

RURAL PUBLIC SPACE IN EMMER- COMPASCUUM



Maatschappijweg, Emmer-Compasuum

Colophon

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Abstract

This study systematically explores the utilisation, perception, and alignment of public square design and facilities with the needs and aspirations of the inhabitants of a rural village in South-east Drenthe. Employing a mixed-methods approach, this research integrates an analysis of movement patterns and the typology of activities engaged in by users of the space, alongside comprehensive long-form surveys and in-situ observational methodologies. The survey instrument incorporates a blend of Likert scale items and open-ended questions, facilitating a nuanced understanding of user perspectives.

The analytical framework reveals a discernible dissonance between the current functionality of the public square and the expressed needs and preferences of the respondents. A key finding of this research is the imperative for a redesign and functional realignment of the space. Such transformation is posited as essential for fostering a broader spectrum of necessary activities. It is hypothesised that these modifications would catalyse an increase in the frequency of visits to the square, diversifying the range of activities undertaken, encompassing more optional and socially driven engagements. Consequently, this is anticipated to augment the overall appeal and utility of the space for the local inhabitants.

Furthermore, the research delineates a dichotomy in the effectiveness of the public space. On one hand, it is currently perceived as suboptimal in facilitating optional and social interactions. Certain respondents indicated a lack of inclination to engage in non-essential activities within the square. Conversely, other participants expressed a desire to utilise the space for activities beyond those deemed essential. The presence and activities of individuals in the space are theorised to create a virtuous cycle, enhancing its attractiveness and encouraging more people to willingly allocate time in the public square. This study contributes to the broader discourse on public space design and its impact on community engagement, offering valuable insights for urban planners, designers, and policymakers in rural settings.

Introduction of research area

Emmer-Compascuum is a village in south-east Drenthe. It accommodates approximately 8,000 residents and is situated 11 kilometres away from the central city of Emmen (CBS, 2023). The town will be undergoing significant changes, including the establishment of a new elementary school, sports facility, and new housing development and the canal will be made better navigable for pleasure crafts. Consequently, there is a compelling need for an upgrade to the public space within this town (Kort, 2021).

The need for a change

The ongoing socio-economic changes have significantly impacted rural villages across the Netherlands, leading to a decline in essential facilities within their town centres, e.g. the loss of the local supermarket, bakery, greengrocer and elementary school, to mention a few. This has prompted rural inhabitants to become more mobile, consequently reducing their reliance on facilities located in the towns' centre. (Gieling et al., 2019). The lives of the rural population are not confined to a singular town but rather dispersed across a multitude of geographic locations. Moreover, evolving demographic compositions, i.e. an ageing population, especially in rural communities, have altered desires concerning their public spaces, manifesting in, for example, a demand for fewer playground areas and an increased need for comfortable outdoor seating.

Nevertheless, due to the loss of essential facilities in rural public spaces, there has been a reduction in the residents' motivation to frequent the local town square and engage with the public space at hand. Consequently, it is defensible to presuppose that the appeal of these spaces for recreational and social pursuits has diminished. This notion aligns with the insights articulated by Jan Gehl (2013) in his book,

"How to Study Public Life," where he poses that public spaces possessing heightened attractiveness are more likely to be optimally utilised by the broader public.

In the context of rural public spaces, their attractiveness is a matter that poses certain challenges. These rural areas frequently find themselves flanked by monofunctional structures and unremarkable plinths. It is worth noting that plinths serve a dual purpose, not only facilitating the gathering of various functions but also infusing the space with a distinctive dynamism. They not only provide a platform for amenities but, in their own right, become elements that contribute to the overall enjoyment of the public space (Karssenbergh & Laven, 2016). Regrettably, the provision of facilities for recreational or discretionary activities is often lacking in these villages. Moreover, the choice of materials in these rural settings typically leans towards cost-effective options, resulting in a distinct visual character for the public space, such as the use of concrete paving blocks instead of kiln-fired pavers.

In many instances, public administration offices face a recurring challenge of envisioning the needs and desires of an area without involving the local community. This tendency often results in a projected outlook on the area, devoid of an authentic representation of its unique local identity (Vereniging Eigen Huis, 2020)

Rural public space?

Rural initiatives aimed at revitalising public spaces often exhibit a noteworthy concern wherein they tend to implement downsized elements from their urban counterparts. Public spaces are frequently examined through an urban-centric lens, with cities and urban residents setting the standard against which all public spaces are often evaluated (M. Dymitrow, 2014). However, it is crucial to acknowledge that rural public spaces have different, though equally significant, functions. While urban inhabitants necessitate, for example, well-maintained outdoor areas for various activities, rural residents often possess private gardens which fulfil comparable outdoor needs (M. Dymitrow, 2014). The lack of urban outdoor private space, renders many activities as social or at least performed together. This is not the case in a rural setting (Mantey, 2017).

Given these societal transformations, a critical examination is needed to assess whether contemporary public spaces adequately fulfil the requisites of present-day rural inhabitants and what then the rural public spaces should look like. With that, it is important to study this phenomenon through a rural lens. In order to secure the local sense of identity and that the spirit of the place is not lost.

