

Local elections 2024
Ecolo-Groen's Manifesto
Watermael-Boitsfort



Introduction.....	3
A greener municipality.....	5
1.1. Embrace nature and biodiversity.....	5
1.2. Reduce environmental pollution.....	6
1.3. Ensure animal welfare.....	7
1.4. An ever-cleaner community.....	8
A more sustainable and circular municipality.....	9
2.1. Promote the transition.....	9
2.2. Support local economy.....	10
2.3. Circularity of waste and resources.....	11
2.4. Sustainable and accessible food.....	11
2.5. Savings and self-production of energy.....	12
A shared municipality territory.....	13
3.1. Reconcile housing, nature and social cohesion.....	13
3.2. General principles for mobility.....	15
3.3. Convenient pedestrians paths.....	15
3.4. Accessible and safe cycling.....	16
3.5. Public transport serving all Watermael-Boitsfort.....	17
3.6. Peaceful neighbourhoods and carsharing.....	18
A more emancipatory and egalitarian municipality.....	19
4.1. A “children and young people allowed” municipality.....	19
4.2. A caring and stimulating school.....	20
4.3. Elderly staying active and in their home as long as possible.....	22
4.4. Culture: a strength of our municipality.....	23
4.5. Sport and health for all.....	24
A fairer and more open municipality.....	25
5.1. More social cohesion.....	25
5.2. Renforcer et coordonner l’action sociale.....	26
5.3. Support the job search.....	27
5.4. A voluntary and supportive housing policy.....	27
5.5. More prevention, for more safety.....	28
5.6. A welcoming community.....	29
A more democratic municipality.....	31
6.1. Even more citizen participation.....	31
6.2. Appropriate communication.....	32
6.3. Healthy and ethical municipal governance and finances.....	33

Introduction



Watermael-Boitsfort is a town where it's nice to live, with a green environment and a friendly atmosphere.

The evolution of the population, the health and energy crises and the risks linked to climatic and democratic issues, even peace – which shook up the whole society – have led our municipality to adapt its way of working. Ecolo-Groen wishes to go further towards an ever greener, more united and resilient municipality.

Ecolo-Groen wishes to go further towards an even greener, more united and resilient municipality.

Many measures have already been taken during the current legislature. Here are some relating to different areas of life in the municipality:

Concerning the involvement of the population in municipal life, the **success of participatory budgeting** has shown the interest and creativity of the population. **The Recyclerie** – our recycling and repair facility – is a flagship achievement and has experienced a rapid development.

In terms of town planning, the **preservation of green spaces and trees** as well as the **permeability of soils** have been at the heart of our choices. It is also along these lines that we planned the creation of **Place Keym**. The use of bicycles has been encouraged by the **bicycle repair bonus** and the establishment of **terminals and repair workshops**. Let us also mention the **actions taken** to maintain **cleanliness** and improve **waste sorting** (distribution of black and orange bins) and the involvement of motivated citizen associations!

To meet the ever-increasing needs for social assistance, we would like to highlight the **increase in the funding of the Public Centre for Social Welfare (CPAS) and the opening of several specialised spaces**: the new Espace Mosaïque, two new nurseries (*'crèches'*), financially accessible housing (including adapted houses for people with reduced mobility and high environmental quality), group purchasing of energy, etc.

Here are many achievements, among many others, that our municipality has been keen to carry out to support families and people in a vulnerable situation.

In order to build its programme for the coming years and be (once again) as close as possible to the needs and projects of the people from Watermael-Boitsfort, Ecolo-Groen launched a call for ideas and organised three afternoons of meetings open to all.

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This exercise of **collective intelligence** met with the expected success and **enriched our programme** with numerous proposals.

Several values and principles emerged from these meetings:

- **Solidarity,**
- **Openness to everyone regardless of differences (disability, culture, gender, etc.),**
- **Ecological transition,**
- **Ethical approach to political functions, a value that is particularly dear to Ecolo-Groen.**

In terms of **ecological transition**, Ecolo-Groen wants to **go further towards zero waste, the enhancement of resources, the promotion of local businesses**, including the development of the use of cargo bikes for deliveries. Faced with the impacts of climate change and the loss of biodiversity, Ecolo-Groen wants to continue to **make public spaces greener** and has integrated these issues transversally throughout its programme. Finally, a priority for Ecolo-Groen is to **increase the participation of the population** in discussions and projects and to facilitate access to information.

The programme also places emphasis on **social cohesion to strengthen ties** and break loneliness, and of course on all forms of social assistance, including a **voluntary policy for affordable housing**.

Finally, Ecolo-Groen wants a **municipality where children and young people are at the centre** of the attention, listening to them and investing in schools, the equipment of playgrounds and sports areas, support in the search for employment, etc.

Discover Ecolo-Groen's proposal!



Tristan ROBERTI and Aurélie SAPA

Lead candidates



A greener municipality



Our town is lucky to have an **important natural heritage** and to be located on the edge of the Forêt de Soignes.

An environment with such high quality is an asset for promoting social harmony.

To limit the impacts of heatwaves, heavy rains and to preserve biodiversity as much as possible, it is necessary to **plant more vegetation, preserve and create areas of open ground facilitating the natural infiltration of rainwater, and promote a diversified ecosystem.**

These issues have already been widely integrated into the municipality's actions, notably in gardening and tree management practices, the preservation of block interiors or during the renovation of Place Keym and the sewers of Logis-Floréal.

Improving the quality of our living environment also means acting for our health and well-being.

The municipality plays an essential role in matters of public cleanliness, with the help of the entire population! Concerning air quality and noise, it also works with other levels of power (regional, federal).

For the coming years, Ecolo-Groen proposes to continue actions and innovation in the following ways:

1.1. Embrace nature and biodiversity

To accommodate biodiversity and limit climate impacts, Ecolo-Groen aims to strengthen the presence of vegetation in diversified forms, reduce concrete spaces, promote ecological gardening practices and “integrated” rainwater management.

- Continue the current policy aimed at **preserving existing trees**. In the event of felling, ensure compensation by planting native trees adapted to the characteristics of the location.
- **Strengthen the presence of trees in public spaces** and opt where possible for different levels of vegetation (herbaceous plants, shrubs, trees) favourable to water filtration, wildlife and in the event of high heat.
- Continue **the tree heritage inventory** project to monitor the condition of trees in public spaces to ensure effective management (disease prevention, replanting planning, and species diversification).

