



## **Towards a social and sustainable Oegstgeest**

an engaged society with an active government

Progressive Oegstgeest's core program for 2010-2014

As a locale joint venture between the Labour Party, GreenLeft and D66, Progressive Oegstgeest is working to make sustainable and social policies for Oegstgeest. Whether it concerns looking after the neighbours, protecting the environment or integrating new residents into our community, with PrO you will know what you will get:

**Sustainable, Social, Local.**

In the years to come Oegstgeest faces great spacial developments, such as New Rhijngest, the location of ASC and the MEOB terrain. These are important plans, which can make Oegstgeest an even stronger municipality. But then all the available space in Oegstgeest will be gone.

PrO will work hard to ensure that Oegstgeest will be and will stay a high quality municipality, which pays attention to the human standard; a municipality which values providing good services to its inhabitants.

PrO chooses, especially in times of economic turmoil, for a clear and stable policy.

Sustainable wherever possible, social whenever needed and always locally oriented, but with an open mind to the region.

## **SUSTAINABLE: thinking and acting**

Sustainability is a central theme within PrO. Sustainability is, most of all, a certain attitude and this means making integral policies: whenever we have to make a certain choice, we look at the effects it will have on the future, on the environment, on certain vulnerable groups and on society as a whole, before we reach a final conclusion. We are guided by the developments in environment and society and by our position as part of the region. We do not avoid making tough choices.

In the years to come we want:

- Building sustainable as our unwavering basic principle: the municipality will formulate, within the limits of the national law, a wide range of minimum demands for both future building projects as well as the rebuilding of existing structures. To achieve this, the local building ordinance will be adapted.
- Energy-Awareness starts with the municipality itself: public building will be adapted to make them as energy efficient as possible by means such as equipping them with solar panels.
- All acquisitions by the municipality will be subjected to strict cradle2cradle criteria. (also: garbage is food; fending for our own needs and creating possibilities for future generations).
- Municipal regulations endorse alternative sources of energy (small windmills, solar panels, geothermal energy etc.), supported by low interest sustainability loans from the municipality.
- Supporting the work of 3VO, the Environment Education Centre, Fugitive Aid and other volunteer organizations that contribute to safe and sustainable development or spread awareness thereof.
- Differentiated tariffs for garbage collection.
- More and larger garbage bins at places where people walk or sit, in order to allow them to dispose their garbage neatly.
- The formulation of an integral water plan for controlling and improving the quality of our water reserves and supplies, in cooperation with the waterboard Rijnland

- The new swimming pool ought to be build as energy efficient, preferably energy neutral, as possible. Possible connection to the heating system in Poelgeest should be sought.

Oegstgeest is a beautiful village and we would like to keep it that way. The basics for this have firmly been entrenched in current policies. Valuable aspects of our village, such as public nature continue to be a focus of our attention. The green policies of Oegstgeest should be anchored in a green policy plan:

- Public nature has various functions: playground, sporting ground, shrubs and decorative flora. The green policy plan should address all these different facets of public nature. Of course there will be attention for these various function within the new quarter New Rhijngeest.
- We want to stimulate ecological maintenance for all parks, public gardens, riverbanks and road verges. This, amongst others, means that we will aim to realise herb and flower rich verges and public gardens, and that, where possible, we will establish naturally populated riverbanks, that trees and other high reaching flora are handled with care and that room is created for more wild nature and natural playgrounds.
- There will be a nature playground where children will be offered the chance to play outside and to get acquainted with nature while playing.
- When renovating older playgrounds we aim to include more nature.
- PrO wants execution of the plan 'Northern bank of the Oegstgeester Canal'. Because a large portion of the ground is owned by the waterboard, the creation of 'temporary nature' is a good option to enable near recreation for the inhabitants of Oegstgeest.
- Enabling residents to manage a small piece of public nature; those piece of public green that will be sold have to be marked on a publicly accessible map.
- In order to stimulate the responsibility of the residents, there should be a quarter budget, enabling residents to improve their own quarter and allow them to decide whether public playground or public nature will have priority in their quarter. Quarter associations will play a key role in this.

