

SUSTAINABLY. LIVING. TOGETHER.

ELECTION PROGRAM
2018-2022

GROENLINKS

MAASTRICHT

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INTRODUCTION

Dear Reader,

Here before you is the election program for 2018 of GroenLinks Maastricht. A program in which you can read about what we stand for and what our input will be for the city in the upcoming years. We have huge ambitions to make the city even more beautiful and more viable. A city where there is a place for everyone, and where everyone can be who he or she is.

A city is never finished. Therefore, Maastricht is not either. The challenges for the upcoming years are nonetheless big. The pressure on (youth)care is huge and we have to make sure that nobody is left out. We really want to make steps in countering and solving poverty affecting the populations of the city. Maastricht will develop itself further into a Student city and no longer a city with students. Climate agreements are in need of big interventions and actions in constructed society. Electric driving will rise in the upcoming years and the city needs to prepare itself for that.

Our program tackles subjects on the long-term but we do not walk away for challenges that are further along the road and need to be dealt with right now, like climate agreements. GroenLinks chooses a sustainable future and that future begins tomorrow. By and for Maastricht.

Of course, we hope that everyone will read the program as a whole because we have a lot to say about Maastricht. We have made a top 10 of things that we want to give our priority to in the upcoming years:

1. Clear and faster steps towards a climate neutral Maastricht in 2030: put effort into saving, more production of renewable energy, gas-free living and making fossil-fuel-free use of energy accessible for everyone;
2. The new development of houses and other buildings will be the standard zero-on-the-meter and eventually energy neutral. For existing buildings there will be an action plan for sustainability;
3. Urban mobility that enhances the city makes it safer and makes it healthier: bike and pedestrian, and electric public transportation made available in the area between Via Regia-Noorderbrug-Terblijterweg and Tongerseweg-Kennedybrug- Akersteenweg have priority;
4. All street-parking places for cars will move to, among other things, parking places, so they can be removed from the street scene in an incremental way. In the open spots that will be a result of this, there will be picnic areas, play areas and extra parking spots for bikes. GroenLinks wants to create 600 extra parking places for bikes per year. The implementation of an environmental zone in the area between the boulevards is something that GroenLinks sees as the first step towards a car-free inner-city. That is why the total number of parking places within the boulevards will diminish incrementally with 50 per year;
5. In 2022, less than 10% of family's in Maastricht will be living below the poverty level. Good education, cooperation with all value chain partners and accessible help is crucial with this. The highest priority will be aimed at family's that contain children because GroenLinks believes that every child that grows up in poverty, is one too many;
6. The unemployment in Maastricht is declining. We want to keep the unemployment under the national average in a structural manner, whereas vulnerable groups will get our attention and keep our attention. The opportunities and possibilities for job seekers are central and tailor-made, which is the solution;

7. Maastricht is and will always be a city where everyone feels at home, regardless of their descent, gender, handicap, religion or (sexual) preference dialogue, cooperation and sometimes enforcement are essential;
8. We will make Maastricht a student city, and no longer “a city with students”. With regard to everyone’s interest, we will look for the right balance in accommodation, culture, economy and communication;
9. The citizens’ budget will be actively used as an instrument to involve the citizens of the city, think together with them and decide on initiatives in their neighbourhoods;
10. The cultural winter is over. GroenLinks feels strongly about new investments in culture, with a supplementary investment of 3% on the yearly budget. This, among other things, will be used to bring more attention to the assets to the culture of Maastricht, in order to make culture more accessible not only for the citizens of the city but also a broader public in order for those to find their way to the available range of offers.

We hope you find this program enjoyable and informative to read!

The Program-commission of the City Council Elections 2018

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THE GREEN CITY

For a long time, GroenLinks has been a part of the city council and a lot has been reached in and for the city. The city is no longer divided into two parts by the A2 and with the “Groene Loper” the green outer areas will meet the front doors of our citizens, the Sphinxkwartier will be redeveloped, the Noorderbrug is shifted and the Energy Agreements of Maastricht are made. But we are not finished yet. The challenges and projects for the future are big and not easy to realize.

Considering the global climate agreements, there will have to be an ambitious sustainability program to work towards a climate neutral city. The city council has determined that Maastricht needs to be climate neutral in 2030 and this asks for greater efforts and budgets than seen so far. The developments around electric transportation are coming into an acceleration which means that the infrastructure needs to be designed for this. The bike is growing more and more to be the means of transportation in the inner-city. To really connect the city, GroenLinks wants to overcome the last urban barrier: the track zone. The 40.000 inhabitants of our city that live on the east side of the central station, deserve better connections through the railroad emplacement for bike and pedestrian. We will have to adjust further to the changing climate. Therefore, more green in the city is crucial, in order to intercept more water as well as preventing heat stress. By realizing these ambitions, we will enhance the viability of the city.

The experiences from Belvédère and the “Groene Loper” (The Green Carpet) will be taken into account in the further development of the city and the creation of an attractive urban environment. GroenLinks wants private and public space not to be distinctly divided, but to be reacting to each other with interesting architecture and the right facilities.

GroenLinks makes a strong choice for green and healthy neighbourhoods, where children can play outside safely and where there is space for sport and relaxation. An inner-city where housing and living go together with economic activity and tourism. A city where entrepreneurs can work in a really sustainable way. A city that is and stays attractive, by and for all inhabitants of Maastricht.

In a city like Maastricht there are always places that are temporarily empty or are in anticipation of developments. Our city is full of creative ideas and plans on what to do with these places in the meantime. The ideas and plans formerly used to be blocked in the city council by all kinds of conditions that state what cannot happen. Under the responsibility of GroenLinks, room is created for the experiment. The Sphinx area for instance became the Spinxpark while it was awaiting residential construction, as a meeting place, a place of culture and a place of ecology. On the Tapijn, different functions and initiatives were authorized in anticipation of the design for the future, so the city could get familiar with the former firehouse and with the potential that the area has. The experiment shows that failure is okay. Because those who never fail, will never learn to make huge steps

Climate Neutral 2030: #missionzeromaastricht

Maastricht will be climate neutral in 2030. GroenLinks wants to keep going on the road that has been paved but believes in doing this with more determination and action. In Maastricht, we connect parties with the Maastricht Energy Agreements in the development towards a climate neutral city. Meeting the objective is not something that the municipality can do on its own. Therefore, it is important to engage the whole city in a joint #missionzeromaastricht: the citizens, companies and institutions. In order to reach the objective, it is necessary that everyone joins in. It is a big challenge, but so are the opportunities for the city that will result from this.

On the initiative of GroenLinks the first climate budget of Maastricht has seen the light. In the climate budget, the big results that are and will be made with a relatively small budget are stated. But it is also clear that for #missionzeromaastricht bigger (financial) efforts are asked for from the municipality. In the upcoming years, the climate budget of Maastricht needs to grow out to be a document where the available budget of CO2 will decline further towards zero and fitting measures are specified and how this yearly challenge will be implemented in practice. That way, the municipality shows her commitment to reaching her climate objectives. Climate change is after all a fact now. Taking measures in order to limit that climate change to a minimum is therefore no longer a choice. We have to.

GroenLinks believes that:

- a climate budget also deserves a climate councilman: this means that the portfolios of sustainability, nature, environment, energy and water integrally will be under the responsibility of one councilman;
- the environment plan for the whole congregation will get the principles climate neutral and climate resistant;
- the municipality improves the quality of older neighbourhoods, like a lot of the old parish neighbourhoods, by making the public space more green and more blue(more water);
- green enhances the feeling of a safer and a more pleasant living environment. On top of that, it also generates more social contacts in the neighbourhoods, for example with 'adoptiegroen';
- the municipality needs to take serious action in the supervision and monitoring of the energy-efficiency of businesses;
- Maastricht will keep being active with partners in the (EU)region in order to close the nuclear power plant in Tihange. This does not fit into a sustainable future for the city, region and its inhabitants. The Maastricht Citizen Committee against Tihange is financially supported;
- new neighbourhoods, but also roads and bike lanes, developed circularly and energy-neutral with as many recycled materials as possible;
- new buildings get a material-passport in order to facilitate the recycling of materials at the end of the lifespan;
- with the destruction of buildings and infrastructure, as many materials as possible need to be recovered (circular destruction) like we did with the Noorderbrug and A2-tunnel;
- the municipality of Maastricht stimulates. circular and 'bio based' building.