- **Strengthen public information** regarding the presence of **remarkable trees** on the territory of the municipality.
- Launch a **citizen appeal** aimed at **revegetating public spaces** and organising **participatory “deconcretisation” and planting projects**.
- Strengthen the presence of **vegetation** and reduce the presence of concrete **in the playgrounds of municipal schools**.
- Prioritise the planting of trees belonging to **native species, promoting biodiversity**.
- Pursue the most eco-friendly methods of managing **green spaces: zero pesticides**, diversification of environments, **flower meadows** favourable to bees and insects, late mowing, etc.
- Continue to implement the principles of **Integrated Rainwater Management** (GIEP, or “sponge city”) to reduce the “all-in-the-pipe” and limit the risks of flooding (natural infiltration zones, cisterns rainwater retention, etc.).
- Continue the **eco-grazing project in municipal green spaces** by providing recurring funding.
- Organise **information and awareness campaigns** relating to **environmentally friendly garden maintenance techniques** (trimming hedges at appropriate times, zero-pesticide techniques, less noisy alternatives to motorised gardening tools, times for using devices noisy, nest boxes, etc.).
- Establish a **network of gardens** welcoming biodiversity, with the **participation of the population**.
- Support the establishment of **networks of “biodiversity watchers”** to fight against invasive species (Asian hornet, giant hogweed, Japanese knotweed, etc.).
- **Promote the presence of water in the municipality**, in particular through projects to open up piped watercourses (Woluwe and Watermaelbeek).
- Carry out **information, education and awareness campaigns** in schools and during public events related to sustainable **development**, the **protection** of the climate and nature, the preservation of resources, and the **consequences** of global warming on **wildlife and local flora** and on the management of the **Forêt de Soignes**, in collaboration with associations.

1.2. Reduce environmental pollution

Through administrative practices and raising public awareness, Ecolo-Groen aims to drastically reduce the use of pesticides and generate less light pollution, the impacts of which on health and biodiversity are increasingly recognized. Acting against noise pollution is one of our main goals as well!

- **Continue to use healthy products and materials** (cleaning, maintenance of green spaces, paints, recycled paper, etc.) **in all municipal services and buildings** (sustainable purchases).

- Ensure the **quality of public lighting** while controlling energy consumption and avoiding generating light pollution harmful to biodiversity (black grid).
- **Raise awareness through activities that explore the nuisance of lighting** in gardens in the evening and at night (and/or on the benefits of darkness at night for nature and sleep).
- **Fight against noise pollution linked to flying over Brussels** and against the development of airport activities: pursue legal actions in collaboration with the Region and the other Brussels municipalities and, if necessary, start new ones.
- **Fight against indoor pollution** (ventilation, choice of materials, etc.) **and outdoor** (reduction of wood heating, etc.).

1.3. Ensure animal welfare

True life partners, pets bring a reassuring presence and provide joy and peace. For their well-being, as well as that of wildlife, Ecolo-Groen wants to continue to raise awareness, inform, create freedom zones for dogs and support initiatives to welcome domestic animals.

- Ensure the **training of municipal staff and local police** on issues related to animal welfare.
- Organise events such as **“Animal Welfare Day”** to allow discussions on this issue and promote associations.
- Distribute **stickers (X animals here)** to stick on mailboxes **to inform** the emergency services of their presence in the event of a disaster.
- Continue the **campaigns aimed at the sterilisation of stray cats and the granting of bonuses for the sterilisation of domestic cats**, as well as other Brussels Environment awareness campaigns (the animal is not a toy, etc.).
- Encourage **collaboration with animals in nursing homes** to contribute to well-being and for therapeutic purposes.
- Support the **creation of a network of temporary foster families** for pets during periods when owners are unavailable (vacations, hospitalisations, etc.).
- Identify **new sites allowing the development of freedom zones for dogs** (where they can walk around without a leash) while ensuring the peace and quiet of local residents.
- **Raise public awareness** of the **consequences of certain behaviours on the well-being and safety of animals** (automatic lawn mowers, night lighting, fireworks, etc.).

1.4. An ever-cleaner community

Litter in public spaces can cause a feeling of insecurity and have a negative impact on our well-being. They also threaten wildlife and contribute to polluting soil and water. Ecolo-Groen wants to continue to act, with the population, by focusing on prevention, equipment and, if necessary, repression.

- **Strengthen municipal resources** in terms of cleanliness by focusing on both **prevention and repression**.
- Establish – in consultation with the population – a **map of black spots** in terms of public cleanliness to know where to focus surveillance and the work of municipal services.
- Pursue the **free distribution of rigid bins** to place bin bags to limit the risk of their contents being dispersed in public spaces.
- **Promote buried glass containers and textile containers** to avoid noise pollution and limit the risks of “clandestine deposits” by ensuring their distribution across the territory of the municipality to ensure their accessibility.
- Organise **joint cleaning events in neighbourhoods**, supporting the action of **associations active** in this area and creating “clean streets” **awareness actions** among **children**.
- Implement prevention and accountability actions in the face of harmful behaviour (abandoning cans and paper in the streets, illegal dumping, taking out trash outside authorised times, dog droppings, etc.).
- Support the regional desire to set up a **deposit system on plastic cans and bottles** to reduce their use and limit their dispersion in the environment.

Part 2

A more sustainable and circular municipality



Our municipality supports numerous initiatives that help sustainable development. Ecolo-Groen advocates a **transition towards methods of production and consumption which take into account** on the one hand **the exhaustion of natural resources** and on the other hand, **the impact of our lifestyles on air quality, climate, soil and biodiversity, as well as on our health.**

This transition also calls for **profound changes in our ways of working and living together.**

All areas are affected, and this last legislature has not lacked initiatives. These include the establishment of the **Recyclerie**, the **“charter for sustainable events”**, the drafting of a new **Climate Plan by the municipal administration, meetings dedicated to energy savings** and even **support for the farm Chant des Cailles** and at **Frigo Recup** via the participatory budget, etc.

This **transition is being built with the people** from Watermael-Boitsfort, whether through **participatory budget** projects, **Transition Space meetings** or other **citizen initiatives**, and with the **enthusiastic contribution of the municipal administration!**

Other proposals to continue this momentum:

2.1. Promote the transition

To accelerate the transition at the municipal level, Ecolo-Groen wishes to promote transversal approaches such as the Municipal Climate Plan as well as raising awareness among the population, organising training sessions and supporting initiatives.

- Continue the implementation of the **actions of the climate plan** adopted by the Municipal Council in March 2024, affecting all areas of the organisation of the municipality.
- **Identify, map and promote local initiatives** promoting transition and mention them in the brochure welcoming new residents.
- Continue the **integration of social and environmental criteria in public procurement** and the use of the analysis grid for municipal decisions that take into consideration the transition. Train municipal employees in the concept of transition.
- **Continue and expand the activities of the Recyclerie** to promote sharing, repair, reuse, recycling and giving new value to the resources while providing **affordable access**.
- **Institutionalise eco-grazing on communal green spaces** that allow it.

- Encourage the use of **sustainable means of transport** by supporting the establishment of a **shared cargo bike service** for shopping and other needs, the organisation of a **bike library** (loan point for used bikes for children), etc.
- Organise **training sessions and workshops to encourage another way of consuming**: decluttering, zero waste, recovery, sharing, transformation, etc.
- Promote **exchanges of services** such as **Local Exchange Services (LETS)**, using a **mutual aid platform**, and encourage new modes of exchange and the creation of common goods (e.g., sharing of tools and small appliances).
- Study the possibilities of **renting municipal vehicles and tools** during non-working hours (evenings, weekends, holidays, etc.).

2.2. Support local economy

Businesses, shops and local crafts, as well as associative initiatives, are one of the keys to making the transition a reality in the municipality. Ecolo-Groen aims to support this economic web and promote sustainability.

