

GROEN+ VOORUIT



Make it change!

Dear resident of Grimbergen,

You may have noticed it through our posters and the previous leaflet: Groen+ and Vooruit are joining forces. Together with independent candidates, we want to work towards a different governance.

**To us,
everyone
really counts**

Why change?

We give the outgoing local government a failing grade. We have watched as services disappeared or became more expensive. Meal distribution for seniors was cancelled. The open-air swimming pool De Lammekes was closed and now lies desolate. The price for childcare has increased. The building of the Oxfam Fair Trade shop was sold; a possible meeting place in Strombeek was lost.

The plans for a new Social Centre with a library in Strombeek were scrapped, despite the costs incurred for studies, design, and expropriation. The subsequent design for the expansion of the Grimbergen town hall, including the demolition of the school building, was launched, and then abandoned. Fortunately, the project for an underground car park with a Jumbo supermarket at Prinsenbos was cancelled amidst loud protests. The result of all this: more than 5.5 million euros wasted!

Together with you!

It is time for our municipality to be governed differently. With that wasted 5.5 million, we could have built or renovated footpaths and cycle paths, planted more greenery, liven up our village

centres, ... In short, many wonderful projects that would have made a real difference for you. With Groen+Vooruit, your opinion will be sought from the very start of a project. We will organise citizen participation through neighbourhood committees and advisory councils. We will use a citizens' budget for this purpose. By allocating an amount to each part of the municipality, we will work on projects proposed by residents. In this way, we cater to the uniqueness and specific needs of our different communities.

For us, the differences between rural Beigem, Humbeek, and Grimbergen and the more urban Strombeek are an enrichment. Verbrande Brug and Borcht are also unique residential areas. We focus on connection and meeting in the neighbourhoods and streets. Embracing diversity is a challenge but, above all, an opportunity. Together, we aim for a warm and welcoming municipality.

Leader duo Groen+Vooruit



Gerlant
van Berlaer



Katrien
Le Roy

Towards a new mobility

We are adjusting the mobility plan and engaging in **dialogue** with the residents of different neighbourhoods. We are seeking solutions to ensure that children, pedestrians, and cyclists can move around **safely**, without necessarily making car traffic impossible. School environments, in particular, can still be made safer. **Quality of living is our guiding principle**, which means that unnecessary cars and lorries are discouraged. We are shifting into a higher gear in offering shared cars and bicycles and in the construction and renovation of cycle lanes and pavements. Streets will become community streets where people can meet each other. We will achieve this novel approach together with a newly established mobility council, in which residents and local businesses from each district are actively involved.

Community care and local Services

Combating poverty is our priority. We promote social employment so that everyone has opportunities in the job market. We are committed to providing **accessible care**. In Borcht and Strombeek, we will explore with general practitioners to establish community health centres. We support and strengthen volunteer work. Think of language buddies and mutual help in the neighbourhood, such as support for the elderly, homework assistance, and more. Together, we are building an engaged and caring community.

Public services must take specific needs into account. Municipal services act close to the citizens, both digitally and through personal contact, even without an appointment. Those who are not yet fluent in Dutch can receive help in another language at designated times. For us, **local services** also mean having a bakery, butcher, or grocer nearby.

Solutions for affordable housing

We are committed to increasing the availability of affordable rental and owner-occupied homes in Grimbergen. We are working on the improvement and expansion of the supply of **social housing**. This can be achieved by collaborating with the newly established Social Housing Association. This cooperation also provides opportunities to encourage the private rental market to open up to people with lower incomes. For prospective buyers, we want to establish a Community Land Trust, where the municipality provides land for the construction of homes, which are then sold to **young families** with-

out land costs. We also aim to promote co-housing for young and old in existing houses.

Everyone onboard for climate and sustainable Energy

We are committed to an ambitious and socially **inclusive climate policy** and climate action plan. **A sustainable energy policy** is essential to meet the required climate targets. We involve everyone in the energy transition. We encourage and assist our residents with subsidies and pre-financing for investments in insulation and renewable energy. We take the initiative for collective projects to make neigh-



bourhoods and streets more climate friendly. This also applies to municipal buildings. We focus on **energy savings** and invest in insulation, solar panels, heat pumps, and wind energy where possible.