Now that a lot of municipal buildings are provided for with solar panels, it is time for the next step: we will make all buildings very energy efficient or energy neutral as soon as possible. This does not only apply to offices, but also to schools and sport facilities. New accommodations of the municipality will be made energy neutral and without natural gas supply.

The battle against Tihange has become a concept in our province, but that used to be very different when GroenLinks was the first one to ask questions considering the extremely old and rickety nuclear reactors within a 40 kilometre distance of Maastricht. In the meantime, we have had a lot of informational conventions, demonstrations and petitions. The nuclear power plants are not closed, but keeping them open is no longer a formality. As a result of GroenLinks insisting on it, a successful lobby from Limburg led to the Belgian, Dutch and German government communicating more on the (un)safety of nuclear power plants. In addition to that, there is also a stock of iodine pills saved in the south of Limburg, whereas in the past they had to come from Zoetermeer in the case of a nuclear accident, and family's with kids where sent iodine pills. Iodine pills can only prevent thyroid cancer and do not prevent other kinds of radiation diseases. They also do not prevent the traffic chaos that could take place in case of a nuclear disaster in Tihange. GroenLinks

keeps asking attention for questions and as long as Belgium nuclear power plants are open, GroenLinks will keep campaigning and demonstrating against that. After all, the chance of a nuclear disaster happening in Tihange or Doel may be small, but if it happens, the consequences will be unimaginable².

As a result of climate change, heat and dryness are things that we need to deal with more and more, but also extreme rainfall and water nuisance. In order to protect us against these threats, we set up our living environment more and more climate resistant. Tiles in the garden might be maintenance-friendly, but ensure that heat and massive amounts of rain lead to problems. When it comes to water management, Maastricht is already carrying out a program in order to be able to temporarily buffer in cases of water nuisance, like in Heer and the Eyldergaard. GroenLinks believes that high tide safety needs to be high on the agenda. Making the city climate resistant has big consequences for the spatial organisation of the living environment. Besides that, it is a huge social challenge. In doing so, we need to combine as many activities as possible and cooperate with chain partners like the Waterschap and Rijkswaterstaat

GroenLinks believes that:

- the temperature difference between city and country needs to be smaller. By using a heat map, most petrified spaces will be in image, in order to make it possible to actively put effort into greening and climate adaption in those places;
- rain water, where possible, no longer needs to be drained via the sewer. This can be realised by implementing water passing stones and greening the petrified areas, but also by providing roofs with planting and building water squares;
- the municipality stimulates the implementation of new techniques in order to drain water when it comes to large-scale renovation or new construction;
- private-sector property owners are stimulated to make their gardens greener, remove tiles and detach drain pipes in order for the rainwater to be intercepted in their own gardens. There can be looked further into financial stimulus that need to be developed for this, for example via the OZB, implementation of a tile fee or via subsidy. The municipality will meet with corporations and landlords in order to stimulate them in making gardens more green and provide for that in rental agreements and also in that area, to structurally proceed with detaching drain pipes;
- the area of De Griend will be addressed in the context of high-tide safety. The presence of the parking garage will no longer be as natural anymore in the future. Another measure in this context consists of creating an extra trench on the east side of Borgharen and Itteren. This offers more opportunities for enlargement and enforcement of the Riverpark Maasvallei, and for a better connectivity of the Maas villages so that these will also stay accessible in a case of high-tide.

GroenLinks wants the municipality to coordinate the transition to a clean energy supply in cooperation with the system operator, social housing corporations and energy corporations. We choose an approach that is compatible with what is living in the neighbourhoods, like Malberg: overdue maintenance, a nicer public area, value remaining housing and investments in sewers and streets can all be the starting point of a more sustainable neighbourhood. Plans like these provide employment. In the context of the Maastricht Energy Agreements, the municipality is making better agreements with social housing corporations and other landlords on making rental properties energy-efficient at a fast pace..

GroenLinks wants:

- for new building projects to no longer be connected to natural gas: zero-on-the-meter will be the norm;
- a plan for energy saving and transitioning to sustainable heating to be available for every neighbourhood;

- the total living costs (rent and energy costs) for tenants not to increase due to creating a more sustainable home;
- the municipality to go into consultation with housing cooperation in order to fasten the transition of sustainability towards energy label B and in to increase the ambition by stimulation innovative pilots;
- the placement of solar panels on roofs that are less visible to be easier. The wealth-policy will be adapted to this when necessary;
- the supporting of tenants and house-owners to be increased by more and better information at the “Energie Loket”, using energy coaches and organising informational meetings in the neighbourhoods and subsidy agreements, also for VvE’s and collectives. Necessary permits will be provided for without obstacles;
- a collective approach to promote increasing sustainability: isolating with the whole street and solar panels on every roof. Private owners and tenants can possibly also get in on this with renovations from the housing corporations or by becoming a member of cooperative initiatives;
- the municipality to have a partnership with the local energy corporations in order to improve energy saving and sustainable energy. When a company presents plans for sustainable energy, the municipality will take care of linking it to residents in an energy corporation or simulate the establishment of a cooperation.

In Limburg, an agreement is made to regulate the demand for housing on regional level and align that. Maastricht also follows this rules and has its focus therefore on the two biggest city development projects: Belvédère and the Groene Loper. Creating affordable rental properties is an important focus point in this area. Other (often smaller) new construction projects in the city are barely achieved.

Re-development of vacant real estate will get more priority and will be handled in an experimental way through the MaastrichtLab. The use of old buildings can change and also become living. In that way, we achieve more variation in functions in existing parts of the city and we decrease the pressure on new construction.

More nature

Trees are planted along roads for the sight of it and to improve the quality of the air, but also in order to decrease heat-stress. GroenLinks sets the advice of the World Health Organization as the goal. In places where the air pollution or traffic is harmful to the health, we will take suitable measures, like decreasing the maximum speed or shutting down routes for sorts of traffic. GroenLinks chooses more nature playgrounds for children: playgrounds where a child can play with fantasy and discover nature. There will be more attention for nature education for children via inter alia, the CNM, children farms or nature organizations like Natuurmonumenten and IVN.

GroenLinks wants:

- neighbourhoods with a lot of stone to get more green;
- there to be development towards unconventional solutions, like green facades and vertical forests with high-rise, in the inner-city. The initiative Frontamour will be put in the spotlight in a more active way;
- the street also to be made more green when the sewage and pavement is being replaced;
- the preservation of existing green to be a priority when neighbourhoods are reorganized;
- residents to be provided for with help when wanting to make their street or neighbourhood greener;

- the built-up area and outer area to be better connected to each other. We will do this by strengthening the cycling routes to nature areas (België-Belvédère-Boschpoort-Borgharen-Itteren-Buitengoed Geul and Maas\)) and the tramway track-cycle route to Aken;
- urban agriculture and creating joint vegetable gardens to be promoted. Not for the whole food supply, but urban agriculture is a way to make the city more viable and social, and to create a water playground for children in the city park;
- a water playground for children in the city park;
- (primary) schools and day-care locations to be encouraged to create green schoolyards and vegetable gardens.

The austerity of the maintenance level of green-maintenance leads to incomprehension and annoyance in a lot of places in our city. GroenLinks absolutely understands this. The austerity of in particular the public gardens (level C) is stated as a saving/cut- measure, in respect to the big challenges Maastricht is faced with when it comes to shortages on for instance social services. The debate on whether the maintenance level needs to be reduced to the original level (level B, which is also still the level when it comes to side-walks) will therefore keep going on. GroenLinks stands behind the cuts that have been put in place in a deliberate and considered way. If, however, there appears to be limitations because of the cuts, GroenLinks is open for reconsidering the policy. We also see possibilities in improving the maintenance costs when establishing the public space.