- **Map local initiatives** allowing the consumption of local products.
- **Prioritise the provision of available municipal premises** by allocating them as a priority to **missing slots**, not only **businesses** but also **services** (repair workshops, solidarity fridges, etc.) or **local crafts**.
- **Support the action of the tourist office** which aims to promote local commerce and crafts and contributes to the liveliness of commercial districts.
- **Encourage economic actors and actresses to:**
 - promote short circuits, organic products, plants without chemical fertilizers;
 - reduce the sale of toxic products;
 - further reduce disposable packaging and containers;
 - Incentivise repair rather than replacement of objects.
- **Promote local food and craft production** and their presence in local shops and markets.
- Promote **repair and transformation activities** in the municipality.
- Encourage people to **go to stores by public transport or by bike** and encourage **deliveries by bike**.
- Support initiatives aimed at **improving the quality of commercial spaces and their surroundings** (architecture, cleanliness, lighting, etc.).
- **Promote social economy and circular economy businesses** in the Municipality's specifications.
- Work for **better accessibility to bank ATMs** in the territory of our municipality.

- Continue to organise **scholarships and places of exchange** for those who wish to embark on a professional project promoting a circular economy.

2.3. Circularity of waste and resources

Prevention, reuse, recycling of waste are all steps to reduce the volume of our trash cans. Ecolo-Groen wants to amplify the implementation of circularity of resources wherever possible, in particular through the promotion of “zero-waste”, the development and sustainability of Recycling.

- Amplify the implementation of resource circularity by **strengthening the activities of Recycling, neighbourhood donation centres, material reuse**, etc.
- Apply a **zero-waste policy** (i.e. limiting waste production and packaging) **within the administration, the CPAS, municipal and paracommunal non-profit organisations, schools** as well as during the events they organise.
- **Raise public awareness** of the “zero waste” theme, **support local stakeholders** who are implementing initiatives in this direction, encourage the reduction of the use of plastic and packaging and the use of reusable objects.
- Provide **selective trash bins in public places** and during large gatherings of people (concerts, public festivals, markets) and incentivise reusable, returnable or biodegradable materials.
- Encourage **composting** by relying on the **network of master composters** and developing the network of **collective composts**.
- Grant a **municipal bonus for the use of washable nappies** and encourage nurseries and rest homes to use them.
- Grant a **municipal bonus** intended to encourage the **use of washable sanitary protection**, in order to act on menstrual poverty and the reduction of waste.

2.4. Sustainable and accessible food

Food is becoming an increasingly glaring problem for many households, Ecolo-Groen wishes to support actions giving access to food to residents who cannot afford it and to promote healthy eating, sustainable, local and seasonal.

- Implement **awareness and education actions** around sustainable and quality food as well as activities promoting **learning about taste and food diversity**.
- Ensure **access to quality food in school canteens, nurseries and during municipal events** (short circuits and seasonal fruits and vegetables, priority to organic) and provide **permanent access to drinking water** via jugs of water in canteens and during events.

- Support and promote the coordination of initiatives that provide access to food, if possible of quality, to people who cannot afford it: **social restaurant, recycled and solidarity fridge, food packages**, etc.
- As part of municipal activities, **offer less meaty alternatives** which give pride of place to plants, **ensuring at least one vegetarian option**.
- Encourage the **installation of chicken coops in school gardens, parks and public spaces** and encourage individuals to cultivate crops in their gardens or on their terraces and facades.
- **Preserve and promote urban agriculture and livestock breeding and support the farm Chant des Cailles**.
- Promote and support the **development of solidarity purchasing groups** for smallholder agriculture (GASAP).
- **Raise awareness in the Horeca sector about sustainable food** and promote the initiatives taken in this direction, particularly within the framework of the regional **“Good Food”** plan.

2.5. Savings and self-production of energy

In addition to continuing energy efficiency savings and insulation, already well underway in municipal buildings, Ecolo-Groen aims to promote self-production of electricity and energy communities which make possible the sharing of renewable energy within neighbourhoods.

- Support the **development of energy communities** through direct participation of the municipality and its partner associations.
- Continue the process initiated by the **municipality of group purchases of gas and electricity**.
- Continue work and installations aimed at **energy efficiency in the buildings and infrastructures of the municipality** and to **promote self-production** (consumption of energy produced from solar panels present on the roofs of municipal buildings).
- **Appoint an energy contact person for each municipal building** responsible for fighting waste, detecting anomalies, regularly recording water and energy consumption, raising awareness, etc.
- Support **exterior building insulation** projects while preserving the historical legacy of the building.
- **Re-organise public “Energy Days”** in order to gather information on energy (Renolution bonuses, support organisations, supplier comparators, network operation, financial aid, development of photovoltaics, etc.).
- **Update the energy loss maps of homes and municipal buildings** as a continuation of the first aerial thermography operation carried out in 2021.

A shared municipality territory



Sharing public space is a priority for Ecolo-Groen.

The municipality has been very active in this area by carrying out numerous developments to **secure and facilitate paths for pedestrians and cyclists, particularly around schools, or by considerably increasing bicycle parking.** More recently, around a hundred **mandatory drop zones** have been demarcated for scooters to free sidewalks from annoying parking.

In terms of the development of public space, the flagship project of the outgoing legislature is the **renovation of Place Keym** into an entirely **single-storey public space, greener, more attractive and welcoming.**

One of the objectives in terms of town planning is to **reduce the amount of concrete**, encourage the **renovation of buildings** rather than launching new constructions, and pursue a **voluntary policy of medium and social housing.**

In terms of mobility, Ecolo-Groen wants to continue the **application of the STOP principle** which provides priority in developments in the following order: S for “stappers” (pedestrians), T for “trappers” (cyclists), O for “openbaar vervoer” (public transport) and P for “private vervoer” (private transport).

3.1. Reconcile housing, nature and social cohesion

Reducing concrete, developing medium and social housing and preserving undeveloped land to accommodate nature and activities of social cohesion and urban agriculture are all priorities for Ecolo-Groen. We will continue in this direction, finding new ways to convey our ideals.

- **Promote the renovation of existing buildings** rather than new constructions, including as much as possible **energy savings** for occupants.
- Continue the dynamic prioritising public housing, including the **finalisation of the Archiducs-Nord project** which counts **38 new houses, 16 of which for people with disabilities and 9 for intergenerational group housing.**
- Continue to **allow the division of large dwellings** while ensuring compliance with habitability standards and maintaining architectural characteristics.
- Promote the **transformation of office buildings into housing or rest homes.**

- Continue to **protect courtyards** to preserve the quality of the environment and the tranquillity of garden areas.
- **Avoid artificialising soils** when alternatives are possible and **preserve undeveloped land** as much as possible to accommodate vegetable gardens, playgrounds, composts, orchards, etc.
- **Defend the preservation of the Champ des Cailles** and its **urban agriculture project**, contributing in particular to **social cohesion**.
- Maximise the **preservation of existing biodiversity and vegetated open ground areas** in all **renovation and construction** projects and integrate **shelters for cave animals** into buildings.
- Continue the policy of **using natural materials** (flat green roofs, wooden frames, natural insulators, etc.).
- Ensure **strict compliance** with requirements relating to **“Natura 2000”** zones and the preservation of areas of high biological value.
- **Modify the PPAS Souverain Est** and continue the **classification** process of **the Héronnière** estate to strengthen the preservation of this site.
- **Oppose any project aimed at urbanising the Plateau de la Foresterie.**
- Support the development of IT tools allowing you to learn about projects via the internet during public inquiries and to **submit applications for environmental and town planning permits online.**
- Advocate to the Region for a **revision of the classification order and the heritage management plan of the Le Logis-Floréal garden cities** with a view to:
 - ensure better consideration of thermal insulation issues;
 - allow, under certain conditions aimed at their proper integration, the placement of solar panels;
 - simplify the management of public space in relation, in particular, to mobility issues (drop zones, bike shelters, hoops, curbs and widths of sidewalks).
- Continue the **renovation of the sewers, roads and sidewalks of the Floréal-Le Logis garden cities** following the requirements of the “permeable roads” study.
- Install **new public elements in public spaces** (benches, trash cans, bicycle hoops, picnic tables, etc.) taking into account needs and incentivising durable materials.
- **Avoid the placement of new advertising devices** – in particular illuminated ads – in public spaces managed by the municipality and advocate to the Region for a general reduction advertisements in public spaces.