- The accessibility of the Irispark for 'older youngsters' has succeeded fairly well but there is still room for improvement: with a creative twist it has to be possible to improve its user value for both young and old. Initiating a contest about the future arrangement of the park will spark creativity.
- The municipality ought to ensure we have a clear tree policy, wherein clarity is given about planting, chopping and maintaining our trees. Informing citizens about these things timely is also important.
- Oegstgeest's many beautiful trees deserve the drafting of a 'tree book'.
- The municipality will formulate a clear vision on the location and future of the Environment Education Centre. There should be an option for (administrative) support from the municipality.

### **Traffic and infrastructure**

The increasing mobility is putting a growing strain on our financial and spatial assets. PrO prefers as many transportations as possible to be made by bicycle, on foot or by public transport. Further attention will be paid to cyclists and pedestrians in the chapter Local.

We are not willing to invest in roads unless a significant contribution is made to ensure high quality public transport. Therefore we will only support the 'Rijnlandroute' as an east-west connection between the A4 and the A44, which will of course have to be integrated into the countryside in an environment and human friendly way, if there will be a complete RijnGouweLijn, which ends at the coast.

Solving the problems cannot be done by Oegstgeest alone. Cooperation on a regional level is of great importance. Especially since the national government is only willing to contribute if the region is prepared to participate financially. For that purpose an investment fund has been created by the region Holland/Rijnland.

PrO further advocates:

- The RijnGouweLijn should have a **proven** positive effect upon the *entire* public transportation network in this region. Public transportation within Oegstgeest should not be harmed! Clever connections between buses and good parking facilities for bicycles at the stops in the Bio Science Park in Leiden have to be realised.
- Providing the auction Flora Holland with an own connection to the A44 or the N44. The northern road to Rijnsburg is an option for this.
- In order to realize the second bridge from Poelgeest, between the Hugo de Vrieslaan and the Oegstgeesterweg, quickly, good cooperation with Leiden is essential.
- Lowering the maximum speed on the A44 highway to 100 km/h (60mph)



## **SOCIAL: WE are the society**

In the past years we have seen great progress on social issues; this provides us with a steady base for further developments in the future.

Mutual comprehension, compassion and if necessary providing help and care make Oegstgeest more the just the town your house happens to be in. Social cohesion is of great importance to us. Eventually, apart from a safe and comfortable environment, the way we treat each other and interact with one another is of great importance to our well-being. The residents of our village know their rights and acknowledge their obligations and responsibilities. PrO wants to continue to pay attention to social policies, our well-being and providing care for those who need it.

Through the Law on Supporting Society (Wet Maatschappelijke Ondersteuning, WMO) the municipality has been given more responsibilities and a larger budget for providing adequate facilities to support housing, well-being and healthcare. PrO wants municipalities to size this opportunity to create more uniformity on these policy areas. This way we can strengthen community cohesion and ensure suitable and personalised care for everyone who needs it.

We want to stimulate as many people as possible to (be able to) participate and keep participating, both young and old. If people are prevented from doing this, we want to do something about that. Especially for people with a handicap, chronicle diseases and people who are facing difficulties in finding their place on the labour market. Citizens will have to take their own responsibilities when applying for care. Because not everyone is able to formulate the correct requests for care individually, PrO wants to offer assistance from the very first moment there is a need for care. The new Local Office Window will play a central role in this. PrO believes solidarity -with and for each other- ought to play an important role in Oegstgeest.

## 1. Social facilities and participation

- Subject the municipality to a “social stress test” to aid in the formulation of a comprehensive list of possible problems: Is the municipality adequately equipped to deal with possible changes in the demand for personal care?
- Cooperation between various organizations -for instance in the making indications- is of great importance. There is an active, stimulating role for the municipality in this.
- In New Rhijngeest one of the principles in our spatial planning will be constructing buildings which remain suitable for people throughout the course of their lives. This way of building will be stimulated in the existing quarters.
- Our healthcare policy should focus, in both young and old, on prevention, possibilities include actions against alcohol- and drug abuse in youngsters.
- Both the social as well as the meeting point function of the Boerhaave plein, as a quarter and shopping centre -in proximity to many houses for the elderly- should be strengthened.

