung.

I: Sind sie zufrieden mit der Beteiligung? Sind die Bewohner aktiv oder eher nicht?

R: Ja, es gibt sehr interessierte und engagierte Bürgerschaften.

I: Denken sie das die genannten Aktivitäten den Zusammenhalt unter den Bewohnern stärkt?

R: Ja, doch auf jeden Fall! Zum einen durch den sozialen Austausch, dass die Menschen sich kennen lernen und ins Gespräch kommen. Es werden ja auch viele Feste durchgeführt. Wie „Tag der Nachbarn“ oder früher war es das Hafenfest, da hat sich das Kreativhaus auch mit beteiligt und so kommt man ins Gespräch. Die Bürgerschaft untereinander lernt sich kennen. Als Stadtteilkoordinatorin habe ich auch kleine solcher Feste durchgeführt und mache sie jetzt auch wieder. Es geht darum, dass die Menschen untereinander in Kontakt kommen. Sich aufgehoben fühlen, eine Wohngebietsidentifikation aufzubauen, das denke ich schon.

I: Wie schaffen sie es jetzt noch mehr Leute einzubinden? Was sind die Kanäle auf denen sie die Leute informieren?

R: Also zum einen die konkrete Ansprache, also zum einen noch klassisch Flyer verteilt auf Festen oder bei Veranstaltungen mit den Menschen direkt ins Gespräch kommen. Dann über Multiplikatoren oder Austauschrunden. Also das man die eigenen Angebote dort vorträgt und bewirbt und die anderen Teilnehmer diese Informationen dann auch verteilen. Da gibt es Emailverteiler, wir haben auch einen Newsletter, der per E-Mail verschickt wird. Und natürlich auch Social Media.

I: Wie funktioniert die Verbindung zwischen ihnen und dem Bezirksamt?

R: Als Stadtteilkoordination haben wir einmal pro Quartal ein Quartalsgespräch mit dem Bezirksamt. Dann haben wir Austauschtreffen, Workshops regelmäßig pro Quartal. Ansonsten konkret mit dem Bezirksamt oder den entsprechenden Fachämtern je nach Bedarf. Also wenn ich jetzt eine Initiative habe, die etwas auf der Grünfläche machen möchte. Dann kontaktiere ich das Straßen- und Grünflächenamt.

I: Funktioniert diese Kommunikation gut? Also zum einen zu den Bezirksämtern und zum anderen zu den Bewohnern?

R: Ja, sehr gut.

I: Sind sie im Moment an Klimamaßnahmen oder Projekten zur Anpassung an den Klimawandel involviert?

R: Ja, da kann ich jetzt als Stadtteilkoordinatorin reden. Wir arbeiten eng mit den Bezirksämtern zusammen. Und das BA Mitte hat die Leitziele festgelegt: „Nachhaltigkeit und Umweltschutz“. Und wir haben als Stadtteilkoordination festgestellt, das sind auch unsere Bereiche. Wir haben alle in diesem Bereich zu tun, sei es bei der Bepflanzung von Baumscheiben, aber auch generell alle Grünflächen um die wir uns kümmern, Sperrmüllaktionenstage also alles Themen, die eng damit zusammenhängen. Wir haben externe STK-Runden in den wir als Stadtteilkoordination uns alle treffen und haben für uns festgelegt: wir möchten, das als *(10:30 Wort unverständlich)* Thema bearbeiten, so wie es das BA auch macht. Und entwickeln jetzt auch oder befinden uns im Entwicklungsprozess und eruieren, was sind für uns jetzt Nachhaltigkeit und Umweltschutz bedeutet und auch für unsere Arbeit. Wir möchten, das als *gemein-soziales Schwerpunktthema* im Jahr 2023 bearbeiten. Da sind wir jetzt gerade ganz eifrig dabei zu koordinieren.

Wie binden sie da jetzt, im Hinblick auf die Umweltmaßnahmen, die Bewohner ein? Zum Beispiel, dadurch, dass ich ein Schwerpunktthema habe: den Jugendtag der BBM an der Leipzigerstraße in Berlin. Wir machen dort Pflanzaktionen und wollen den Park umgestalten. Jetzt wurden dort Klimabeete angelegt. Wir hatten jetzt gerade vorletzte Woche eine gemeinsame Pflanzaktion und da kam man die Themen einzeln ansprechen. Wir haben auch Insektenhotels angebracht.

I: Das sind jetzt aber eher Themen, die sie mit der Stadtteilkoordination und den Ämtern entwickeln. Wie sieht das jetzt aus, wenn die Bewohner selbst eine Idee haben?