Research problem

The primary objective of this research is to comprehensively understand the activities and movement patterns of adult rural residents within their public space. Additionally, the study seeks to anticipate and recommend potential changes that may be necessitated or desirable upon the redevelopment of their town square. The overarching goal is to provide valuable insights to the municipal authorities, enabling them to refine their redevelopment objectives concerning the public space. Ultimately, this strategic alignment aims to ensure that the redevelopment initiatives effectively and empathetically cater to the evolving needs and preferences of the rural population.

Main research question and sub-questions

Following from this, my research question is: *How do the current spatial design and adjacent facilities of a rural public space align with the present-day requirements, activities and preferences of rural dwellers in a village in south-east Drenthe?*

My sub-questions are:

1. What is the current spatial design layout of the public space and how do the surrounding buildings relate to the public space in the study area (the village of Emmer-Compascuum's town centre) and how do people make use of this public space?
2. What kind of activities and movement patterns do people perform in the public space?
3. How does the functionality of the current public space of Emmer-Compascuum differ from the wishes from the local residents?
4. How do residents of Emmer-Compascuum value the public spaces' design of their public space in relation to other nearby public spaces?

Theoretical framework

At the highest level in the conceptual framework, the public realm encompasses not only the physical public space but also the plinths and facades observable at street level, constituting an area resulting in interaction by visitors from the public space (Karszenberg & Laven, 2016). Within the realm of this study, the term "public space" sits one level below and pertains specifically to areas under public ownership. Certain scholars, including Gieling et al. (2019), broaden their examination to encompass the social functions of facilities. This concept is much alike the concept of gathering places, here the concept relates to all publicly accessible spaces, not taking the use or ownership into consideration (D. Mantey, 2017). For the sake of this research, the focus will lay on publicly owned outdoor space. Additionally, insights provided by M. Carmona (2015) concerning the varying degrees of public accessibility and availability are taken into account. In summary, the theoretical framework posits that public spaces exhibit multiple degrees of accessibility and availability to the public, acknowledging that not all public spaces equally appeal to all societal groups. One example of that is the accessibility of a space to the blind, but one should also consider the needs and desires of different age groups, genders and minorities.

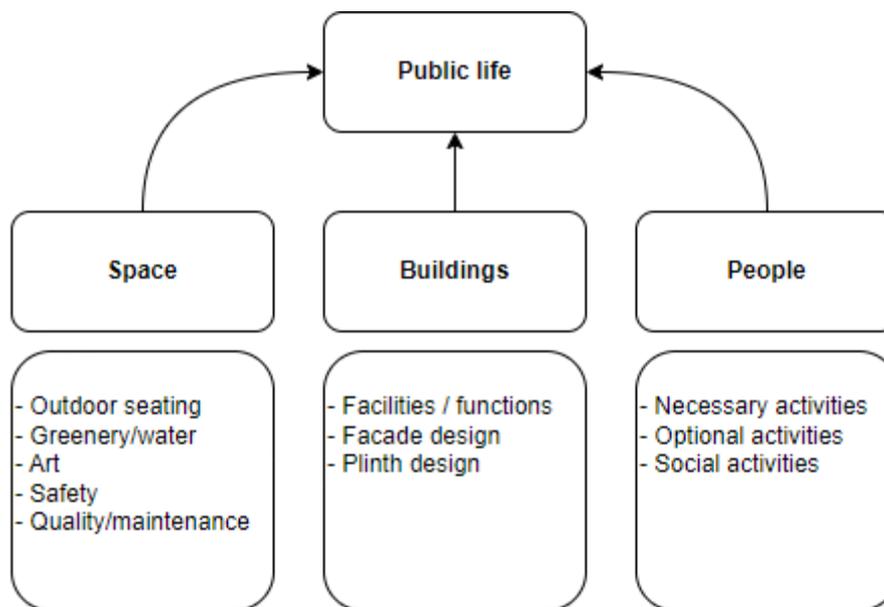
This research deliberately excludes an exploration of the public functions of privately owned or privately-operated public spaces. Nonetheless, the public space is not considered in isolation; rather, surrounding structures with their amenities in the plinth and residing structures above exert a significant influence on the visitors' experience of the public space. A concept such as 'eyes-on-the-street', a term coined by urbanist Jane Jacobs (1961) relates to the visibility of others on the public space, rather than among the visitors in the space. Consequently, these will be scrutinised as the architectural boundaries of the public space. Facilities, as defined in the work of Gieling et al. (2019), denote the functions within a village, such as shops, sports facilities, and medical offices. For the purposes of this study, attention will be focused on facilities falling within the categories of retail, catering, or services, as these are most commonly found in the vicinity of a town's central public space.

Carmona's (2015) insights into public space design underscore the imperative of crafting aesthetically pleasing and functional spaces that resonate with the community's identity and aspirations, aligning with the concepts of Gehl (2013) regarding public space utilisation. Gehl contends that public spaces will witness increased utilisation when people find them visually appealing. The user experience of residents within their public spaces is influenced by various factors, as previously discussed. These encompass, among other aspects, seating arrangements, cleanliness, vistas, microclimate, and accessibility. All these facets serve as determinants in influencing an individual's decision to visit a public space, the duration of their stay, and the nature of activities undertaken within the space (M. Carmona, 2015).