3.2. General principles for mobility

In addition to the application of the STOP principle, Ecolo-Groen wants to limit transit traffic in residential neighbourhoods and continue to develop the surroundings of schools to ensure the safety of children.

- **Apply the STOP principle** which provides for priority in developments in the following order: S for “stappers” (pedestrians), T for “trappers” (cyclists) O for “openbaar vervoer” (public transport) and P for “private vervoer” (private transport).
- Include the **gendered perspective and “kids friendly” standard**, aiming at encouraging the reception of families with children, in the **design of public space** development projects.
- Integrate devices into **road development** that contribute to **peace** and **security** (narrowings, chicanes, speed bumps, etc.).
- Develop, in partnership with the Region, **peaceful neighbourhoods**: traffic plans that discourage transit traffic in residential neighbourhoods.
- **Develop the areas around schools and sports clubs** (and adjacent streets) to **encourage pedestrian access, strollers, PRMs, bicycles, etc.**
- Support the **creation of new school streets**, which promote safety and air quality around schools.
- **Improve information on the programming and monitoring of work** carried out by the Municipality (through public meetings, the website, the municipal newspaper and posting on the relevant sites).
- Support **public space occupation** projects that **promote conviviality** in neighbourhoods (neighbourhood tables, streets dedicated for games, flea markets, etc.), by authorising closures to traffic when necessary.

3.3. Convenient pedestrians paths

Ecolo-Groen wants to make further progress towards a secure and comfortable pedestrian path, paying particular attention to children and people with reduced mobility.

- **Strengthen the means to support the “sidewalk plan”**, considering the interventions of the applicants (gas, electricity, sewer network managers, etc.) and new urban planning regulations.
- **Increase the space allocated to pedestrian traffic and people with reduced mobility** in public spaces by **widening sidewalks** during streets’ maintenance or by creating **shared streets** where pedestrians have priority. Ensure a comfortable path by avoiding obstacles, ensuring the presence of pedestrian crossings and increasing their visibility.

- Develop, in consultation with residents, **meeting zones in suitable places subject to low traffic:** areas where pedestrians have priority and traffic speed limited to 20km/h.
- **Improve the maintenance, lighting and signage** of the numerous small alleys which allow shortcuts, taking care to limit light pollution through suitable lighting.
- Establish a **new cycle-pedestrian route** between **rue du Brillant and the Delta-Chirec-ULB/VUB site** in consultation with the Region and neighbouring municipalities.
- Integrate **accessibility for people with reduced mobility into all arrangements** of public spaces and municipal buildings, while ensuring the **plurality of forms of disability**. Prioritise the installation of an elevator in the town hall.
- **Continue the MobiTwin voluntary transport service** organised by the municipality, aimed at facilitating the movement of less mobile people.
- Continue the installation of **“drop-zones”** intended for compulsory parking of **shared scooters and bicycles** to avoid their presence on sidewalks.
- Encourage the **installation of public benches** where the need is felt on pedestrian paths.

3.4. Accessible and safe cycling

For Ecolo-Groen, we must continue to promote cycling through secure facilities and suitable parking and by facilitating the repair and acquisition of bicycles, for example via a bicycle library, and by learning to cycle at all ages. During this legislature, more than 230 hoops and around forty bicycle boxes were installed.

- **Implement new “cycle streets”:** streets in which cyclists have priority over motorised vehicles. Ensure understanding and compliance with the regulations that apply.
- Develop a **specific action plan for cyclist safety** (arrangements, prevention, etc.) aimed at the **creation of cycle paths** (secure, separated from traffic or on their own site).
- **Create a bike library**, loan service for used children's bikes, and consider a cargo bike loan service.
- **Support initiatives to develop cycling skills** (local police "road safety" training, Vollenbike, Kidical mass, etc.), continue the organisation of the **“cyclist's certificate” in primary education** and analyse the possibility of creating a “bicycle playground”.
- Offer **discovery routes** in the town **by bike**.
- Continue the policy aimed at **encouraging municipal staff** to prioritise **traveling by bicycle:** cycling coaching, mileage allowance, secure parking at workplaces, etc.

- Continue the **bicycle maintenance and repair bonus policy**.
- Develop **support for initiatives** aimed at enabling **people to learn** how to carry out **small bicycle repairs** themselves while benefiting from technical support.
- Promote **public terminals** allowing small bicycle repairs to be carried out, installed in several locations across the municipality.
- Place **new bicycle hoops** in residential areas and near schools, daycare centres, shops and services, making sure that certain hoops are suitable for large bikes (cargo bikes, bikes with trailers, long trails, etc.).
- Develop **secure bicycle parking solutions in public spaces** and encourage the development of alternative parking solutions through the **sharing of secure** public and private **premises** (warehouses, garages, building commons, etc.).
- Plead to the Region to develop the **Chaussée de La Hulpe** in such a way as to secure the passage **of pedestrians and cyclists**.
- Plead to the Region for the implementation of **the BELIRIS agreement** providing for the development of a secure cycle path between the regional boundary (**Drève des Bonniers**) and **Avenue de la Foresterie**.
- Support the finalisation of the **cycle route C205** along the L161 railway line which will connect **Boitsfort station to Watermael station**, ensuring the quality criteria specific to this type of development.

3.5. Public transport serving all Watermael-Boitsfort

While developments to make Public Transport more fluid were carried out during this legislature, the challenge will be to implement bus services in the garden cities and the Coccinelles-La Futaie district, as well as to maintain a line direct bus between Boitsfort, Watermael and the city centre.

- Support the implementation of the STIB bus plan, which provides for the **modification of the route of line 72** in order to ensure **better service to the garden cities**.
- Continue the **implementation of line 42** to ensure **service to the Coccinelles-La Futaie district**.
- Ensure the **necessary arrangements** are made to allow buses to cross on the streets used by the new routes.
- Demand the maintenance of a **direct bus line between Boitsfort, Watermael and the city centre, without interruption** of load and without reduction in frequencies.
- Support the development of **alternative means of transport for evening and night travel** (STIB's Noctis lines and the "Collecto" collective taxi system in particular).

- Support the **finalisation of the developments of the two stations and their surroundings**. Take care to limit the impacts of the RER construction site (noise, vibrations, cleanliness of the surroundings of the construction site, etc.).