PrO wants to improve the situation of the following groups.

Youth:

- Spark the interest of youngsters for local politics via hyves or other media that are appealing to our youth. Our goal herein is taking our youth serious and to stimulate them to join in the debates, get involved and be part of the decision making process.
- A good and broadly accessible supply of youth and juvenile work remain an important point for PrO. The wishes and opinions of the youngsters themselves will be central in this process.
- We will continue to develop Friendzz by themed meetings, films and try-outs with various subjects such as culture, politics, society, development, health and prevention.
- The Centre for Youth and Family will also offer services for the age of 14+.
- PrO wants to investigate, develop, expand and realise housing opportunities for young adults.

- By many youngsters 'hanging around' is considered a useful way of spending their time; others often believe this hanging around causes nuisance and hindrance. Communication is the central solution in this. Engaging the youngsters and local residents in talks can improve mutual understanding and pave the way towards reaching agreements. The neighbourhood officer plays an important role in this, in cooperation with neighbourhood- and juvenile work.

#### Family:

- Stimulate initiatives in the quarters, from quarter networks and associations, by subsidising activities such as neighbourhood barbecues. Residents' initiatives should also be stimulated.
- A volunteers' day such be held annually to pay attention to the great affords of the many volunteers in our municipality.
- The possibilities for sports and games in the neighbourhood and on the streets will be increased.
- There is an active Centre for Youth and Family.

#### The elderly and elevated risk groups:

- Preventing loneliness (in the elderly population) ought to be an explicit goal of our well-being policy. If signals about loneliness are received (from professional institution) we must act.
- Good accessibility of public facilities and other buildings and houses is necessary for people with a physical defect to fully and equally participate in our society.
- Possibility for cultural well-being activities, for instance by the use of a museum bus or the possibility of meeting people in an easily accessible café.
- Good and suitable public transportation is an essential aspect of preventing loneliness amongst the elderly. The municipality actively supports good and affordable public transportation for the elderly, both within as outside of regular working hours. Special attention will be paid to the buses arranged by nursing and rest homes, such as the Van Wijckerslooth bus and the SWOO-bus.
- A public lavatory should be placed at the shopping centre in the Kempenaerstraat.

- PrO supports plans to modernise and expand the Hofwijk healthcare centre. The function of the Hofbrouckerpark should be protected.
- Oegstgeest is a municipality with many attractive walks. Therefore more benches should be placed, for instance on the route between Hofwijk and the Lange Voort.
- An Oegstgeest with open arms; we offer good accommodation for fugitives because a good living situation is essential for a successful integration.
- Supporting of and contributing to local initiatives for development aid based on the motto: Municipality of Oegstgeest, Municipality of the World!
- The municipality pays the required attention in guiding the unemployed to work.



## 2. (Social) housing

A glance at the map shows Oegstgeest is full. PrO believes it is important to maintain the level of social housing in Oegstgeest in order to get and maintain a more diverse population. When restructuring, demolition will only be an option if renovation of – the usually cheap- houses is not wanted or not profitable. The total amount of social housing within the municipality should not decline by this. People from quarters that are being restructured will have preference for another house in proximity of their original neighbourhood.

- If possible, we chose to build sustainably and to construct houses that will remain suitable for people throughout the course of their lives.
- In new housing estates -for instance at the Van de Ameele-location- a minimum of 30% social housing should be achieved, in order to allow less financially strong residents to get a suitable house.
- Small scaled housing for elderly people who suffer from dementia is a valuable addition to our housing situation.
- Considering combating loneliness in the elderly; housing for the elderly population in the proximity of shopping centres should be realised.
- The municipality will, in addition to the plans of housing foundation Buitenlust, present a vision (including a financial component) on the mode of operation for the quarter Buitenlust. The possible use of money from the Reserve Social Housing should be considered in this.
- Proper connections to the existing village and realising shopping possibilities should be points of attention in the planned quarter of Nieuw Rhijngeest
- Haaswijk, being a quarter from the eighties, requires improvements: we want to launch an full scale service operation to first locate all the problems and then solve them. 'Clean, undamaged and safe' is what we want to achieve.