Place-making as a concept, involves the creation of meaningful and culturally rich public spaces that cultivate a sense of community and identity. It is imperative that the space is intricately linked to the

unique identity of the village and embodies its essence. Consequently, a rural public space should not be perceived merely as a scaled-down version of its urban counterpart (M. Dymitrow, 2014). Place-making serves as a design tool aimed at effecting changes in the physicality of public spaces (J. Gehl, B. Svarre, 2013), operating under the premise that public spaces endowed with cultural richness foster a sense of community and identity. This aligns with the concept of social place attachment presented by Gieling et al. (2019), positing that individuals form meaningful emotional connections to places due to their impact on their lives. Successful place-making strategies positively influence social place attachment by creating enjoyable public spaces where individuals derive pleasure, encounter positive events, and develop lasting memories. These positive experiences contribute to a heightened emotional connection and attachment to the place.

Conceptual model



Expectations

Based on the theories mentioned in the framework, it is to be expected that the current design and functions of the public space are indeed found to be outdated and worn out by the respondents, and therefore uninviting. This lack of appeal is then expected to be seen in the decreased desire of the residents to spend time in the public space and subsequently perform fewer social and optional activities. The low number of individuals engaged in necessary activities within the square contributes to a diminished presence of visitors performing optional or social activities. This trend adversely affects the overall attractiveness and vibrancy of the space. The infrequent use of the area for necessary activities consequently diminishes the incentive for its use for other activities. This correlation highlights the importance of fostering a space that accommodates and encourages a variety of activities to enhance its appeal and functionality.

From observation, it can be said that the quality and maintenance of the space is sub-optimal, the microclimate makes the area less comfortable to spend longer periods of time in. The wide-open space makes it more likely that the influence of the wind is experienced by visitors and deemed unpleasant. The art in the public space is highly linked to the local identity and might therefore be appreciated by the residents.

Based on the literature, it is to be expected to find that the rural population would visit nearby, more urban public spaces. They might find the space and the surrounding buildings more attractive; they

might prefer the abundance of facilities there and subsequently, perform more optional and social activities there than they might in their local rural public space. In turn, this diminishes the need for social and optional activities in the local square. This is also due to the fact that rural dwellers have become more mobile in recent decades due to the closing of local amenities and increased car mobility and the availability of privately-owned outdoor spaces, i.e. gardens. (Gielsing et al. 2019).

Taken all above in consideration, it would then be feasible that the people of Emmer-Compascuum might see a different function for their public market square. I would expect that there is a desire to have a space that is more suitable for social activities and optional activities.

Methodology

For my methodology, I have combined a detailed qualitative questionnaire with in-situ observations to understand the perspectives of local residents on their public spaces. The questionnaire, filled in digitally by respondents, consists of 42 questions that include a mix of Likert scales and open-ended queries, both short and long form. These questions are organised into categories, beginning with inquiries about the space itself, followed by questions about surrounding facilities, and then delving into the lives and activities of the respondents and how these intersect with the space in comparison to other (shopping) centres. The questionnaire aims to gather insights into how residents currently value and utilise their public space. It also probes into what residents perceive as lacking in the current public square and their desires for future changes. Additionally, the questionnaire includes questions about other public spaces that respondents frequently visit, aiming to understand what rural dwellers value in their favourite public spaces.

The in-situ observations are done through 2 10-minute recordings of the public space and with a photo report of the public space where I highlighted aspects that I deemed important in relation to the questionnaire responses. From these recordings, I then have quantified the number of people passing through, their mode of transportation, their activity, if they have performed one, their time spent in the public space and the shape/path of their route.

It is important to be mindful of the effect recording in a public space has on people's behaviour. The feeling of being watched is intensified by the holding of a phone to record. This is also described as the Hawthorne effect, where people have a tendency to behave differently when being watched. Another set of data that is part of the in situ-observations are the photographs that are taken of the square. Their subject is what I expect the respondents to link their answers back to. That being: the layout of the space, the empty building on the west side of the public space, the quality of the paving and seating arrangement and lastly the available art on the square.

Sampling of respondents is based on convenience sampling: I have sent out my questionnaire to the neighbourhood associations in the village and I have hung up the questionnaire in a local shop for household goods and I have laid the link to my questionnaire on the coffee table in the pharmacy and I have posted the questionnaire to a screen that is located on the centre of the public space in question in Emmer-Compascuum. I shared the questionnaire among colleagues, handed out QR codes to passers-by in Emmer-Compascuum for residents to fill out digitally at home.

In conducting the data analysis for my study, I employed a content analysis approach. This methodology necessitated the development of a codebook to systematically categorize the responses into distinct themes. Additionally, I evaluated the responses based on their tone, classifying them as negative, neutral, or positive. Furthermore, I analysed the type of desired changes in public spaces as expressed by the participants, which included the addition of functions, maintenance of the status

quo, or the removal of nuisances. The analysis of the Likert-scale responses involved determining the modal response within each category. These responses were then cross-referenced with other answers within the same category and compared across different categories to draw comprehensive insights.