The residents of the Koningsplein and Oranjeplein have created a joint plan on how the City Park Maastricht-East by the Groene Loper needs to be designed: a place where people from all ages want to be to sport, play on the Mosasaurus or enjoy the terrace in the middle of the park. A vivid meeting place. That way, the development of the public (green) space should go. Because it are not the architects behind the drawing table for who the park is needs to live, but for the people in the neighbourhood. And that not only results in beauty, but of course also safety.

With the development of new nature, special attention is in its place for the transformation of the ENCI-quarry. This project is coming into the phase that will be noticeable to the city. GroenLinks believes that it is important that every partner meets the agreements. Achieving nature, recreation, activity and culture in an intertwined and strengthening interconnectedness really needs to happen. The municipality needs to take its responsibility when it comes to this. This also goes for other new nature areas, like the Groene Loper, the Buitengoed Geul en Maas and the Riverpark Maasvallei (for example Borgharen and Itteren.)

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GroenLinks believes that:

- there needs to be an aim towards as much biodiversity as possible within green areas;
- the municipality should, together with neighbourhood municipalities, the region and the province, make nature plans, connection zones and get the resources that are necessary for that;
- good public transport and pedestrian connections are necessary with the further development of The Groene Loper, the Buitengoed Geul en Maas and the Riverpark Maasvallei;
- the cycle connection across the weir at Borgharen needs to get a cycle-safe route from Borgharen and a fast route via the Boschpoort to the inner city;
- the canal bridge at Itteren needs to be made safe for cycling youth going to school as soon as possible, and if necessary with a temporary cycle bridge in the awaiting of a definite solution;
- Maastricht should develop an own code of conduct Flora and Fauna;
- the hibernating animals need to be taken into account in the winter when it comes to pruning;

- the municipality should fight weeds in the public green in the most environmentally-friendly way;
- berms should be sowed with wild flowers to benefit endangered insect species and bees.

Cleaner Transportation

GroenLinks chooses a sustainable mobility policy. The public space in Maastricht will be designed for cyclists and pedestrians; car's are not the priority and are only guests. We want to do this because power-driven traffic is a huge contributor to pollution, noise and unsafety. With every measure taken when it comes to traffic we consider the influence on the local air-quality and the viability. That means less cars in the city but also less scooters and mopeds that run on petrol, and in some places none at all.

GroenLinks chooses:

- a smart infrastructure so the bike will become the central means of transportation in the neighbourhoods and inner-city;
- bike-friendly traffic lights with second tickers that display the actual waiting time;
- priority with spreading salt during the winter for the head cycle routes (just like the main roads and bus lines now);
- to stimulate parents and children to go to school on their bikes or by walking there, by also executing the "groene-voetstappenproject" at the schools in Maastricht;
- car-free streets in front of and around the schoolyard during drop-off and pick-up time frames;
- improvement of road safety around the school with techniques and logistics that ensure safe routes and behaviour regulations for the parents. Municipality and the school will make plans and agreements on this;
- safe use of bikes for school pupils by bike light campaigns in the fall and information on the use of cell phones while cycling, which are both important causes when it comes to accidents of high school students. We will also involve owners of bike stores and cycle associations from the city in this.

GroenLinks committed to make the city car-free and expanding the facilities for cyclist. Guarded and un-guarded parking places for bikes will be expanded at public facilities and services, shops, schools, bus stops and stations. A high number of people come to the inner city with their bike and some streets are full with randomly placed bikes as a result.

GroenLinks believes that:

- most parking spots along the Grote Gracht and in the area of the University can be designed into and used as a parking place for bikes without any issues. We will create 600 extra bike stands each year;
- besides parking spots for bikes, there also need to be charging stations for electric bikes and parking space for e-cargo bikes and electrical scooters;
- there needs to be a dialogue with private parties like malls (for instance Brusselsepoort) in order to upgrade the parking places for bikes that are present there;
- initiatives from companies/transporters to provide rental bikes in the city or share-bikes should be supported and extended;

- the policy that there is no active actions against wildly stalled bikes needs to be continued, except for cases when the stalled bikes create a dangerous situation. Wrecks will happen fast in this way however and orphan bikes will be cleaned within 4 weeks (so the status of the bikes can be established);
- randomly stalled scooters and mopeds will no longer be tolerated and will be removed by enforcement.

GroenLinks wants more effort from the municipality to, in particular in the west part, agree to a new design of the (EU)regional infrastructure. In that way, the city will also be unburdened of transit trafficking and at the same time that region will be better regulated. New traffic systems also generate new economy along these transportation axles and bring life to the whole region

GroenLinks wants:

- structural and regional consultation with the Belgian border municipalities and the Belgian province Limburg in order to work towards a new a regional infrastructure where there is attention to transport interests and issues on both sides of the border;
- the construction of modern and high-quality public transportation concepts, like the tram Hasselt-Maastricht, to be created, extended and combined with cheap P&R-facilities at the edge of the city or across the border with our border municipalities. Good trans boundary public transportation- connections are crucial for our city and to the extent necessary the municipality supports the provincial lobby actively in order to prolong the NS-InterCitys to Luik and Aken;
- the Tongerseweg to become part of the Environment zone of Maastricht. On the Tongerseweg, only trucks that are destination transport will be permitted within the municipality of Maastricht;
- Maastricht to actively organize the feedback to province and Arrive in order to improve the quality of the public transportation;
- taxi's to become electric. Agreements on this can be established in a taxi covenant;
- the potential of the Maas to be used as north-south axis, for example by developing water taxi's or other transportation concepts over the water.

GroenLinks wants visitors that want to come to the city centre with their car, to park their car on the edge of the (inner)city at the P&R places. From that place, cheap public transportation will make sure that there is a fast and comfortable connection to the middle of the city. We will make the city car-free and want to unburden the canal structure. In that way, the inner-city will become more viable. The development of emission-free cars is going in an extreme fast pace and in the upcoming years they will increase in our transportation sight. At the same time, younger generations are transitioning from car possession to sharing cars. The infrastructure of the city needs to be prepared for that in a faster and better way.

GroenLinks wants:

- a start towards moving all street parking places for cars to, inter alia, parking pockets, so it disappears from the street image gradually. In the spaces that will be open as a result of this, playgrounds and extra bike parking places will be created;
- the implementation of an environmental zone in the are in between the canals is the first step towards a car-free inner-city. In that light, the total number of parking places for cars within the singles will be gradually reduced by 50 per year;
- Maastricht to create more P&R spots around the city, with comfortable rental bikes and cheap public transportation to the inner-city;

- more parking places in the inner-city exclusively meant for electric cars. Maastricht expands the number of charging stations for electric cars. The electricity that is necessary for this will of course be generated through solar energy or wind energy;
- the accessibility to the Vrijthofgarage to be regulated with a reservation system, so driving around in circles and traffic jam due to cars seeking for a parking spot in the Kommelkwartier can finally disappear;
- the traffic diversion to be discouraged with measures of a maximum speed that is set at 30km per hour;
- experiments in order to make parts of neighbourhoods with narrow streets to become car-free as a part of a smart traffic circulation plan for a neighbourhood;
- residents of neighbourhoods to decide and do proposals together on making their street car-free several times per year for neighbourhood part's and flea markets;
- Maastrichtbereikbaar.nl to be enforced even more in the market to inform about the current traffic situation in the city and the offering of alternative means of transportation not only for commuting but for all residents of the city that are involved

GroenLinks believes that Limburg does not need an own airport. Within a radius of 100 kilometres there are as much as seven(!) alternative airports available and it is a fact that entrepreneurs from Limburg do not or barely use Maastricht Aachen Airport (M A A). M A A has never been profitable. Every year, the province and big municipalities, which also includes Maastricht, invest millions in the airport and it has never come out of the red numbers. The industrial site is strategically placed at the A2, which makes the airport not necessary for company's that are located there which are a lot. The economical importance of M A A is therefore limited.