### **3. Children and education**

Education ought to be of high quality and aimed at growing towards complete participation in society. This process starts at a young age. We emphasise the importance of tolerance and the need of teaching our youngsters at school how we can live with each other peacefully. Youngsters ought to be taught about different philosophies, including religion, and their effects on our culture.

- All schools in Oegstgeest are properly housed: attention is paid toward a good internal climate, saving energy, security and preventing burglary.
- A new primary school will be built in New Rhijnegeest.
- The participation of children in specialistic courses and subjects, which lay outside of the normal curriculum, such as swimming, nature education, cultural education, and religious/philosophical education, are valuable. PrO believes it is important to stimulate this by promoting the accessibility of internal and external specialist teachers for these courses.
- The recently started children's council deserves expansion, enabling all schools to participate annually.
- After-school housing should be organised properly to support the emancipation of men and women in both work and child care.
- Kindergartens are an important facility for the development of children. The municipality should subsidise these facilities in order to maintain a high quality of their services.

### **4. Social security**

The quality of our living environment greatly benefits from (social) security. Via the integral safety policy the municipal council is able to direct the activities of the police. An accessible and transparent police force is very important for people's experience of safety and security.

- The municipality provides adequate road lighting, safe pedestrian and bicycle routes, properly maintained parks and safe playgrounds.
- Our priority from the police remains: focussing on concrete action, also with minor violations.

- The new police districts will ensure a more efficient use of police capacity on the territory of Oegstgeest.
- Public meetings between the police and citizens are desirable.

## 5. Culture

Culture colours our life and show the diversity, plurality and creativity of the human mind. As such culture is an unmissable nutrient for a society of respect for various opinions, expressions and cultures. Oegstgeest has a long and rich cultural tradition. That does not mean that nothing may be changed or adapted. The library fulfils -especially at its new location- a central role in the village. The Local Office Window is in the right place there as well, with K&O as a good neighbour.

PrO wishes for a new culture bill to pay attention to various activities that distinguish Oegstgeest: Oegstgeest village of writers, Oegstgeester wall poetry or a cultural walks. The culture bill can be the departure in a new quest for Oegstgeest's 'cultural gold': after all our community is home to many prominent scientists from various disciplines. We should investigate in what ways -for instance with the help of artists- they can share their knowledge and experience in a joyful and attractive way both with the citizens of Oegstgeest and with visitors to our town: Oegstgeest will become visible as an community of art and science and this can contribute to the image of the entire region. At the MEOB-terrain at the A44 are chances, such as Corpus, to lure visitors who are travelling from Amsterdam and Schiphol to Leiden or The Hague.

PrO believes that in the following years, even in times of economic turmoil, cultural spendings should not be used to fill holes in the budget. The execution of the culture bill requires that a multiple year financing is reserved in order to establish a reputation of art and science. We believe we should support private initiatives in this policy area.

- The Irispark can also be given a cultural function, for instance by building a kiosk. This will facilitate small scale musical activities.
- Chances can also be found around the Hofdijk: this location is ideally suited for the placement of a long stretched sculpture garden.

- PrO actively supports the artist's association In-Stock by facilitating exposition in public buildings and by encouraging private companies and other institutions to do the same.
- An annual cultural day could become an important stimulus for Oegstgeest's cultural life.

## 6. Sports

Sporting together is accessible for everyone, helps us to stay in shape and to maintain good health and contributes to the social cohesion within our community. As the population of Oegstgeest is growing, the room for sports should not fall behind. Sporting is not just a matter of the clubs, that is why there should also be attention for small scaled sport activities and not just for formally organised sport in the new sporting hall or on the sporting fields.