Research results

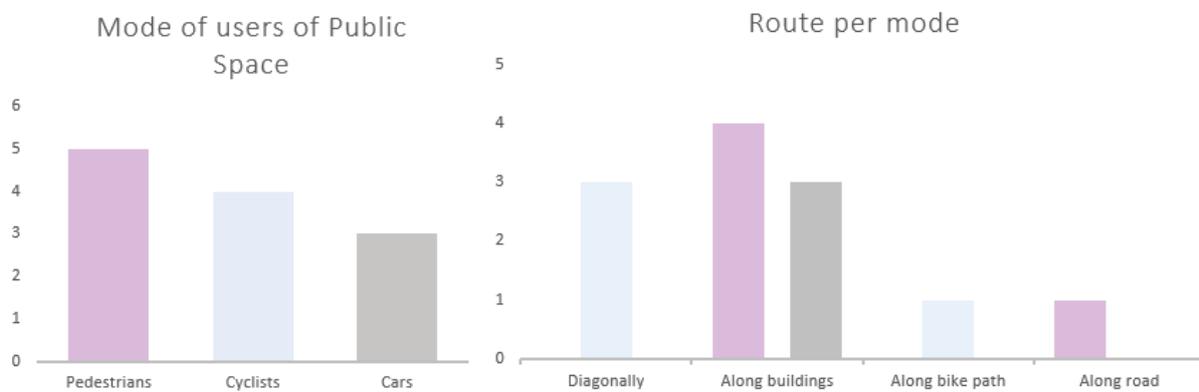
Findings of the observations

This section presents the initial findings derived from the observational study conducted in the public space. In the first portion, the in-situ observations will be discussed, followed by the findings from the questionnaires.

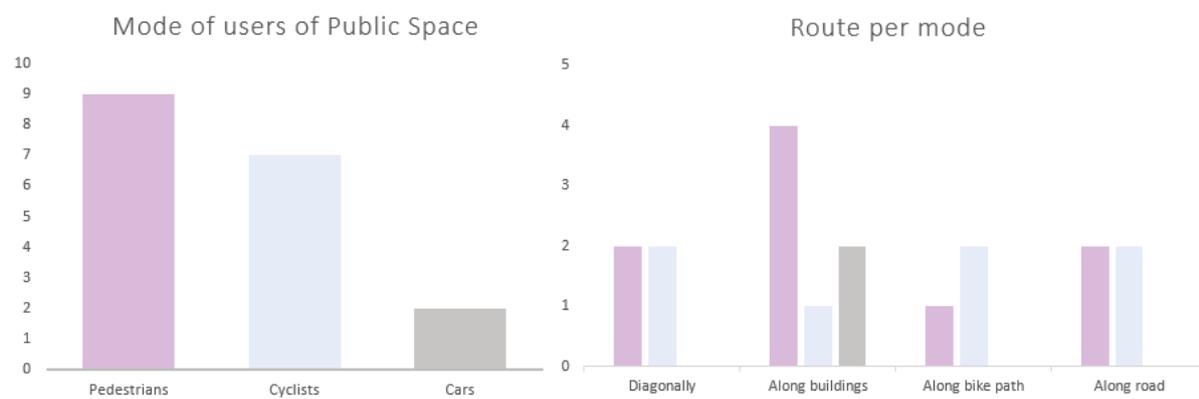
This section presents the initial findings derived from the observational study conducted in the public space. The data elucidates that the space serves multiple purposes, despite certain irregularities in its use. Notably, vehicular intrusion into the square is observed, contravening its intended pedestrian-only designation. Additionally, a conspicuous absence of lingering or engagement activities is evident; passers-by typically spend no more than 30 seconds in the area, predominantly utilising it for transit or parking.

The collected data further reveals a predominance of active transportation modes through the space. A distinct pattern of movement is observed among pedestrians, who predominantly move along the perimeters of the buildings. The second most frequented trajectory is a diagonal path across the square. A significant observation concerning cyclists is their tendency to deviate from the designated bike paths, which are demarcated merely by a variation in paving colour. This suggests a possible misalignment between the bike path's design and the cyclists' natural desire lines.

First recording session fig. 1



Second recording session fig. 2



Long-form questionnaire findings

The questionnaire was completed by nine respondents, a sample size that does not result into a set of data that can be considered to be of statistical significance. Nevertheless, the comprehensive nature of this long-form questionnaire provides valuable qualitative insights, allowing for the identification of prevailing sentiments among the respondents regarding the public square. However, it remains uncertain whether these findings are representative of the entire population's perspectives, given the limited scope of the questionnaire's reach.

The square

The majority of respondents (7 out of 9) perceive the area negatively, using descriptors such as 'barren' and 'ugly'. This sentiment underscores a general dissatisfaction with the aesthetic and functional aspects of the space. Despite this, two respondents adopt a neutral stance, recognizing the area's central role and its function as a market square and a central place in the village. Few respondents elaborated with reasons for their dislike of the space. Things that were mentioned were the lack of parking spaces, the area surrounding it being confusing and cluttered during rush hours and lots of empty shops surrounding the area.

Seating

A portion of participants (3 out of 9) do not utilise the seating available in the square. The reasons cited include the proximity to a busy intersection, resulting in unpleasant fumes from passing cars, an uninviting appearance, and the presence of loitering youths. Responses to the Likert scale question reveal that the modal response was neutral towards the placement, the view and the quality of the seating arrangements. Respondents gave negative responses towards the comfort of the seating and the vistas from the seating arrangements.

Greenery, art, aesthetics and maintenance

There is a consensus among respondents for the enhancement of greenery within the square. In contrast, opinions on art are divided and somewhat contradictory, with some finding it too subjective to comment on, yet concurrently expressing dissatisfaction in the Likert scale responses. The respondents were overall positive regarding the maintenance and were neutral towards the aesthetics of the greenery. The amount of greenery was deemed insufficient and is therefore in line with the written responses.