R: Das machen die Bewohner auch selber. Wir haben zum Beispiel die Initiative „Jugendpark“ gegründet. Die setzt sich für die Parkbegrünung und Parkverschönerung ein, und ich unterstütze. Das heißt ich stelle Verbindungen her, ich koordiniere so ein bisschen, das was die Initiative macht. Wir haben die Stadteilkasse und dort können Gelder beantragt werden oder die Kooperation mit dem Parkeigentümer das ist die Wohnungsbaugesellschaft Mitte. Da koordiniere ich so ein bisschen den Kontakt und unterstützte halt.

I: Klären sie die Bewohner über mögliche Risiken auf, die durch ein veränderndes Klima entstehen können und wie sie sich da eben anpassen können?

R: Ja, also das machen wir schon im Bereich Leipziger Straße, das ist eine große stark befahrene Straße. Da machen wir auch ganz viele Initiativen, die sehr stark bemüht sind, dort Grünflächen aufzubauen und zu entwickeln. Da werden dann natürlich die Klimaveränderungen immer wieder thematisiert. Dazu bringe ich dann auch entsprechende Informationen ein.

I: Die Bewohner wissen also über die Risiken Bescheid und wie sie sich einbringen können?

R: Ja!

I: Denken sie die Stadt Berlin und die BA Berlin geben den Bewohnern genügend Optionen aktiv zu werden, bei den Klimaanpassungsmaßnahmen oder anderen Projekten?

R: Ich glaube das kann nie genügend sein. Das kann man immer noch ausbauen. Also auf alle Fälle die Förder- und Unterstützungsmodalitäten. Es gibt jetzt aber auch ganz viel. Vielleicht ist es jetzt auch so in Berlin Mitte, das es ganz viel gibt und man ganz schwer den Überblick behält. Wir haben auch einen Runder Tisch Nachhaltigkeit, der wurde neu ins Leben gerufen vom BA, da habe ich neulich dran teilgenommen und dort wurde und werden wir es thematisieren. Es gibt ganz viele Initiativen, ganz viele Einzelprojekte und die alle zu eruieren und zusammenzustellen. Selbst das glaube ich ist eine Aufgabe die kaum möglich ist. Es gibt ganz viele kleinteilige Sachen und da ist es ganz schwierig den Überblick zu behalten, was wer macht und was es alles gibt. Nach oben ist natürlich immer Luft.

I: Welcher Arten von Subventionen, von Fördergeldern gibt es?

R: Es gibt die Stadteilkasse, das heißt wir als Stadteilkordinationen haben jeweils 5000€ und können damit Aktionen von der Bürgerschaft mit bis zu 500€ fördern. Dazu müssen sie einen Antrag auf die Stadteilkasse stellen und ein Beirat entscheidet dann über die Anträge. Da gibt es die Feinmittel, da kann man jetzt auch Anträge bis zum 16.05. stellen und im BA einreichen, da gibt es bis zu 3'500€ für ehrenamtlichen Engagement, aber auch für den Bereich Naturschutz wie beispielsweise Parkbepflanzung. Dann gibt es noch andere Förderprogramme wie „Sauberes Wasser“ oder „Saubere Stadt“, da warten wir noch wegen der Haushaltsbeschlüsse bis diese durch sind. Dann soll es dort auch noch Fördergelder geben. Da werden Maßnahmen gefördert, die für die Sauberkeit der Stadt sorgen oder Umweltschutz und Klimaschutz fördern. Und es gibt noch weitere Programme, die ich jetzt nicht so genau kenne.

I: Wenn Bewohner eine Idee haben, Initiative einreichen wollen, können sie das bei ihnen starten?

R: Ja, da gibt es verschiedenen Möglichkeiten, aber da ist natürlich nach oben immer Luft.

I: Denken sie das solche Umweltprojekte den Zusammenhalt in der Stadt stärken können?

R: Ja, auf alle Fälle. Wenn man gemeinsam pflanzt und gemeinsam schaut wie die Pflanzen wachsen oder ein Hochbeet gemeinsam anlegt. Wir haben auch einen Gemeinschaftsgarten an der Solarstraße, den haben ich schon ein paar Jahre gefördert. Dieser ist auch ein Nachbarschaftsprojekt. Also auf alle Fälle ja.

I: Gibt es bei ihnen Projekte zur Wiederverwendung von Objekten, also es gibt ja zum Beispiel solche Repair-Cafés oder Werkstätten, die integriert sind in Stadteilzentren?

R: Ja, wir haben z.B. im Stadteilzentrum haben wir die Holzwerkstatt, aber auch Repair-Café oder gewisse Upcycling-Workshops

I: Also gibt es auch Angebote um die Leute darüber zu informieren darüber?

R: Ja!

I: Die Projekte tragen auch zur Stärkung den sozialen Zusammenhalt stärken?

R: Ja auf alle Fälle!