3.6. Peaceful neighbourhoods and carsharing

The shared car has seen great growth in the town which now has 17 stations (54 vehicles)! A hundred charging points for electric cars have been installed and others are still planned. Ecolo-Groen also wants to be proactive for peaceful traffic in residential areas to ensure peace and security.

- Continue the **development of the offer of shared cars**, ideally zero emissions, in all the neighbourhoods of the municipality.
- Encourage **the use of alternative means of transport** to the individual automobile during commute by municipal and CPAS staff.
- **Incentivise the blue zone system** allowing **free parking for two hours**.
- **Develop short-term parking options** (30 minutes free) near local businesses.
- Plead to the Region for maintenance on regional roads **Delleur-Hulpe-Solvay aimed at improving the safety** of students from neighbouring schools, pedestrians and cyclists and to improve traffic flow.
- **Defend the interests of Watermael-Boitsfort** regarding the regional project to demolish the **Herrmann-Debroux viaduct** by paying particular attention to the measures to be taken to **avoid the transfer of traffic** to avenue de la Foresterie and the dispersal of part of the traffic in the residential areas of the municipality.
- **Examine**, in consultation with the Region, the neighbouring communities and residents, **making rue des Pêcheries one-way** in order to reduce transit traffic and make travel safer.

Part 4

A more emancipatory and egalitarian municipality



Numerous **services and infrastructures** are organised by the municipality to **meet the needs of development and fulfilment at all ages**: nurseries, schools, neighbourhood centres, sports park, academies, playgrounds, skatepark, etc.

Watermael-Boitsfort can also count on a **rich social web** offering activities and services in numerous **social, cultural, environmental, sporting areas, linked to childhood, youth**, etc. These are all **opportunities to volunteer and meet people**.

Ecolo-Groen wishes to make them **better known and support** them and will continue to promote **awareness of nature and the environment** in these different educational and cultural areas.

Read Ecolo-Groen's proposals:

4.1. A “children and young people allowed” municipality

Ecolo-Groen will continue to develop places and activities for the development of children and young people and will listen to their needs.

Early childhood

- Develop the **network of subsidised childcare providers**, through the creation of new co-reception spaces, and encourage the development of daycare centres.
- Continue the **development of municipal nurseries** and examine the possibilities of opening new places.
- Organise an **“Early Childhood Day”** annually to promote all the activities developed by the municipality, the ONE and associations.

Families

- **Support the action of associations** which organise activities for families: clothing exchanges, meetings between parents, etc.
- Experiment with the provision of public dry toilets and **water fountains** in green spaces and playgrounds and consider **recreational access to water**.

- Set up a **network of “welcoming toilets”**: businesses make their toilets accessible free of charge while the municipality grants them a bonus in return.

Childhood

- **Strengthen extracurricular activities** that promote the **development of children's creativity** (for example: crafting, theatre, painting, etc.).
- Offer more **outdoor activities** to children who attend the holiday camps organised by the municipality (parks, Forêt de Soignes, Champ des Cailles, etc.) and offer an introduction to **nature activities to young people** who will supervise the courses.
- **Maintain and renovate playgrounds** and ensure visibility of signs prohibiting dogs.

Intergenerational

- Develop **links between generations through joint activities** with neighbourhood centres, the Youth Centre, the senior residence, libraries, cultural centres, schools, etc.

Childhood-youth

- Continue **support for scout units** (subsidies, transport of camp equipment, etc.).

Youth

- **Strengthen listening to young people, consult them on their needs**, on projects that directly concern them (development of the skatepark and sports areas, management of the Youth Centre, etc.) and on their desire to get involved in the community.
- **Continue the development of the activities of the Youth Centre** (MJWB) and ensure the gradual renovation of its premises.
- Renew **the layout of the skatepark** for the safety of its users.
- In consultation with neighbouring municipalities, **support the creation of an AMO** (open environment action service) intended to support young people in the south-east of the Brussels Region.

4.2. A caring and stimulating school

Ecolo-Groen supports a school where children want to learn and can participate, a school paying attention to equal opportunities, open to cultural diversity and culture in general, developing ecological and sustainable projects, and promoting a calm and creative mood, conducive to dialogue and learning.

- Continue and expand initiatives aimed at **promoting language learning in municipal schools, particularly Dutch**. For example, by organising an exchange or collaboration between French-speaking and Dutch-speaking schools.

- **Introduce the youth to music within municipal schools**, in collaboration with the music academy.
- **Allow each student in municipal schools to have access to culture**, giving them the opportunity to meet and see art works, artists and cultural practices and to attend cultural spaces (cultural and artistic education pathway).
- Strengthen **relationships between the school and parents** by developing discussion spaces such as “café chitchat”, “school committee”, etc.
- Create a **solidarity fund** allowing access to school and extra-curricular **activities** for all.
- Continue the **health plan** in schools (renovation of toilets, water fountains, etc.).
- Improve the **mobility of children to their schools**: school buses by bike and on foot, school bus, etc. and secure paths to schools during rush hours.
- Continue investing in the **continuing training of educational teams** with particular emphasis on **conflict prevention and management, non-violent communication**, the cooperative approach, diversity, the fight against racism, discrimination, gender stereotypes and inequalities, etc.
- Strengthen **prevention and monitoring actions concerning all forms of violence**, particularly school bullying and cyberbullying; involve students and the school in conflict resolution.
- **Sustain the function of educational coordinator**, particularly to support management.
- Continue the **development of academic support and homework schools**, notably through neighbourhood centres, youth centres and libraries, as well as partnerships with structures organising tutoring provided by higher education students.
- Support initiatives that provide **better support for students who have learning disorders or difficulties** of various kinds (neurodivergent students, disabilities, behavioural and educational weaknesses, lack of language proficiency, etc.).
- **Amplify children's listening, democratic practices and citizenship at school** (classroom speaking circles, school councils, children's councils, general children's assemblies, etc.) and encourage student involvement in various aspects of school life (arrangements and occupation of collective spaces, prevention and resolution of conflicts, environmental dynamics, support for behavioural or educational weaknesses, etc.).
- Promote **intercultural exchanges within the Brussels Region**: cultural projects, verbal jousts, joint trips, etc.
- Develop **synergies between children and seniors**, for example through activities in schools and retirement homes.
- Encourage **outdoor activities** (park, forest, neighbourhood, etc.) linked to learning (outdoor school) and introduction to nature and the environment.
- Continue efforts aimed at municipal schools obtaining the **“Eco-Schools” label**, a label which encourages schools to establish an environmental dynamic with their students.

- Develop initiatives to promote **equitable occupation of playground space, school premises** and other collective spaces, between students.
- **Plant schoolyards** to create isolated spaces of freshness and contribute to the well-being of students.
- Create **spaces of silence and relaxation in municipal schools**.
- **Allow all municipal school students** to participate in change of **scenery classes** during their school career.
- Continue the programme encouraging **healthy and sustainable eating in municipal schools** (promote water bottles, access to water, healthy and “zero waste” snacks, fair trade, seasonal and local products; ban sugary drinks, etc.) and **guarantee access to school meals for all children**.
- Raise awareness among the **educational community of the themes of sustainable consumption and transition** through training.
- Continue **learning about digital tools** in municipal schools while developing critical thinking about their uses (misinformation, addictions, risks linked to social networks, costs, ecological harm and societal risks) and by raising awareness of the need for everyone to protect their numeric identity.
- Maintain attention to **air quality in municipal schools**, particularly through CO2 monitoring and ventilation systems.