The responses pertaining to the art on the square presented a paradoxical picture. Despite the Likert scale indicating an overall assessment of 'mediocre', it was anticipated that the open-ended responses would elucidate specific discontentment regarding either the art itself or maybe its placement. Contrary to expectations, the narrative feedback diverged, focusing broadly on the subjective nature of art appreciation. Respondents responded that art is intrinsically personal, therefore making it challenging to articulate definitive opinions about the square's art installations.

Microclimate

Analysis of the modal responses from the Likert scale reveals specific environmental characteristics of the space. It is evident that the square is subject to windy conditions, a likely consequence of its open layout. Furthermore, the spatial arrangement permits sunlight exposure during mornings and early afternoons, while also offering limited shaded areas. However, the design does not provide adequate shelter from rain, underscoring a deficiency in accommodating diverse weather conditions. This environmental profile, particularly the prominence of wind and the temporal limitations of sunlight accessibility, is a direct result of the square's spatial configuration.

Safety

While most respondents feel safe in the area, there are concerns about traffic safety and the presence of certain groups, such as the elderly and youth, which some find off-putting.

Surrounding facilities and plinth

When asking the respondents what they would like to see returned in the plinth of the building 'De Spil', a few themes can be distinguished. Many people wish to see more shops, housing, some mentioned specific groups such as for the homeless or young people of the village. What also was mentioned were businesses that offered a service with a more social aspect, such as a coffeeshop, bakery or a sports facility. The architecture of the surrounding buildings has also been marked as insufficient in the questionnaire. One respondent has elaborated on this in their written response, with a comparison to the buildings that were located near the square before. Currently, the buildings have a modernistic façade, which is cost-effective and easy to maintain. Previously, there were buildings with rich architecture that were more appropriate for the square's central function but it also reflected the local identity of the village better.

Activities performed in the town square

The questionnaire indicates that the space is primarily used for functional activities such as cycling and parking. Social and optional activities are performed less. Respondents also indicated a preference for functional activities followed by social and then optional activities.

There is a mixed response regarding the need for more facilities for optional or social activities. Some respondents are satisfied with the current situation, while others express a desire for more inclusive activities catering to all ages and measures to reduce loitering.

Respondents frequently visit other nearby centres such as Emmerhout, Angelslo, or Emmen-centre. Their activities in these other spaces do not significantly differ from those in the subject space, though there is a tendency for more social engagements such as eating out or shopping in other centres.

Conclusion

This thesis has conducted a comprehensive analysis of the residents of Emmer-Compascuum's personal opinions regarding their local public square, examining their movement patterns, and the overall layout and design of the public space. The findings show disparity between the present condition of the public space and the aspirations of the residents for this area.

The analysis of both observational data and questionnaire responses indicates a limited utilisation of the public space. The area is currently predominantly utilised for essential activities, such as passing through. The physical design of the area appears to influence this behaviour; seating arrangements are located peripherally, affecting pedestrian movement patterns and encouraging transit along the building facades rather than through the central space. Additionally, the designated bike path, situated along the square's periphery, is often disregarded in favour of more direct routes across the square. This preference for traversing the square diagonally suggests a misalignment between the designed pathways and the actual desire lines of cyclists. Compounding these issues is the accessibility of the square to vehicular traffic, leading to instances of car parking within the square. This use of the space for parking, unintended in the original design, further detracts from the square's appeal and functionality as a public space.

When soliciting initial impressions of the public space, respondents predominantly employed negative terminology. Subsequent inquiries into the space's functionality, facilities, and architectural design elicited similar sentiments. The area suffers from a lack of functional diversity, particularly in terms of

seating options, inspiring vistas and retail options. Architectural elements are characterised as unappealing and impersonal, contributing to an overall sense of monotony and disconnection within the space. The spatial layout is critiqued for its extended distances between points of interest, which diminishes the engagement and interest of those traversing the area.

Regarding the placement of art within the square, a concentrated arrangement along the periphery, especially near a busy intersection, was noted. This proximity to traffic may inadvertently lead to the art being overshadowed, as visitors' attention is diverted to navigating the complex traffic patterns. Despite this, it is significant to acknowledge that the art reflects the village's heritage, drawing inspiration from its history as a peat excavation site. However, this connection to the village's past is somewhat obscured by the prevailing negative perceptions of the space's design and functionality.

The research indicates a notable discrepancy between the current utilization of public spaces by residents of Emmer-Compascuum and their preferred activities in these areas. Analysis of survey responses reveals a discernible inclination towards accessible, optional, and social activities within these spaces. Furthermore, insights gained from respondents' preferences in other public environments suggest a persistent desire among rural populations for outdoor social interactions with acquaintances and strangers alike. This includes activities such as enjoying a cup of coffee in the square and engaging in casual conversations with fellow community members.

When comparing the utilisation of the public space to other centres posed by the respondents, it is observed that residents demonstrate a preference for visiting external public spaces primarily for shopping purposes. They particularly favour environments where the proximity between shops is conveniently close. However, due to economic constraints, the potential for Emmer-Compascuum to evolve into a bustling shopping area is slim. This limitation underscores the importance of strategic spatial design in the village's public spaces. Despite the challenge of not meeting certain commercial desires, it is crucial to create an environment that encourages residents to frequent these spaces, potentially through the introduction of new stores or coffee shops. The presence of such establishments is vital in fostering necessary activities, which, in turn, serve as a foundation for facilitating social and optional activities within these public spaces.