- Intensive use of sporting field (for as much activities as possible) is wanted.
- PrO stimulates the creation of facilities such as playgrounds and small soccer fields for boys and girls for various ages. They will benefit the health and the social development of our youngsters and offer various possibilities outside of the regular sporting club. Protecting and maintaining these facilities has our continuing attention.
- The exploitation of the new sporting hall and the swinging pool is no core objective of the municipality, outsourcing to a private partner -if possible the same for both facilities- is preferred
- If all municipalities in the region are willing to make a contribution to realise a new regional ice skating hall, Oegstgeest will contribute as well.
- The usefulness of joining the acquisition and maintenance of sporting facilities in one regional shared service centre, where such services can be offered efficiently and effectively to the participating municipalities, is to be examined.

## **7. Oegstgeest, a community filled with life**

Living together is not just taking care of one another and having consideration for each other, it is also doing things together. PrO wants to support activities and initiatives for this. It is important that the municipality makes an effort to ensure the continuity of these initiatives such as the Haaswijk walk, the poldercross, and the 'avondvierdaagse'. A good and widely accessible range of youth and youngster work remains of great importance to PrO. The opinions and wishes of the youngsters themselves will be our guidelines.

PrO believes that the scale of Oegstgeest enables us to truly support the positive effect on social cohesion these activities have.

- There should be an annual activity calendar -of course also available on line!- on which all kinds of activities such as: culture day, election days, volunteer's day, open monuments day, open atelier day, etc. are marked. Activities and initiatives which spread awareness about solidarity and sustainability deserve a place of honour on this calendar.
- School buildings can be used more frequently for non-school activities. With this 'broad school' approach non-scholar activities and volunteer's initiatives can find themselves a place. Utilising the stage in the Leo Kannerschool is a good example of this.
- There is pressing need for a coordinator, who is aware of all possible location within the town (public and if possible private). The social and cultural life inside the village can, with a clever utilisation of the available room, get a nice boost.
- Volunteers, who are active in many different field, deserve recognition and support. It must be able for activities to be held at different places.

## **LOCAL: a municipality by and for everyone**

### **1. The 'human standard'**

The inhabitants of Oegstgeest will, at various levels and on various moments, have to deal with the municipal government. The municipal government is there for you, or to be more precise, it has been made by you. You are a part of the municipality. The quality of governance will depend on its ability to deal with the residents: consistent policies, clear communication, being open to suggestion from the inhabitants and wise interpretation of regulations are some examples thereof. The functioning of the municipal government and providing information to the inhabitants are some things which can be improved. Improving the distribution of information and services via the Internet has been realised over the last years. Now it is possible to go one step further and to aim for user friendly forms of interactive Internet. This way more support for radical decisions can be realised.

PrO wants more attention for the following points:

- Being open for suggestion from the society, but in a more structured manner. The Customer Contact Centre can play a central role in this.
- The public work's service line is operating fine should be more renowned.
- Governing is something we do together; residents also carry some responsibility for their own living environment. It is good to point this out to residents when needed; this attitude requires that the knowledge and skills the citizens have to offer is adequately valued.
- The civil society and the politics can interact with each other more efficiently, this will make council meeting more effective.
- The way different parties in the council vote should be published on the municipality's website to improve transparency.
- Also placing passed motions -and what was done with them!- should be published on the website. Trust is good, control is better.
- The citizens' initiative has been introduced and it has had concrete results: noise hindrance from Schiphol Airport and the need for the Holle Mare-route have been brought to attention. PrO encourages citizens' initiatives.

- Creating the possibility for a referendum in which the inhabitants of Oegstgeest can voice their opinion about a council decision.
- The mailing groups of quarter associations could be utilised in the public debate about both big and small decisions.
- The creation of a Shared Service Centre can be useful for Oegstgeest; prerequisite would be that the municipal government has enough control over this body.

## 2. Financial choices

Making predictions is difficult, especially when it concerns the future. The financial crisis and the economic recession have shown that reliable forecasts expire quickly. It is no use trying to guess and anticipate whether we will or will not see a rise in the municipal taxes as this decision is largely dependent on factors we in Oegstgeest have no influence on. Besides there are other financial possibilities. PrO chooses for a transparent and open-minded approach, in which we will look at all municipal assets, both the incoming and the outgoing.