4.3. Elderly staying active and in their home as long as possible

A fifth of the population of our municipality is over 65 years old. Ecolo-Groen wishes to pursue a municipal policy integrating this sociological reality, whether in terms of housing, in the development of public space or in initiatives to promote social cohesion and intergenerational approaches.

- Encourage the **participation of seniors in sporting, cultural and community activities**.
- Develop opportunities for seniors to **volunteer in community social activities**.
- Continue the dynamic of the **Communal Consultative Council of Seniors (CCCA)**.
- Set up a (mobile) **service to help with online procedures** (digital inclusion).
- Encourage **intergenerational initiatives** (1 roof for 2 ages, kangaroo house, homework schools, etc.).
- Finalise the **renovation and expansion projects for the CPAS senior residence**.

- Support activities – for example of the non-profit organisation Vivre chez soi – which promote **keeping elderly people at home**.
- Support initiatives that constitute **housing alternatives to rest homes** (Abbeyfield-type grouped housing, intergenerational projects, A Roof for Two Ages, division of large homes, etc.).
- Study the possibility of **bringing together the activities and assistance offered to seniors by creating a card** similar to the “Creapass” offered by the municipality of Ixelles: access to various activities and entertainment at negotiated and affordable prices (nature and biodiversity walks, guided tours, choirs, safety training, cultural activities, etc.).

4.4. Culture: a strength of our municipality

The cultural offer is one of the strengths of the municipality. Ecolo-Groen wants as many people as possible to be able to develop their means of expression and creativity, and to access cultural offerings in and outside performance halls. We want to promote artists of all ages and promote collaborations between cultural and social actors.

- Continue the **support provided to cultural actors** (cultural centres, French- and Dutch-speaking public reading networks, academies, etc.).
- Support and encourage the **policy of multicultural openness** of cultural actors.
- **Facilitate access for young people**, particularly via **preferential rates**, to cultural productions broadcast in the municipality.
- Continue the **decentralisation of cultural activities** to reach out to people who are least accustomed to frequenting cultural places, with a view to supporting social cohesion, well-being, creativity, expression and critical thinking.
- Promote **cultural activities** (music, theatre, reading, etc.) **in parks, squares and kiosks**.
- Support the organisation of new editions of the **Flower Festival**.
- Support **creations from young people** and provide them with distribution assistance.
- Continue and develop **support for initiatives carried out by the artists' network and by individuals**: exhibitions, artists' journeys (Art in the air, Jazz at the market, etc.).
- Organise events aimed at highlighting the work of **local artists**.
- **Continue partnerships** between the Municipality, La Vénèrie, WABO, libraries, toy libraries, associations and schools from all networks, French-speaking and Dutch-speaking.
- Pursue the policy of **developing reading** via the two public reading networks, both **Dutch and French**.

- Develop **cultural exchanges** with other **Brussels municipalities**.
- **Collaborate with cultural actors** and the **Memory Space** to undertake **work to decolonise the collective imagination**, by rethinking the place of colonial history in the public space and by pondering on its impact **to better fight against racism and discrimination**.
- **Each year, honour an artist, a personality or an association** as part of the festivals of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation and the Flemish Community.
- Continue the integration of **works of art into urban space**.
- Highlight the **architectural legacy, remarkable trees** and particularities of the Municipality through **appropriate signage**.
- Launch a **competition “The most beautiful sceneries/corners of the town”** in order to highlight the landscape.
- Support initiatives aimed at **promoting the history of the municipality** and preserving its memory, for example through **the Memory Space and exhibitions**.

4.5. Sport and health for all

Ecolo-Groen wants to continue to encourage physical, sporting and entertainment activities at all ages and including people with disabilities.

- Continue the **maintenance and gradual renovation** of the municipality's **sports facilities**.
- **Reduce the energy consumption of the Le Calypso swimming pool** through more efficient thermal insulation and **improve the comfort of visitors** through renovation of the floors (among others).
- Continue to **provide “sports vouchers”** for **local children** under certain conditions.
- **Support sports clubs** and highlight the sporting talents of the municipality.
- **Offer sports modules in parks or playgrounds** and other public spaces (fitness trails, training machines, pull-up bars, basketball hoops, ping-pong tables, etc.) according to needs.
- Organise **introductory sports** activities (gym, tai chi, etc.) **in green spaces** and **encourage citizen initiatives** for collective sports activities **in public spaces**.
- Organise **training regarding the digitalisation of healthcare**, particularly for seniors (teleconsultation, remote treatment monitoring, shared health record, eHealth consultation, etc.).
- Offer **“first aid” training to people who supervise** activities with children (teachers, facilitators, etc.).

- **Centralise information concerning material, psychological and legal assistance** for **Caregivers** (people who voluntarily help people with a temporary or permanent loss of autonomy).
- Promote **access to psychological support**, for example using **mobile teams**.



Social cohesion and social assistance are and will continue to be a priority in Watermael-Boitsfort.

Indeed, the population of our municipality is changing. It is increasingly diverse, and the gap between precariousness and wealth is widening.

Social cohesion is therefore a **major issue** for perpetuating the “village” spirit which characterises our commune and thus **welcoming all people in their diversity**, whether cultural, socio-economic, generational, linked to questions of genders or disabilities.

At the same time, we must also **respond to** increasingly numerous **requests for financial and material assistance, make housing accessible** for less advantaged, middle-income and vulnerable populations, and provide services enabling the integration and quality of life of everyone.

These are famous and wonderful challenges!

Ecolo-Groen wants to continue and **strengthen its investment in these areas** through the following proposals:

5.1. More social cohesion

Ecolo-Groen veut amplifier les initiatives favorisant la rencontre, le partage et
Ecolo-Groen wants to amplify initiatives promoting networking, sharing and mutual aid, allowing everyone to flourish and participate in collective life.

- Support and develop the presence of **street educators in public spaces** with a view to promoting **dialogue and meetings** between residents.
- Encourage and support initiatives that help to **re-enchant the art of living together** (open-air cinema, artists' trails, neighbourhood centres, etc.).
- Promote initiatives allowing the population, and in particular children, **to reclaim public space**, for example **closing streets** to allow the organisation of collective tables, **neighbourhood parties**, the **installation of street furniture promoting conviviality** or the establishment of the “**streets reserved for play**” system.

- Look for opportunities to **expand the premises allocated to neighbourhood centres** and social cohesion projects (**Espace Mosaïque** in particular).
- Promote **cohesion by supporting all forms of solidarity** between residents (e.g. sponsorship of new ones by old ones, group of “parent helpers” to help young households, single parents, etc.).
- **Promote citizen initiatives** around composts, orchards, gardens, picking areas, collective and neighbourhood chicken coops.
- Support the **Chant des Cailles urban agriculture project** which contributes to social cohesion, intergenerational encounters and the fight against isolation.
- Support and **capitalise over the training offered by EPNs** (digital public spaces) aimed at **reducing the "digital divide"** between those who are computer literate and those who do not have access to it, and set up intergenerational learning spaces.
- Increase **initiatives to combat different forms of racism, LGBTQIA+ phobias** and all forms of **stereotypes**. Train political representatives and municipal staff in diversity and the importance of ensuring a welcome of quality for new arrivals.