Discussion

To recapitulate, the central research question of this study focuses on understanding how adults in Emmer-Compascuum perceive and utilize their public space's design and adjacent facilities, and to what extent this space aligns with their needs and activities and preferences. In essence, this investigation reveals a discrepancy between the current state of the public space and the residents' desired modifications, a theme extensively elaborated upon in the conclusions section.

The findings suggest that Emmer-Compascuum's residents express a need for a central public space that adequately fulfils their requirements. The current inadequacy of the space prompts them to seek alternative public spaces in nearby areas. An implicit conclusion drawn from the responses is the residents' prioritization of necessary activities, indicating a preference for changes that bolster such functionalities. This preference contrasts with the typical use of public spaces by urban dwellers, who often engage in more leisurely activities such as sitting, socializing, and people-watching.

A critical insight derived from these results is their implications for the design and intended function of rural public spaces. It becomes clear that these spaces should not merely be diminutive replicas of urban squares, as the needs and desires they are meant to cater to differ significantly.

However, the low response rate in this study limits the ability to make definitive assertions about the entire population of Emmer-Compascuum or to generalize these findings to other rural public spaces.

Additional factors to consider include the high mobility characteristic of Dutch rural inhabitants and the proximity of Emmer-Compasuum to more urbanised town centres with diverse facilities. This context suggests that the findings might vary in more isolated rural settings.

Future research recommendations include comparative analyses between villages like Emmer-Compasuum, which are situated near urban areas, and those in more isolated rural locations. Such studies would potentially yield deeper insights into the varying needs and desires for public spaces in different rural contexts.

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Appendix: questionnaire

Enquête voor bachelor project - De openbare ruimte in Emmer-Compasuum

Dankjewel dat je deel wilt nemen aan deze enquête. Deze vragenlijst maakt deel uit van een onderzoek naar hoe dorpsbewoners gebruik maken van hun openbare ruimte en hoe zij die ruimte ervaren. De vragenlijst is onderverdeeld in drie thema's; de plek zelf, de gebouwen en faciliteiten die om de plek heen staan en het leven wat zich afspeelt op deze plek.

** Verplichte vraag*

1. Algemeen - *Wat is uw naam? **

2. Algemeen - *Woont u in Emmer-Compasuum? **

Markeer slechts één ovaal.

- Ja
 Nee

3. Algemeen - *Wat is uw geslacht? **

Markeer slechts één ovaal.

- Man
 Vrouw
 Zeg ik liever niet
 Anders: _____

4. Algemeen - *Hoe oud bent u? Geef uw leeftijd als een heel getal **

5. Algemeen - werkt u? *

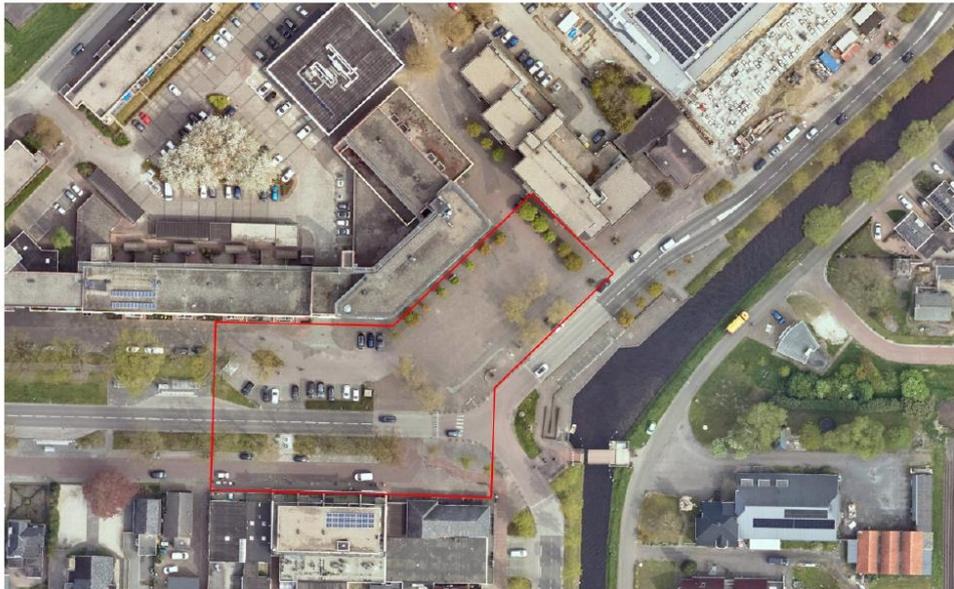
Markeer slechts één ovaal.

Ja

Nee

6. De plek - Hoe zou u het gebied in onderstaand kader beschrijven? (u kunt steekwoorden gebruiken) Wat vindt u ervan? *

De plek - hier rood omkaderd, het plein gelegen aan het Hoofdkanaal Westzijde



7. De plek - Wat vindt u van de zitgelegenheid op deze plek? (binnen het rode kader) *

Markeer slechts één ovaal per rij.