What is not limited is the noise-disturbance and the air pollution. We also experience this in Maastricht due to airplanes taking off and landing straight over the city. This means that they fly over the city very low. This results in noise-disturbance and exposes the city to the safety-risks and air pollution that we do not want. GroenLinks does not approve of flight routes to be close to densely populated areas. The tolerated expansion of the number of flights with big cargo planes is going to increase the problems for the region and city and will irrevocably disadvantage employment in tourism in the surrounding Heuvelland. It is a development that we need to turn around. This means closing the airport! The airstrip in our eyes is ideal for a gigantic solar area or for the generating of wind energy.

Sustainable entrepreneurship & development

GroenLinks simulates the green economy. We stand for the transition to a circular economy, where we save raw materials and recycle. Maastricht cannot do this alone: cooperation with other municipalities, governments, civilians, institutions and firms is necessary. GroenLinks chooses to stimulate sustainable entrepreneurs.

The inner city has never been as busy as it is now. People come to shop, to relax and to go out. The appeal of the city is big, but so is the number of events – from sports and music to culinary. The inner city is therefore an important economical factor for the whole city. Other functions of the city, especially the living functions, marginalized due to this. Tourism is flourishing thanks to the authenticity of the vivid inner-city. Therefore, we need to look for a way where both are kept intact in cohesion.

GroenLinks holds on to the 60-day norm for events on squares, where room for renewal is necessary

GroenLinks wants a varied range of shops with more space for renewing and creative entrepreneurs and a new balance with the big chains that often dominate the street image currently. Ideally there is a sufficient and diverse amount of middle class. This is no goal on its own but does contribute to a cohesive neighbourhood feeling and results in social interaction.

GroenLinks believes:

- vacant shopping buildings need to be used for temporary concepts or pop-up stores;
- the municipality should develop a vision where local, renewing or real authentic stores get a sufficient amount of room and chances to develop;
- cooperation by the municipality with educational institutions and creative industry should be expanded;
- the municipality should stimulate activity that connects to the working population of the city. We do this in the light of an EU regional way, like with Jekerdal, where products from the whole region are being sold;
- activity should be stimulated in sectors that are connected to the qualities of the city with the breeding places policy, like design;
- the city should be diverse and vivid, where living and working strengthen each other, especially in the neighbourhoods.

GroenLinks holds on to exemptions of Sunday shopping, like for example on the second day of Christmas. We want to keep this as a resting day for our inhabitants and the staff.

The municipality fastens further developments of the current distribution system of the city city distribution system. Physical limits have been met in our inner city. We need to make a turn towards growth in quality and not in volume. Freight transport is now a chaotic happening with uncoordinated transport systems. We can no longer have this in the inner-city.

GroenLinks wants:

- the municipality to stand for an emission-free city distribution in 2025. 'MaastrichtBereikbaar' develops a program towards that;
- entrepreneurs that need access to the inner-city because they have no alternative due to limited financial means, to be facilitated with an accessible permit system;
- if possible and realistic, big and polluting industry's, that are getting closed in within the growing city, to move towards the industrial sites, like Beatrixhaven or Chemelot;
- entrepreneurs that want to save energy, to be provided for with support consisting of knowledge and help on how to get licensing. We can also help without money;
- doors of stores, café's and restaurants not to be open if it is not necessary so that unnecessary energy consumption can be prevented;
- terrace heating to be demoralized and not permitted anymore after 2022;
- facilitation for companies that want to test out new techniques e.g. generating and storing sustainable energy or innovations for efficient energy.

Maastricht is thriving when it comes to waste separation and household waste. The ambition of the municipality to become waste-free in 2030, is still being emphasized by GroenLinks. This does not mean that there are no steps left to be made in order to reach this goal. Wherever possible, forms of waste processing are avoided and incentive schemes can be considered.

GroenLinks believes that:

- waste collection should be better regulated and executed when it comes to apartment buildings by using waste caches and also supervision and enforcement;
- it should be even clearer for residents to see that separating waste leads to less costs;
- the separation-stations should be easily accessible and clean for residents;
- there lays great logistical profit in the collecting of industrial waste in the inner-city;
- there should also be an upcycle station at the separation-stations;
- there should be meetings with entrepreneurs on how they can limit their waste.

Maastricht fights against littering. Together with the residents, we keep our municipality clean. Although the municipality is responsible for the public space, GroenLinks also wants residents to feel more responsible towards keeping their environment clean: after all, we all belong to the municipality..

GroenLinks wants:

- contracts to be made with associations and school to keep their own neighbourhood litter-free in exchange for a compensation;
- moments like 'Nieuwjaarsvegen', 'NLdoet' and the national 'Opschoondag' to be used to stimulate residents to keep their own street clean;
- there to be (EUregional) cooperation at the 'Schone-Maasproject' too with surrounding municipalities.

The quality of the river water that finds its way through the city is below par and in some cases even worse. You do not have to look far from the river beds to see plastic and other waste floating by on its way to the ocean. This is not only bad for nature but will also generate carcinogenic micro plastics within the food chain due to absorption. The contaminated river water originates in most cases from our Belgian neighbours upstream. The municipality, together with the Water Board of Limburg, therefore enters into the dialogue with the Belgian border municipalities, starting with the one along the Jeker, in order to stimulate them to draw up an action plan for a cleaner river. At the latest in 2022, a congress will take place in Maastricht consisting of all authorities along the Maas, which aims to reduce the pollution of the Maas within five years.

2. SOCIAL COEXISTENCE

GroenLinks has confidence in people; we believe that everyone wants to make something of his or her life and wants to contribute to their own environment. GroenLinks, therefore, opts for a Maastricht where everyone can be who he or she wants to be. A Maastricht where these choices can be made freely and can be adapted in the course of life to whatever suits an individual..

Everyone participates

It is important for each person to work or contribute to society in a way. GroenLinks wants everyone to be able to participate. Via paid work, volunteer work, as a caregiver or by following a course. GroenLinks takes many initiatives to make that possible for everyone. For people looking for paid work, that means customization.

GroenLinks believes:

- every job seeker must have contact with one employee who is well aware of its dossier, talents and competencies;
- with every job-seeker a tailor-made learning-working trajectory (a combination of education and work experience) needs to be made;
- the policy of Maastricht not to provide compensation for receiving social assistance benefits to be continued;
- entrepreneurship with a benefit should also be possible, for example in a social cooperative such as in Breda;
- people with a disability or a distance from the labour market should be given a fair chance on the labour market. The prize for the most inclusive employer is a good incentive;
- Podium 24 the link is between employers, jobs and job-seekers. Podium 24 does this with detailed knowledge of the skills and experience of its clients. The Social Service must adopt this method;
- employees of the Social services not only assess a request for a benefit on the basis of legal guidelines, but should be given the space to take into account the specific situation of the client;
- essential volunteer work and informal care may lead to an exemption from the obligation to apply for a job;
- 0-hour contracts, on-call contracts and ultra-shorts contracts are not allowed. In procurement procedures, a decent personnel policy is a selection criterion for potential parties in this respect. The municipality itself does not (longer) work with payroll constructions;
- There must be experiments with the basic income whereby the obligation to apply for a job disappears and the possibilities of extra earnings are widened. We believe that this includes solutions for the over-55s, but also for people with a long-term distance to the labour market and (starting) self-employed workers;
- Maastricht must be able to achieve becoming and staying below the national unemployment rate over the next four-year period (2016 6.0% nationally, 6,4% Maastricht)

Opportunities for education an the youth

Education and training are essential for the development of every person. Education is indispensable to grow as a person, to be able to make choices and to keep control over life. Parents, childcare, schools, health care, youth care, the business community and the municipality should, therefore, ensure in close cooperation that every child can start adult life well. In respect to that, there is work to be done in Maastricht: 8% and 10% of the children live in poverty, and the percentage of school dropouts is stubbornly above the national average and the attachment to youth care is considerably higher than the national average. (Netherlands 10.7%, Maastricht 14.3%)

There are opportunities and we must seize them now. The labour market is crying out for young people, many exciting new forms of activity have arisen: many entrepreneurs realize that they themselves must take more responsibility for the education of children and young people. This is also essential if, after the large-scale pension boom of the baby boom generation, entrepreneurs still want to be able to find sufficient capable employees for the available work. The challenge is to ensure that no young person will disappear from the view. The networks of schools, parents, community service works and youth care can form a good safety net with threatened dropout or demotivation. They then act preventively.