5.2. Renforcer et coordonner l’action sociale

Face à l’augmentation de la précarité, Ecolo-Groen veut poursuivre et renforcer le soutien au CPAS et encourager la concertation et la coordination dans le domaine de l’aide sociale.

- Continue and expand the **support provided by the municipality to the CPAS** to enable it to follow up on the requests for help.
- Increase **awareness of the assistance** provided by the CPAS to limit the phenomenon of “non-recourse to the law” (people likely to benefit from assistance but who do not take the necessary steps).
- **Promote consultation and coordination between the municipality, the CPAS and the numerous associations active** in the region to better organise and publicise actions that may help vulnerable people and families (e.g.: libraries, energy services, solidarity grocery stores and fridges, school canteens and social, employment agency, articles 27, extracurricular activities, etc.)
- Ensure the **financial accessibility of sporting and cultural events** organised on the territory of the municipality.
- Continue and expand the **activities of the MobiTwin service** which offers **voluntary transport for people with reduced mobility or those on a low income**.

5.3. Support the job search

Ecolo-Groen wishes to invest in support and assistance in job searching, particularly for young people, via the socio-professional integration services of the CPAS, partnerships with players in the circular economy, volunteers , etc.

- Accentuate **socio-professional integration efforts**, in particular via the social-professional integration service of the CPAS, the **promotion of articles 60 and ALE services**, and by leading partnerships with active actors of the different fields, especially in the field of the circular economy and the valorisation of resources.
- In terms of **employment**, draw inspiration from the **“Zero unemployed territories”** (*‘Territoire zéro chômeur’*) particularly within the framework of the new call for applications for sustainable neighbourhood contracts in the Brussels region, of which this is one of the main objectives.
- Encourage and promote **mentoring** initiatives for the **benefit of young people looking for work** (support by a volunteer and experienced person close to retirement age, based on the “Duo for a Job” model).

5.4. A voluntary and supportive housing policy

Ecolo-Groen wants to continue the maintenance and creation of social and medium-sized housing, including high environmental quality including the reduction of energy consumption.

- Continue the dynamic of public housing by **strengthening the resources of the Régie Foncière** (body responsible for managing municipal public housing) to support housing creation projects, optimally manage a **greater number of housing units** and support a **rent policy affordable**.
- **Continue the renovation of the existing buildings** of the Régie Foncière, particularly with a view to improving the energy efficiency of public housing.
- **Reserve 20%** of supported/supervised **housing** in the municipal housing stock **for vulnerable groups**: people with mental disabilities, victims of violence (domestic, linked to their gender identity or sexual orientation, etc.) and others.
- **Create housing suitable for people with reduced mobility and adaptability** in all new constructions and support the work necessary to make as many existing housing units as possible accessible.
- **Finalise the Archiducs-Nord project**, carried out in collaboration with the Region, which provides for the **creation of 38 housing units**, 16 of which are intended for a group housing project for people with disabilities and 9 for a housing project intergenerational group.

- Give a positive reception to projects allowing the **creation of housing via “light housing”** (which consumes little space and materials), to projects aimed at **dividing large dwellings** into several dwellings and **encouraging grouped housing and intergenerational housing** (Abbeyfield, group housing, 1roof2ages, etc.).
- Promote the implementation of the **regional rental allowance and other possible public aid**.
- Continue to identify and **combat empty housing**. Communicate on the number of unoccupied homes, the steps taken, and the fines collected.
- Study the possibilities of **taking unoccupied property** (housing or offices) into public management.
- Study the possibility of carrying out a project within the framework of the **“Community Land Trust Brussels”** which aims to **provide affordable housing** within the framework of a dissociation of ownership of the land from that of the buildings.
- Finalise the **project to repurpose the Saint-Hubert church** into housing to ensure the renovation and sustainability of the building.
- Be part of regional policies aimed at ensuring that **any new private real estate project of a certain scale** must **integrate a social and medium-sized housing aspect** (urban planning charges, agreements, etc.).

5.5. More prevention, for more safety

Faced with the feeling of insecurity, problems of violence, addiction, theft and other problematic behaviours, Ecolo-Groen's priorities are prevention, presence on the ground and strengthening the bond of trust between the population and the police.

- Maintain and develop **initiatives to prevent conflicts and intra-family or interpersonal violence**: individual or family support, training of social workers and the police, organisation of support groups, emergency accommodation, etc.
- Strengthen **prevention actions concerning the risks linked to drug or alcohol consumption** (addiction, impacts on health, dropping out of school and family, etc.).
- **Promote the local role of neighbourhood police**: direct contacts with the population, management of neighbourhood conflicts, detection of problematic situations, etc.
- Ensure the **presence of peacekeepers in busy places** and during community events, strengthen communication regarding their missions, and if possible, increase their number.
- **Promote the visible presence of the police in the heart of neighbourhoods**, particularly on foot and by bike.

- Ensure **preventive surveillance in public spaces** where recurring problems are observed (for example, consider the placement of temporary cameras).
- Establish **awareness-raising and continuing training programmes** for the police, peacekeepers and street educators around issues of discrimination, cultural diversity and gender, with particular emphasis on the **importance to build trust** with all components of society.
- **Organise regular meetings** between the population and the local police to ensure listening and mutual understanding, to strengthen trust, with an emphasis on the de-escalation of conflicts, respect for human rights and the proportionate use of strength.
- Better publicise and develop **the techno-prevention services offered by the local police** (advice on securing buildings, home surveillance during absences, bicycle anti-theft stickers, etc.).
- With the help of the police zone, organise **prevention on the issues of risks linked to the use of new technologies** (phishing, digital identity theft, sextortion, hacking, etc.).
- Study, within the police zone authorities, the possibility of establishing a **neighbourhood branch in the new administrative building on Avenue du Col-Vert** (Watermael-centre, Place Keym).
- Relay **awareness initiatives** relating to **road safety** (BOB's, Go for zero, etc.).
- Raise awareness of compliance with the Highway Code by all users and **strengthen the fight against traffic offenses**.
- **Encourage local police to carry out more checks**: alcohol levels and aggressive driving, noise pollution, faulty lighting, inconvenient parking, etc.
- **Strengthen the information** of the population regarding the content of the **General Municipal Emergency and Intervention Plan** (PGUI, '*Plan Général d'Urgence et d'Intervention communal*') and the benefit of registering with Be-Alert to be informed of emergency situations.

5.6. A welcoming community

For Ecolo-Groen, solidarity must be present in our municipality and in our country, in particular through a dignified welcome for people in exile but also towards countries in the Global South by supporting local development projects.

- **Continue the dynamics linked to the reception of political, economic and climate refugees and support for citizen initiatives**: budget, networking, information on aid possibilities, etc. Arrange to provide municipal housing as transit accommodation.
- **Strengthen the reception policy with the CPAS** and continue to **support the ILA** (local reception initiative or '*Initiative Locale d'Accueil*', allowing the reception of unaccompanied foreign minors,).