	Onvoldoende	Matig	Neutraal	Voldoende	Goed
Aantal aanwezige zitgelegenheden	<input type="radio"/>				

8. De plek - Wat vindt u van de zitgelegenheid op deze plek? (binnen het rode kader) *

Markeer slechts één ovaal per rij.

	Onvoldoende	Matig	Neutraal	Voldoende	Goed
Plaats van de zitgelegenheden	<input type="radio"/>				

9. De plek - Wat vindt u van de zitgelegenheid op deze plek? (binnen het rode kader) *

Markeer slechts één ovaal per rij.

	Onvoldoende	Matig	Neutraal	Voldoende	Goed
Comfort van de zitgelegenheden	<input type="radio"/>				

10. De plek - Wat vindt u van de zitgelegenheid op deze plek? (binnen het rode kader) *

Markeer slechts één ovaal per rij.

	Onvoldoende	Matig	Neutraal	Voldoende	Goed
Onderhoudsstaat van de zitgelegenheden	<input type="radio"/>				

11. De plek - Wat vindt u van de zitgelegenheid op deze plek? (binnen het rode kader) *

Markeer slechts één ovaal per rij.

	Onvoldoende	Matig	Neutraal	Voldoende	Goed
Uitzicht vanaf de zitgelegenheden	<input type="radio"/>				

12. De plek - zitgelegenheden: Hier kunt u eventuele opmerkingen kwijt

13. De plek - Wat vindt u van het openbaar groen op deze plek? (binnen het rode kader) *

Markeer slechts één ovaal per rij.

	Onvoldoende	Matig	Neutraal	Voldoende	Goed
De hoeveelheid beplanting/bomen	<input type="radio"/>				

14. De plek - Wat vindt u van het openbaar groen op deze plek? (binnen het rode kader) *

Markeer slechts één ovaal per rij.

	Onvoldoende	Matig	Neutraal	Voldoende	Goed
Onderhoudsstaat van het openbaar groen	<input type="radio"/>				

15. De plek - Wat vindt u van het openbaar groen op deze plek? (binnen het rode kader) *

Markeer slechts één ovaal per rij.

	Onvoldoende	Matig	Neutraal	Voldoende	Goed
De schoonheid/uitstraling van het openbaar groen	<input type="radio"/>				

16. De plek - Het openbaar groen: Hier kunt u eventuele opmerkingen kwijt

17. De plek - Wat vindt u van de kunst op deze plek? (binnen het rode kader) *

Vink alle toepasselijke opties aan.

- Onvoldoende
 Matig
 Neutraal
 Voldoende
 Goed

18. De plek - Kunst: hier kunt u eventuele opmerkingen kwijt

19. De plek - Wat vindt u van het microclimaat op deze plek? *

Markeer slechts één ovaal per rij.

	Ja	Een beetje	Nee
Waait het er hard?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

20. De plek - Wat vindt u van het microclimaat op deze plek? *

Markeer slechts één ovaal per rij.

	Ja	Een beetje	Nee
Kun je ergens in de zon zitten?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

21. De plek - Wat vindt u van het microclimaat op deze plek? *

Markeer slechts één ovaal per rij.

	Ja	Een beetje	Nee
Kun je ergens in de schaduw zitten?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

22. De plek - Wat vindt u van het microclimaat op deze plek? *

Markeer slechts één ovaal per rij.

	Ja	Een beetje	Nee
Kun je ergens schuilen voor de regen?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

23. De plek - Microclimaat: Hier kunt u eventuele opmerkingen kwijt

24. De plek - Wat vindt u van het materiaalgebruik in de openbare ruimte? *

Markeer slechts één ovaal per rij.

	Onvoldoende	Matig	Neutraal	Voldoende	Goed
Zitelementen	<input type="radio"/>				

25. De plek - Wat vindt u van het materiaalgebruik in de openbare ruimte? *

Markeer slechts één ovaal per rij.

	Onvoldoende	Matig	Neutraal	Voldoende	Goed
Prullenbakken	<input type="radio"/>				

26. De plek - Wat vindt u van het materiaalgebruik in de openbare ruimte? *

Markeer slechts één ovaal per rij.

	Onvoldoende	Matig	Neutraal	Voldoende	Goed
Bestrating	<input type="radio"/>				

27. De plek - Wat vindt u van het materiaalgebruik in de openbare ruimte? *

Markeer slechts één ovaal per rij.

	Onvoldoende	Matig	Neutraal	Voldoende	Goed
Plantenbakken	<input type="radio"/>				

28. De plek - Wat vindt u van het materiaalgebruik in de openbare ruimte? *

Markeer slechts één ovaal per rij.

	Onvoldoende	Matig	Neutraal	Voldoende	Goed
Verlichting	<input type="radio"/>				

29. De plek - Wat vindt u van het kwaliteit en/of de staat van het onderhoud in de openbare ruimte? *

Markeer slechts één ovaal.

- Onvoldoende
 Matig
 Neutraal
 Voldoende
 Goed

30. De plek - Voelt u zich veilig op deze plek? *

Markeer slechts één ovaal.

- Onvoldoende
- Matig
- Neutraal
- Voldoende
- Goed

31. De plek - Veiligheid: *Hier kunt u eventuele opmerkingen kwijt*

32. De faciliteiten - Wat vindt u van de functies (winkels e.d.) aangrenzend aan de plek? *

Markeer slechts één ovaal.