Investing in the citizens of tomorrow

Children and young people are our future. We want to expand **local childcare**. The number of prima-

ry school places in Strombeek must increase. The planned **primary school** could be built on the Rodepoort site rather than in the park of Villa Rijckendael. Grimbergen can be more proactive in harnessing the **positive energy of young people**. They truly need places where they can enjoy being young without worry. To foster their creativity and sense of community, youth organisations in all districts should have suitable sites. The Youth Council should be more than just a sounding board for established youth organisations; we also want to hear the voices of unaffiliated young people. We will expand neighbourhood services for young people. Together, we are building the Grimbergen of tomorrow.



Space for agriculture and nature

Opting for residential densification creates more village and more countryside. This approach ensures that key areas in our municipality remain **open spaces** and available for agriculture. We are putting a stop to new large-scale allotments. We support **local farmers** in sustainable food production and promote their products at markets and in local shops. We will preserve existing green areas

at Kerselaar (Beigem) and Priesterlindeveld (Grimbergen). Additionally, we will develop new nature reserves in Humbeek and Beigem and expand the Lintbos. In the more urban part of Strombeek, the need for public green spaces is remarkably high. We will quickly create a green Gemeenteplein and preserve the park at Villa Rijckendael. We will also work on establishing a new park at Potaarde.

A vibrant cultural, sports, and community Life

Our vibrant community life brings people together and deserves all the support. Together, we make Grimbergen stronger and livelier. Because culture and sports should be accessible to everyone, we encourage all organisations to engage with **diverse groups**. To ensure the crucial role of CC Strombeek, we will index municipal subsidies. We are investing in a new library in Strombeek and reopening a branch at the Charleroyhoeve. Grimbergen will once again have an **event venue**. We are positioning ourselves as a sports municipality by supporting various sports. We will give Grimbergen a new boost with **outdoor swimming**; we are exploring the creation of a swimming pond at the Lammekes and opportunities for open water swimming in the canal. We encourage schools to open their (sports) halls and fields to residents and community associations.

Clean and green = happy and healthy

Living in a clean neighbourhood is pleasant. We commend all the litter keepers and volunteers who dedicate themselves to this task every day. Nonetheless, the municipality can play an even greater role. We are committed to a stricter **policy on illegal dumping**, installing underground waste containers in Strombeek, and introducing a litter charter for organisations. Polluting companies will also face stricter measures.

Green streets and squares bring happiness! We value existing green spaces with a new pruning policy and improved maintenance through expanded social employment. We will focus more on reducing hard surfaces and planting additional trees and shrubs. These enhance air quality, provide cooling on hot days, and are vital allies in the fight against flooding.

These are just some of our ambitions. Keep an eye on our website for our full programme.

September 7th

Groen+ Vooruit

CELEBRATION

At the POC Humbeek – doors from 19h00

Experience an evening full of encounters and conviviality with us:

- **Get to know** our candidates and our ambitions
- Enjoy **live music** brought to you by the **Trio Bart Stallaert**
- Join us for tasty **food** and **drinks**
- Be inspired by national politicians like **Petra De Sutter** (Groen) and **Frank Vandenbroucke** (Vooruit)
- And dance to the beats of **DJ Carlo Ramon**

Not to be missed!

GROEN+Vooruit works inclusively. Inclusion instead of exclusion. In order to inform all residents of Grimbergen about our view on municipal policy, this brochure is explained in English and French. With a warm call to be part of our Grimberg Dutch-speaking community. **We want everyone to join us!**



**Voulez-vous lire
cette brochure
en français ?**



**Would you prefer to
read this brochure
in English?**



Would you like to know more or to cooperate? Contact us at groenplusvooruit@gmail.com
www.groenplusvooruit.be

We are ready, use your vote

Make it change!