- Organise and **reinforce French and Dutch courses** and workshops for adults: literacy, FLE (French as a Foreign Language), conversation tables.
- Continue the municipality's commitment to the "**fair trade community**" **campaign** led by OXFAM, which encourages municipalities to choose fair trade consumer products, which excludes products from colonies or manufactured in conditions that do not comply with human dignity.
- Continue the work of the **international solidarity** support committee managed by local actors and political representatives (support and advice on project support).
- Continue the municipal **international cooperation partnership** between **Watermael-Boitsfort and Limete** which aims to strengthen and digitalise civil status and population services in this commune of Kinshasa (DRC).

A more democratic municipality



Governing requires the commitment of political leaders and that of the population, especially at a time when democracy faces many challenges.

Regularly meeting residents, setting up **places for consultation and debate** and making **information as accessible and complete** as possible are all steps to **keeping local democracy alive**.

In recent years, the outgoing legislature has **improved the transparency of its debates and decisions** (broadcasting of the Municipal Council on the internet for example) and carried out its projects in compliance with a **sound and rigorous financial framework**.

Here is the programme that Ecolo-Groen wishes to implement:

6.1. Even more citizen participation

An essential annual event in local life, Ecolo-Groen will pursue participatory budgets by promoting a balanced contribution from all neighbourhoods and age groups. Consultation of young people and seniors, as well as in matters of mobility and other areas, will also be a centrepiece of local democracy.

- **Continue the dynamic of participatory budgets** aimed at allocating a portion of the municipal budget to projects emanating from the population or neighbourhood committees. **Ensure that this resonates in all neighbourhoods and with all age groups.**
- Create a **right of citizen initiative** allowing citizens to **submit a specific text to the Municipal Council for a vote**.
- Organise **information evenings and/or participation initiatives upstream** of any public **project** likely to have impacts on the neighbourhood concerned.
- Continue the **organisation of annual “neighbourhood meetings”** allowing **direct exchange** between the population and the members of the College of Aldermen, promoting participatory methods, and strengthening communication on the follow-up of the points debated.
- Establish **joint commissions made up of elected or unelected people**, to create places for dialogue on municipal issues, according to needs.
- Continue the dynamic of the **Communal Advisory Council for Seniors (CCCA)** and work with this council on questions of mobility, training in new technologies, etc.

- **Establish a Municipal Youth Council**, drawing inspiration from initiatives carried out in other municipalities, and strengthen the consideration of **young people's voices by organising consultations on projects that directly concern them** (development of the skatepark and sports areas, management of the Youth Centre, support for youth movements).
- Establish **places of exchange and information** with people representing **pedestrians, cyclists and users of public transport** to work on issues of mobility and development of public space.
- **Raise awareness of the “Fix my street” tool**, a Brussels online platform that allows you to report incidents on public roads (cleanliness, damaged roads, etc.) and ensure follow-up of reports.
- Ensure that the **places of debate and decision-making** (para-municipal non-profit bodies, advisory councils, etc.) reflect as much as possible the **diversity of the municipality** in their composition (gender, socio-economic level, origins, etc.).
- **Gather the offer concerning volunteering possibilities** (neighbourhood centres, rest homes, solidarity projects, cleanliness operations, etc.) and encourage residents to get involved. Ensure that volunteer activities do not replace job creation.

6.2. Appropriate communication

Ecolo-Groen will be keen to allow everyone to easily access information from the Municipality or neighbourhood through the most appropriate means of communication, ranging from on-site displays to digital means, including the municipal newspaper.

- **Strengthen the dynamic of welcoming and informing new** residents: meeting evening with the Municipal Council; booklet presenting the municipality and its services in several languages; visit to key places in the town; presentation of the associative offer; discovery by bike; etc.
- **Systematically inform the population about the programming and monitoring of work** carried out in their neighbourhood, via different means of communication (public meetings, drop-ins, information panels on the sites concerned, website, etc.).
- **Publish a map of the municipality** making it possible to **identify**, district by district, **the offer** in **social matters, health, employment, youth**, etc. and including the contact details of services and associations.
- **Improve signage** to identify structures such as libraries, cultural centres, neighbourhood centres, etc.
- Continue the **“all-box” distribution of the municipal newsletter “1170”**. Ensure that copies are also available in administrative buildings, libraries, medical centres, cafes, etc.
- Rely more on structures such as **neighbourhood centres or the Youth Centre** to **relay information** regarding municipal activities.

- Ensure the **accessibility of the municipal website** to all people with disabilities. Also develop a part of the municipal website on all the services and associations available to people with disabilities, giving priority to FALC (Easy to Read and Understand).
- **Ensure the inclusiveness of people with disabilities**, taking into account different forms of disability: development of playgrounds, accessibility of services and reception, adapted housing, fight against the digital divide, use of sign language, etc.
- **Maintain a welcome of quality at the municipality's offices**. Give preference to human and direct communication when possible (listening, understanding, making people understand, connecting and, if necessary, redirecting).
- Ensure that **exchanges that take place digitally** have their **equivalent by non-digital means** (depending on the case: by personal contact, through writing or by telephone).
- Evaluate the use of **neighbourhood information panels** which allow direct exchange between residents of the same neighbourhood, and **increase their number as needed**.
- **Promote the action of the Watermael-Boitsfort associative network in the municipal newspaper "1170"** and via other information channels of the Municipality.
- Create a **collaborative agenda for all activities** taking place in the municipality, accessible to anyone who wishes to communicate about their events (events accessible to all).
- **Set up a day for associations** giving visibility to their actions and involvement in local life and allowing residents to become members: culture, leisure, solidarity, humanitarian, health, sport, etc.
- Make information available concerning the means made available to associations by the municipality and **publicise the procedures for awarding subsidies**.

6.3. Healthy and ethical municipal governance and finances

Guaranteeing a strict governance framework, both in terms of the commitment of those responsible and in terms of transparency and finances, will continue to be part of the identity of Ecolo-Groen and the way in which we will manage our municipality, for the benefit of everyone.

- Implement **tools** aimed at **better knowing** and understanding the **functioning and decision-making processes of the Municipality and the CPAS** as well as their skills.
- Ensure **transparency** regarding the functioning of the **Municipal Council** (agenda, explanatory notes, live broadcast, etc.) and compliance with the provisions concerning the **publication of public mandates and the income linked to them**.
- **Maintain reasonable and prudent management of municipal finances** with the objective of maintaining a **low debt rate while ensuring the quality of service** to the population.

- In terms of **taxation**, ensure a rebalancing aimed at **reducing personal income tax (IPP) without reducing investment capacity** or overall revenue.
- Rely on all the **measures allowing the municipality and its partner associations to benefit from subsidies in various areas** (road development, insulation of municipal buildings, housing, culture, animal welfare, etc.).
- Level up the **synergies between the municipality and the CPAS**, particularly for the so-called “support” functions (human resources management, public procurement service, vehicle fleet, etc.).
- Develop **synergies with the Brussels Region and neighbouring municipalities** for the establishment of common services benefiting the population (based on the model of what was achieved for the recycling centre).
- In the context of **public procurement**, **exclude bidders** who are shown to have committed **serious professional misconduct** which calls into question their integrity (activities which violate human rights under national and international law according to the verdicts and judgments of national and international judicial or quasi-judicial bodies).