- Onvoldoende
- Matig
- Neutraal
- Voldoende
- Goed

33. De faciliteiten - *Wat vindt u van de architectuur/schoonheid van de gebouwen op deze plek?* *

Markeer slechts één ovaal.

- Onvoldoende
 Matig
 Neutraal
 Voldoende
 Goed

34. De faciliteiten - *In Emmer-Compasuum staat de begane grond van De Spil leeg. Zo'n gevel van een appartementencomplex of andere vorm van hoogbouw noemt men een plint. Wat vindt u van deze en andere plinten in Emmer-Compasuum? Wat zou u hier graag terug zien keren?*

35. Levendigheid in de openbare ruimte - *Hoe vaak komt u op deze plek?* *

Markeer slechts één ovaal.

- Dagelijks
 Wekelijks
 Af en toe
 Nooit

36. Levendigheid in de openbare ruimte - *Wat doet u zoal op deze plek? (u kunt meerdere antwoorden geven)* *

Vink alle toepasselijke opties aan.

- Fietsen
- Wandelen
- Voor afspraken
- Winkelen
- Kletsen
- Kijken
- Zitten
- Eten en drinken
- Parkeren
- Ik kom er nooit
- Anders: _____

Inleiding voor de volgende vragen

In andere onderzoeken wordt gesproken over drie categorieën activiteiten die mensen doen in de openbare ruimte:

- ① **Noodzakelijke activiteiten** - zoals de boodschappen doen
- ② **Optionele activiteiten** - zoals ergens op een bankje zitten
- ③ **Sociale activiteiten** - zoals met een bekende praten die je toevallig tegenkomt

37. Levendigheid in de openbare ruimte - *Zet de nummers 1-3 op volgorde van wat u het meest (1ste plek) vaak doet naar minst vaak (3e plek)* *

38. Levendigheid in de openbare ruimte - *Vindt u dat er genoeg voorzieningen zijn voor optionele activiteiten en sociale activiteiten? Wat kan er volgens u anders?* *

39. Levensdigheid in de openbare ruimte - Zet de nummers 1-3 in volgorde wat u het **belangrijkst** vindt om op deze plek te doen *

40. Levensdigheid in de openbare ruimte - *Komt u vaak in andere dorps-/stads-/winkelcentra? Waar gaat u dan **het liefst** naar toe? (plaats of wijkcentrum graag benoemen)* *

41. Levensdigheid in de openbare ruimte - *Vervolg op de vorige vraag: Wat doet u zoal op de door u benoemde plek? (u kunt meerdere antwoorden geven)* *

Vink alle toepasselijke opties aan.

- Fietsen
- Wandelen
- Voor afspraken
- Winkelen
- Kletsen
- Kijken
- Zitten
- Eten en drinken
- Parkeren
- Anders: _____

42. Levensdigheid in de openbare ruimte - *Waarom gaat u naar andere dorps-/stads-/winkelcentra dan het centrum in Emmer-Compasuum?*

43. Algemeen - *Dit is het einde van de vragenlijst. Heeft u nog op- of aanmerkingen?
Laat ze hier dan achter*

44. Naam van het onderzoeksproject: Het gebruik van openbare ruimte in landelijke * gebieden

Naam van de student: Luka Kaja Kuik

Deze Bachelor scriptie onderzoekt: Het gebruik van het dorpsplein in Emmer-Compasuum en het winkelcentrum in Emmerhout, inclusief de aangrenzende faciliteiten.

U bent uitgenodigd om deel te nemen aan dit onderzoek als ondervraagde.

Gelieve uw toestemming te geven dat:

- U op de hoogte bent gesteld van het doel van het onderzoek;
- U spontaan en in volledige vrijheid hebt ingestemd met deze enquête;
- U instemt met het gebruik van geanonimiseerde enquêtegegevens voor de onderzoeksdoeleinden van het project, inclusief de publicatie ervan.

Ik verklaar dat ik ervan bewust ben dat:

- Het onderzoek de verzameling van individuele antwoorden, meningen, evaluaties omvat;
- Elke deelnemer vrij is om verduidelijking te vragen over de gegevensverzamelingsprocedure en over elk ander aspect van het project;
- Elke deelnemer vrij is om de sessie op elk moment te verlaten;
- Het eventuele weigeren om deel te nemen of het afzien tijdens de sessie zal geen negatieve gevolgen hebben voor de deelnemer;
- Persoonsgegevens die zijn verzameld voor onderzoeksdoeleinden niet aan derden zullen worden doorgegeven; · De verzamelde persoonsgegevens anoniem zullen worden verwerkt;
- Het onderzoek wordt uitgevoerd in overeenstemming met het ethisch beleid van de RUG (<https://www.rug.nl/about-ug/policy-and-strategy/research-ethics/?lang=en>)

Indien u van mening bent dat u tijdens deze enquête onheus behandeld bent of voor meer informatie die u wenst te hebben met betrekking tot het onderzoek, neem dan contact op met de scriptiebegeleider, Mevrouw Charlotte Miller:

c.a.miller@rug.nl

Markeer slechts één ovaal.

Ik ga akkoord

Ik ga niet akkoord

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Appendix: in-situ observations



View from square in eastern direction



View from the square in western direction, here you can also see the empty plinth



One of the seating arrangements on the square



Close-up of pavement



Overview of some of the art(istic) pieces on and next to the square.