GroenLinks wants:

- the collaboration between GGD (consultancies), the youth team of the municipality and the care teams in the schools to become more intensive;
- the assistance offered to be specifically aimed at contact restoration in bad divorces and parent rejection, and that it helps parents no longer see each other as ex-partners but as parents of the children. The focus will be on the early occurrence of divorces with a lot of friction, among other things by seeking connection with the mediation offer of the District Court of Limburg;
- educational support can be provided for at a very early stage;
- encouraging new forms of parenting support, such as a system of neighbourhood families, should be stimulated;
- educational disadvantages can and should be prevented. This can be done via extra language support, but also by extra free homework assistance for children that come from poor families ;
- there is a comprehensive network of Integral Child Centres (IKCs) where "ordinary" school activities are combined with early childhood activities and after-school activities such as doing homework and sports. All this fun, variety and fun will make every child want to join in;
- every child and every young person up to the age of 22 is at school or follows a learning working education;
- also children of refugees and asylum seekers to be provided for with good education;
- for young people with behaviour problems the provision of short-term care with the aim of returning to school (for example, a rebound facility);
- agreements to be made with the business community about internship/ apprenticeships for (early) school leavers and mentoring and coaching projects;
- proper retraining and retraining courses for adults in consultation with employers and education.

If youth care is necessary, GroenLinks believes that care must match the demand that the child/ young people have. That is why children and parents themselves should have own control in looking for a good solution. The municipality only interferes if it does not work well. In addition to that, there must be a wide range of facilities so that every young person can receive the help that suits their situation. Waiting lists are not acceptable; quick intakes without fast and adequate assistance to prevent negative waiting list statistics are not either.

Good care in the early childhood, as discussed above, can lead to a heavy and high demand for care to be prevented later on in life.

In the recent years, there has been a heated discussion in Maastricht between LVO, teachers, parents, pupils and politicians about how to continue with secondary education in our city. GroenLinks is pleased with the process that has been started since April 2017. In addition, LVO started the dialogue with all stakeholders and shareholders. The discussion no longer begins with which forms of education should end up at which locations, or with the demand for a costly new building, but with the question: "how do you think it should go from now on, how do we go further?". This approach offers more room for everyone to start a dialogue with each other and to make the best education possible for our young people. The most recent figures show that a lot is possible, including the two complete school communities on both sides of the Maas (next to the 'Vrije School') that Maastricht never had. It is now the turn of the pupils, parents and teachers. The municipality is serving according to GroenLinks, with as the main principles top education, differentiation possibilities and the availability of different choices.

Active and generous against poverty

Poverty has become a structural phenomenon in Maastricht and that is unacceptable. Maastricht therefore actively pursues an active and generous anti-poverty policy with the full support of GroenLinks.

GroenLinks believes that:

- there must be a special assistance for minimums up to 110% of the Social Minimum;
- there must be contributions to the Leer geld, Jeugdsportfonds and Jeugd Cultuurfonds funds;
- good contacts with private funds must be made and expanded to meet specific needs;
- more customization and tailor-made solutions must be applied in debt assistance
- preventive projects such as No Credit Game that make young people aware of the risks of debt should be expanded;
- cooperation agreements between the municipality, corporations, energy suppliers, employers and care providers must be made in order to be able to intervene quickly in case of risk situations.
- there must be low-threshold support when applying for all kinds of facilities, allowances and schemes. This can be done through budget circles, debt counsellors, district service points, the klapper project, etc.

But there is more that can be done; the serious crisis is behind us and all sorts of activities, both in new (manufacturing) industry and ICT companies, but also in health care that create more opportunities, also in families that have been living at a minimum level for generations.

GroenLinks wants:

- especially people in poverty get equipped to enter the labour market, through education and training, by learning to see their own talents, through assistance with job applications, by having their own buddy at the Social service;
- in the debt approach, whether it comes from the municipality or from the Kredietbank, stress reduction must be tackled first, before talking about the rest of the process;
- "What can be done" to be the guideline for decisions. Maastricht seeks the raw edges of the regulations by being creative and innovative;

- Maastricht to give more room to debt counsellors to deliver customization, for example through a bureaucratic-free budget;
- the possibilities of a debt collection fund to be researched in which other involved parties also participate;
- low literacy to be prevented. That gives more direction, opportunities for participation and work. We welcome initiatives such as the language house (taalhuis);
- all information from the municipality (leaflets, brochures) is drawn up in easy to understand Dutch.

GroenLinks draws attention to low literacy. For example, in answers to our questions on monitoring of the social domain, we are pleased to hear that the Social Affairs department of the Municipality of Maastricht is increasingly switching to communication in Dutch at A2 level. We therefore recognize that there is a relationship between low literacy and poverty, and thus find it something that can be taken for granted that information is disseminated as simply as possible. We will continue to dedicate ourselves to this.

All in all, GroenLinks wants to see a trend break in the number of households that are in poverty in the upcoming period. In 2016, 16,1% of households were living with an income below 110% of the Social Minimum, while in the Netherlands this percentage was 12,1%. Families with children in poverty deserve absolute priority. Every child that grows up in poverty is one too many.

Care is always tailor-made

GroenLinks stands for care that is suitable, that enables independent functioning, that is accessible and is close. You also take care of and with each other. We want people to do what they can do themselves and that citizens' initiatives that make this possible are encouraged. In doing so, we work with trust. If professional use is required, we limit the bureaucracy by giving the professional its space. The human dimension must be put back in the care. We want to prevent heavy, costly care through early signalling and limiting the number of professionals involved per family.

We hear it more and more. People express their worries and ailments to the GP and it appears that there are other problems behind the worries and ailments: loneliness, unburdened grief, debt. We also see more and more people in Maastricht with confused behaviour that causes nuisance and danger to themselves or others. The resolution of such concerns cannot come only from health care. This requires a social network, a helping hand in resolving the debts, or a listening ear for grief. GroenLinks believes it is therefore very good that divisions between policy areas and budgets disappear and that only citizens' questions are central. From which source the aid comes then is irrelevant. Help is the most important thing.

GroenLinks commits to :

- a conversation that is an open, honest conversation that discusses which help the citizen needs. Every citizen receives the help he or she needs;
- a municipality that comes into action when people can not take control of things properly themselves. We never leave people to fate;

- generous support for informal care and informal caregivers, for example in the form of a respite facility. But we also call attention to the children and partners of informal caregivers;
- actively providing information about all facilities, via website, care desk or home visit. The website is informative for both citizens and professionals and contains a current social care card. All contact information and possibilities for care and support are listed on this page;
- stimulating ways to help people meet and help each other. For example, via 'Meeting places' and other neighbourhood facilities such as 'Athos Eet-Maakt-Doet', the Blijddorp cooperative and the District leather company Daalhof;
- good reception of homeless people young and old, and that means sufficient capacity throughout the healthcare chain;
- good training from everyone active in the public space to recognize signs of worrying confusion. Family, neighbours, all people in Maastricht should be able to send signals to an advisory and reporting centre to people with confused behaviour;
- good accessibility of all places and facilities in the city for anyone with a wheelchair or walker, a visual impairment, or hearing discomfort.

Sport in Motion

Sports and exercise are important for everyone. Not only is sports healthy and relaxing, it also contributes to tolerance, integration and cohesion. The municipality provides good and affordable sport fields, swimming pools and sports halls and also gives all the room for moving in the outdoor space.

GroenLinks believes that:

- maintenance of municipal sports facilities must be tackled;
- cooperation between sports clubs and care- and educational institutions need more stimulus. The connection is made with themes related to healthy food and the after-school activities calendar;
- there should be more sports opportunities for people with disabilities. The municipality is actively engaged in this;
- sports must be accessible to everyone. The budget of the Youth Sports Fund will be raised;
- the municipality pays attention to athletes who are not members of an association, for instance through the construction of facilities specifically aimed at individual athletes or through access to the available sports facilities;
- more sports and play opportunities should be realized in the public space such as moving gardens or skate tracks. In the design and renovation of districts this is already taken into account in the plan design;
- it is important that sports clubs ensure a broad, accessible and affordable offer of sports. This must be encouraged;
- everyone must be able to exercise in his or her own way, place and time. Maastricht therefore continues to choose for recreational sport;
- large professional sporting events are an economic activity and should therefore also be fully financed from the tourist tax. The municipality does not provide financial support to professional sports clubs (such as MVV) unless demonstrable talent development and/or recreational sport are encouraged.

3. AN OPEN MAASTRICHT

GroenLinks stands for everyone's freedom. In an open society, you can be who you are and say what you think. You feel at home and safe. An open city is also open to neighbours, in the hills and across borders, within the EU-region and within Europe, but also worldwide. As people from Maastricht swarm across the world, people from all over the world come here - for study, for work, for safety, for justice. As Maastricht has always been a place full of crossroads, our city is still connected with areas around us and far away, through trade, through education, through migration. For GroenLinks, this openness is part of the essence of this city and a society can not survive without it.

Maastricht not only lives off Maastricht - our manufacturing industry has worldwide customers, the new industry is international, our markets and stores attract customers from a wide region. Our culture is fuelled by people, languages and customs from far and near. People are still coming here to participate: ranging from a Prince from Ternaaien to musicians, dancers and actors. Our educational institutions bring colour the city with students and staff members from around the world. In our neighbourhood's new fellow citizens settle, finally safe after their flight from war and violence. They are all Maastricht citizens, by birth or by choice, for a while or always. And in that city tourists visit with tens of thousands, curious and curious about the experience in this open city.

Diversity: everybody is different

Maastricht is a society where everyone is tolerant and lives in solidarity with each other, regardless of their social, ethnic, sexual or cultural background. That is why GroenLinks wants more initiatives that encourage rapprochement between students, refugees and other residents. This requires proactive action from the municipality to promote citizen participation in the field of diversity. GroenLinks wants to prevent and combat discrimination. We work on expanding tolerance and provide space for minorities.

GroenLinks commits to:

- combating racism, discrimination and sexism in intensive cooperation with the Anti-discrimination provision Limburg (ADV Limburg);
- a workforce of the municipality that reflects local society;
- diversity as a subsidy condition. All institutions receiving a subsidy from the municipality of Maastricht will start working on diversity;
- actively approaching neighbourhood networks with the request to organize meetings and language lessons;
- an annual survey of the municipality on emancipation and diversity. This increases the civil service's knowledge and benefits policy development.

On the initiative of GroenLinks, the Maastricht Rainbow Crosswalk was constructed in the run-up to the Pink Year (Maastricht Colours You). With this, Maastricht has placed itself in a global tradition of cities such as Sydney, Vancouver, Brighton and Utrecht. The intention is that passers-by literally and figuratively reflect on the message that every visitor to and resident of our city is welcome in Maastricht, regardless of origin, gender, sexual preference, religion or political ideas. The Rainbow Crosswalk is on the Vrijthof, because there is no better place for this message than in the heart of our city. Maastricht was therefore a shining example in Limburg, because also in, among others, Sittard-Geleen, Roermond and Venlo Rainbow Paths have been built.

Art enriches life

GroenLinks is proud of the local cultural heritage and we want to take good care of it. An open city also includes a vibrant cultural offer. Art asks questions about what we think we know for sure. Art represents worlds that are not there. Art enriches our lives and gives shine to our existence. But art can also contribute to relaxation, encounter and self-development, for example when people sing in a choir, take lessons or dance in a group. We offer artists space. We want more attention for arts and culture education. GroenLinks thinks it is important that all children have access to culture at a young age - regardless of their parents' income. And the local broadcaster plays a major role in highlighting the cultural offer of residents in Maastricht and surroundings.

The cultural infrastructure is professional and powerful, but still highly dependent on the municipal government. The city is rich in art education and has a theatre, museums and a good library. For the development of it it is important that these parties determine their course as autonomously as possible. Then creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship will really start to grow

GroenLinks wants:

- Maastricht to receive a city curator who promotes street art throughout the municipality;
- urban art to be facilitated and made possible because we do not want any degeneration, we want art;
- residents to be able to opt for more art in the public space;
- art and culture receive attention in all policy development; both are, after all, ways of entering into dialogue with the city and allowing the policy to land;
- art helps as a preventive approach in healthcare and artists are used in participation policy and education;
- art activities also to take place from within the neighbourhood. We do this by developing neighbourhood culture funds;
- the cultural broker to be better positioned as a mediator between supply and demand;
- collaboration to be achieved with various parties in order to better preserve and maintain the contents of the old city library;
- there to be a museum of industrial heritage;
- The Natural History Museum (NHM) to be transformed into a museum that does justice to its great value, also international, that have the collections of Centre Céramique (CC) and the NHM. The cooperation between the museums and the university for scientific research and training is perpetuated and expanded;
- Maastricht to have a strong, modern and independent local broadcaster;
- a culture and school coordinator to be appointed within the municipality;
- culture for everyone: our municipality participates in the Youth Culture Fund that enables children from poorer families to take dance, theatre or music lessons, for example;
- the municipality to withdraws from the implementation and management of the cultural infrastructure. The Theatre to the Vrijthof is made independent of the municipality.

Breeding sites are places in the city where space is offered to cultural, creative and artisan entrepreneurs. These are places where innovation takes place and where starters find their place in search of further development. Characteristic of breeding grounds is that they are temporarily housed in a place in the city and that they help to further develop that place and thus that part of the city. The breeding grounds can also develop further into places where all sorts of enterprising residents work innovatively through cross-links.

Breeding sites (and free zones) contribute to the cultural development and diversity of the city. That is why they are so important

GroenLinks believes that:

- vacant buildings are to be made available to artists and creative people;
- the breeding ground policy must be elaborated further, giving the municipality even more of a facilitating role;
- at the redevelopment of the Agricultural interest site, the current activities will be either part of that redevelopment, or that serious efforts will be made to find opportunities for rehousing at a different location within the municipality of Maastricht.

International thinking and acting

Maastricht is located in the middle of a region that consists of 5 million people, with the same potential as the Randstad. Stimulation of education in French and German is important for Maastricht. The cultural exchange with the EU-region is also necessary. For our city, a vital, social Europe is of vital importance: we must do everything possible to focus European agendas more on people and their environment. Our involvement with the Tihange nuclear power plant shows that we should have more eyes for the EU-region and be able to talk to our immediate neighbouring countries or neighbouring municipalities. The infrastructural connections with Belgium and Germany are necessary to be an open city

The world does not stop at the municipal border of Maastricht. We contribute our part to a fair and sustainable world! Maastricht receives students and employees from all over the world and offers refugees a new home here. It is important that our citizens know what the role of our city can be and that the support they offer is recognized.

GroenLinks believes that:

- the Holland Expat Centre becomes the point of contact where expats can contact their questions;
- expats who settle in the city should receive the necessary information about municipal taxes and other financial obligations, so that they are not faced with surprises;
- knowledge workers from across borders must be given plenty of room and they are well informed about the consequences of living in one country and working in another;
- more attention needs to be paid to the Global Goals (the successor of the Millennium Goals) via the website, (social) media or sustainability events;
- all products and services must be purchased in a sustainable, animal-friendly and fair-trade manner by 2022 at the latest;
- the municipality must continue to energetically reduce its own ecological and social footprint;
- the information provision and services provided by the municipality must be maximally connected to the digital media;

the municipality must make every resident have access to the digital highway if it is not at home then through community centres, libraries or other facilities

Refugees welcome

Everyone is welcome in our city. An open society also means a hospitable society. GroenLinks thinks it is important that the municipality offers people who are fleeing war or oppression a safe haven. The municipality must ensure that local residents, children, students and staff of companies receive information about what being a refugee means exactly and what the reception will look like, but also about the destructive consequences of discrimination and the benefits that we as a municipality can reap from cultural diversity.

If a refugee, in our municipality, receives a residence permit, the municipality helps him or her get to living space as quickly as possible and he or she receives integration support. GroenLinks pleads for the granting of urgency to permit holders at the first housing. Municipalities make performance agreements with housing corporations to keep the housing supply up to such a level that this priority rule does not result in large extra waiting times for other home seekers.

The vulnerable position of unaccompanied minor foreign nationals (AMV'ers) has recently become prominent on the agenda again. GroenLinks argues for good reception and guidance for this group, and also for the active involvement of the municipalities in 18+ arrangements. Initiatives such as the Kinderpardon and the Vluchtkerk, however, show that the asylum policy in the Netherlands is far from sufficient. In our municipality, we do not let out-of-court people who are in physical or psychological need solve this on their own.

After the rejection of an application for a residence permit (including objection and appeal proceedings), the asylum seeker must return to the country of origin as soon as possible or a country that wishes to provide a place. A logical conclusion of a fair asylum procedure. But: there are always situations where people who have exhausted proceedings for any reason really cannot (yet) leave. GroenLinks thinks that municipalities should actively provide tailor-made solutions (bed, bath, bread, etc.) in these situations, together with the effort to make departure possible after all.

In response to questions from GroenLinks, the Board of B & W announced in September 2017 that it would address the Return and Departure service in the manner of deporting young Afghans. In at least one case, the Service has thereby proceeded to overtake people in the middle of the night and to lift their beds. This is a violation of the agreement that was made on the recommendation of GroenLinks in 2010 that in any case no action would be taken in such a way. GroenLinks remains committed to a humane refugee policy.

GroenLinks wants:

- refugees to start a language course immediately after arrival in the municipality and with (voluntary) speed up the integration;
- language courses to be provided for in the neighbourhood networks so that asylum seekers and permit holders quickly participate in the neighbourhood;
- our municipality to also think on this topic and participate in the reception of refugees, in close consultation with residents;
- that if a refugee receives a residence permit, the municipality helps him or her to get to living space as quickly as possible and he or she receives integration support;
- the municipality to make budget available for the promotion of expertise of volunteers (e.g. through training) and, financially, appreciating volunteer work in integration supervision;
- to provide deported asylum seekers in need of the municipality and receive temporary care;
- there to be more opportunities for (voluntary) work for asylum seekers;
- young immigrants to receive extra attention;

- refused asylum seekers to be able to return to the country of origin in a humane way.

Student City

Maastricht has been a city with students for a long time and has the ambition to become a real student city. The university and colleges play an essential role in this. The university contributes a lot to the atmosphere, culture and developments in the city. Even though it is understandable that students search for another place to live and work after they have finished their studies, Maastricht can, as a city, already mean more for newly graduates. Maastricht should be a city where besides the student culture, the connection with employment can be created by making use of organizations, that connect students and employment to each other, create space and enlarge development chances.

In 2013, Maastricht started an action program called 'Student en Stad' (Student and City). From this project, great outcomes were generated. With this, students can get useful information via the website Mymaastricht.nl (in English). The student project 'Match' is making further efforts to enlarge societal involvement of students in the city and the surrounding region. There is also a Housing Helpdesk that represents the interests of students and, if necessary, prosecutes for at the rent committee. GroenLinks is pleased with the results that have been booked so far and believes that it is important to have the follow-up of the action program 'Student en Stad' as a goal to make students feel as a fully-fledged citizen of our municipality. Allocation of structural subsidy, for the action program, is therefore negotiable for GroenLinks.

There is a relatively high amount of art students in the city. Because of the Conservatorium, Art studies, and the Drama school, Maastricht is a city that can shape a lively culture with its students. It is important that it is possible to experience in the city, what is taught during the studies. An alive and vivid atmosphere. There are also a lot of international students in Maastricht, from in- and outside of the EU. We believe that it is important that these students also feel connected to the city. International students have an undeniably added value on cultural and social aspects. With a range of nightlife and entertainment spots, cultural hotspots, accessible housing and facilities for students, Maastricht can shift from spot six to the top three on the ranking list of student cities.

As well as for upcoming, current and graduating students, it is of great importance that students are getting connected to the society and economy of Maastricht as well as the EU-region. Thus, the knowledge will stay in the region and this adds to the development of the region and improvement of prosperity and welfare.

GroenLinks wants:

- relevant information on the website of the municipality to be more accessible;
- the municipality to simulate EU students more active to register at the municipality and to also vote during the (municipality)elections and for the connection from studies to employment to be stimulated;
- setting up a start-up to be less bureaucratic and improvement of information on laws and regulations. This encourages students to stay in Maastricht and benefits the employment;
- the attractive of and lobbying for the new activity to line in with the profile of educational institutions of the city and region.

One-fifth of all inhabitants of Maastricht is student and in a few years, this will increase to a quarter. Many of these students live in the city and that is noticeable. In many neighbourhoods, especially 'within the canals', many rooms are rented. In some neighbourhoods, the number of rented rooms have grown explosively. And this leads to problems. Garbage, bikes and noise disturbance are a serious issue on some streets. The integration of students in a neighbourhood where families live is hard, especially when students are only here for a year for their masters and do not speak our language. GroenLinks stands for an adequate

housing policy that reduces the pressure on overloaded neighbourhoods, but at the same time gives a warm welcome to the students that make our city lively and vivid.

GroenLinks believes that:

- rules have to be established on the number of buildings where rooms are permitted to be rented and demands need to be made towards the facilities in those buildings for garbage and bikes;
- landlords have to be encouraged to work more with the 'prettig wonen' (comfortable living) label. In that way, it is clear for students that are looking for a room who the bad landlords are and which rooms they could better pass on;
- student platforms like Match that take care of more information for upcoming international students should become structurally subsidized;
- the management of room habitation needs to become a part of the exploitation-model of the landlord. This means no more taking advantage of tenants and letting society solve the social issues;
- a number of larger, cluster projects of student rooms need to be realized so the pressure on neighbourhoods can decrease. In this campus-like intent, specific facilities like sports-and cultural facilities can also be realised;
- campus locations also need to offer cheap rooms and not just the more expensive rooms with a high facility level, like The Student Hotel;
- it needs to be prevented that neighbourhoods within the canals get a high concentration of cheaper and qualitative worse rooms

Active Citizenship!

GroenLinks wants residents to collaborate with their municipality. Maastricht has achieved a lot in the field of citizen participation by allowing residents to think about a new style of meeting by the council and by making the right to challenge possible. It is now important to further encourage citizen participation with, among other things, a citizens' budget. By lowering the threshold for initiatives, residents, who previously were not or hardly involved with local politics, are more inclined to actively participate in and subsequently give feedback on the political process. Here, the gathering of information, exchange of arguments, time for consultation and a joint search for solutions and positions are central.

GroenLinks has confidence in the creativity and involvement of the Maastricht people. In recent years, it has become clear that more people, their direct environment and the neighbourhood are being asked about it, and that there is an increasing demand for cooperation and solidarity. The idea "it must be different, it has to be together" has been picked up by the citizens.

Maastricht also actively participates in new initiatives by citizens to improve their own neighbourhood. And it is important to also work together with other municipalities. The human dimension is always our first starting point in this: the municipality must be as close to its citizens as possible. GroenLinks thinks it is important that there is 'a shift from steering to facilitating'. Because if the municipality wants to support initiative, it must facilitate its means and service.

In the city of Maastricht, there are currently more than sixty different citizens' initiatives, run by 25,000 volunteers. GroenLinks welcomes the many private care and neighbourhood actions. From the neighbours' help 'each other' in Pottenberg and Mariaberg to Coöperatie Blauwdorp. From the many community centre rooms to bicycle parkers of Fietsbank Maastricht; initiatives that may or may not flourish with a municipal subsidy.

GroenLinks wants:

- citizen participation to be encouraged: citizens are actively involved in the development and implementation of the welfare and care policy as care recipients, volunteers, local residents or from client organizations. Citizens are involved in defining the problems;
- residents to be encouraged to use their 'right to challenge'; ways in which citizens challenge municipalities and have room to take initiative or organize or manage facilities;
- Maastricht to get its own citizens' budget. Every resident can thus discuss the choice of themes that influence their immediate living environment, the amount of money per theme, and the projects that are carried out per theme;
- volunteers and informal carers to be rewarded and invested in;
- residents of Maastricht to be able to already discuss important decisions and actually have influence at an early stage;
- involve as many residents as possible in the city and therefore we will experiment with different ways of public participation. We think of 'citizen conference' à la G1000, citizen budget, citizen jury.

In the spring of 2017, the fraction became acquainted with the Antwerp model of the Citizens' Budget. In the debate on the Framework Memorandum on 10 July 2017, GroenLinks made a plea to introduce a similar budget in Maastricht: "Participating in discussions, talking to each other, taking part in decisions, giving direction to the residents of Maastricht themselves"; GroenLinks believes that this is a wonderful opportunity!

Smart City Maastricht

Smart Cities are cities that use digitization (data) and technological innovations to improve the quality of life, sustainability, accessibility, well-being and economic development. The municipality can use technology to better control the city and increase its grip on social issues. Maastricht also continues to develop into a smart city and this is logical and inevitable. It offers opportunities for employment, innovation and finding solutions for (social) problems. But there is also a downside: digital facilities in the city, in which the government has no part, are increasing. But what if you as a citizen are not so 'smart'? When is data usage still safe and legally and ethically justified? We do not want Google, Facebook or other tech companies to take control over our city. These are questions, and concerns, which Maastricht must also formulate an answer to.

GroenLinks wants:

- the municipality to develop a vision and policy in order to continue to actively manage the development as Smart City;
- the inhabitants of Maastricht to be confident that they will be breached as little as possible by the government in their privacy. The municipality therefore also sets up a data protection officer ('data protection officer') so that the information of residents is and remains private.

Public order and safety

GroenLinks wants us to take care of a safe living and living environment together. Insecurity and intolerance reduce the allowance of differences in a society. To ensure safety on the street, the police must act decisively against nuisance and crime. It is unacceptable that residents feel unsafe in their own environment or that they are being expelled or mistreated. Together with the police, the municipality must work on safe

neighbourhoods and intervene where things go wrong. But preventing crime is even better. In particular, we focus on the prevention of problems as a result of radicalization and polarization. Because we are proud of our open and free society: we must protect those values.

GroenLinks wants:

- there to be a neighbourhood safety plan for each district. Together with residents and police, the municipality identifies unsafe points and by working together we search for solutions effectively;
- to promote direct contact between municipality and citizens and between residents. In addition to the neighbourhood networks, we want more neighbourhood agents in Maastricht, including a student agent, who know the neighbourhoods and their residents;
- local residents to be able to contact a neighbourhood mediator for minor problems and conflicts;
- radicalization to be countered by a strong signalling network through the use of neighbourhood networks, consultation with schools and youth groups;
- that everything is being done to tackle and prevent domestic violence against women, men, children and the elderly;
- strict enforcement of the age limit for sale of alcohol (and other drugs) to minors;
- annual firework-free zones that are designated by the municipality, starting at shopping centres or hospitals and nursing homes. On New Year's Eve, the municipality itself organizes a large fireworks show. At the latest in 2022, it is no longer permissible for private individuals to abandon fireworks in Maastricht.

GroenLinks is in favour of legalizing soft drugs. Maastricht contributes to the legalization movement and actively participates in national experiments in this area. We remain committed to the diversification policy. The resident criterion must be discarded: it criminalizes visitors from outside the Netherlands and makes it unnecessarily difficult for Dutch visitors to visit a coffee shop. In addition, it is more used as a way to close coffee shops than anything else. As long as smoking (cigarettes / pipe) is allowed in the public space, GroenLinks is against a blow prohibition in the public space..

Unfortunately, there are also increasing signs in Maastricht that residents are confronted with forms of unwanted (sexual) street intimidation. Every signal of (sexual) intimidation in Maastricht is worrying and undesirable and no form of intimidation may be tolerated.

GroenLinks believes that:

- the municipality, in cooperation with educational institutions and other partners, should further develop policy on awareness and prevention of sexually transcending behaviour;
- every request for enforcement or criminal intervention needs to be taken seriously;
- enforcers and police need more training to raise awareness about sexual harassment.

In the summer of 2017, GroenLinks spoke with representatives of 'consent matters'. A group of students that has set itself the goal of making (undesirable) sexual behaviour among the Maastricht population discussable. We were shocked by the many testimonies that show increasing harassment. Reason for GroenLinks to prepare a motion together with CDA and D66 in which the Institute is asked to draw up a wide range of measures and proposals together with involved chain partners to change this.

Unfortunately, prevention alone is not always sufficient. If necessary, action must also be taken. GroenLinks does not reject this, but also sees it as something critical and civil liberties must always be maintained.

Camera surveillance, preventive searches, area cancellations and assembly prohibitions are only applied in situations where nothing else helps and under strict conditions. If it is no longer necessary at a certain location, cameras are also removed again. Mosquito's are not used under any circumstances. The possible hearing or health damage that this can do to small children because unsuspecting parents do not hear the beeps themselves and remain with their children in the vicinity of the mosquito for too long, is not acceptable.

4. GOVERNANCE AND ORGANIZATION

Governance

Society is changing rapidly. We want the managing government to change into a facilitating government. For this, it is necessary to let the entire municipal apparatus undergo a cultural change. It takes time. The municipality delivers quality. Preferably with civil servants with permanent contracts and where it is more effective with the help of external advisors. But we are against revolving constructions.

Maastricht is a central municipality and works together with the regional municipalities. More and more tasks are being organized through the Wet Gemeenschappelijke Regelingen (Joint Regulations Act). This can increase the effectiveness, but the downside is that the democratic control by the city council has become increasingly remote. This is an undesirable development. A critical review of the joint arrangements, and their organization is desirable. An answer to this democratic deficiency can be municipal division. In the coming years, multiple reclassifications will start in our province. It seems inevitable that at some point in time the southwest of the province will also be looked into. GroenLinks does not reject reclassifications.

Finances

GroenLinks opts for healthy public finances. The financial situation of the municipality of Maastricht is not bad, but the consequences of the various decentralizations are very tangible and choices will have to be made if there is unchanged policy and funding from The Hague. It is also clear that the challenges for the upcoming years are great, such as our climate targets, and that robust financing is necessary. Ideally, this is realized without increasing the municipal expenses for the residents. If this is inevitable then we stand for the principle that the strongest shoulders may carry the heaviest loads. But this also means that, for example, the tourist tax, the OZB or the parking permit fees have to be considered. If cutbacks are necessary, we stand for the protection of vulnerable people in society and we look more closely at the necessity or frequency of specific events in the city and the costs thereof (such as enforcement and supervision).