Therefore PrO proposes:

- Future oriented politics means we are aware that the choice we make today will effect the youngsters and elderly of tomorrow. PrO emphasises that those who are the strongest should carry most of the weight and that those who cause costs for the community should share in those costs (conform the principle of 'he who pollutes, pays').
- To execute the WMO, the municipality has got a flexible budget for well-being and personal care. This offer chances, but also presents us with greater financial risks. We will offer the care our citizens are rightfully asking for. At the same time we will continue to pay attention to well-being, youth and sports. We have to be willing to contribute to this financially.

- We are aware of the fact that Oegstgeest is a small municipality and therefore has a small budget. That means we have to spend our money wisely. Our guideline in this is our willingness to invest in society. The current level of facilities should at least be kept stable. Furthermore we choose for a reliable municipal government, a municipality with social cohesion and relieving the environment. We want to make stronger choices, to enable us to accomplish more. If these choices require more money, raising municipal taxes is only an justifiable option for PrO if these higher taxes will be accompanied by higher quality facilities.
- The funds Oegstgeest received by selling our Nuon-stocks, should be used sustainably in such a way that they can replace the dividend we received from Nuon over the course of many years.

### **3. Entrepreneurship**

Entrepreneurs and their businesses make Oegstgeest more than a village to just live in. Entrepreneurs contribute to the liveability of the municipality. PrO wants to keep the entrepreneurs in Oegstgeest and offer them the space to run their business, of course within the appropriate legal boundaries. At the same time we want to prevent or reduce any possible hindrance by trying to separate living and working in the spatial planning of our village. Because of the important role entrepreneurs play in society we want to stimulate Socially Responsible Entrepreneurship (Maatschappelijk Verantwoord Ondernemen MVO).

- The MEOB-terrain will become a sustainable business area, mainly for businesses from Oegstgeest and the region. Sustainability ought to be more than just a label here; it has to be an essential part of the area management. Possibilities include carpooling, sustainable energy sources, a cradle2cradle approach and high image quality.
- In developing the MEOB-terrain, the municipality ought to play a leading role, for instance by actively looking for private partners who are willing to bare the risks.
- A Business Office Window for entrepreneurs: one central contact point with the municipality concerning for instance streamlining procedures for licences. Cooperation with the Customer Contact Centre is logical.

- Creating, in agreement with Oegstgeester businesses, work experience places for the long time unemployed and the foundation of a business gathering building with the appropriate attention for single entrepreneurs.

#### **4. Road Safety**

PrO will continue to pay attention to the safety of our roads.

- School should be easily accessible for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Expansion of speed control, particularly in 30 km-zones.
- Actively supporting the initiatives of residents such as the street playing day to spread awareness about the need for low speed driving and road safety. This complicated issue is suitable for an investigation into the best practices in different other municipalities and for cooperation with the national bikers association.
- We want to stimulate the use of bicycles, by improving cycling routes and expanding the amount of bicycle storage facilities at shopping areas, bus stops and other logical locations.
- Taking action on those cross sections that have a bad overview and are therefore dangerous such as the corner Kempenaerstraat/Terweeweg and the detraction towards Rijnsburg at the Green Church has got a high priority for PrO.
- The pressing need for parking lots requires a new parking bill; if 'car low' is not possible, we will have to act 'car clever'. Cleverly dealing with parking possibilities and expanding the amount of parking places without seriously harming public nature. The new bill should focus on: road safety, preventing traffic nuisance and the safety around schools.

## 5. **ASC**

ASC-soccer is allow to expend on a different location. Even tough there will be damage to the ecological structure by the building of sporting fields, the Overveerpolder is a good new location for the combination of soccer and cricket. PrO will emphasise nature and the environment in the new plans; attention should be paid to the water situation and the presence of bats.

The current ASC-terrain is suitable for senior housing. The presence of enough social rent housing and enough green playgrounds in the neighbourhood is a requirement.

## 6. **Schiphol International Airport**

Oegstgeest is within the region aiming to send a strong signal against further development of Schiphol International Airport. We want to keep the amount of flights constant, resist a future second Kaaglane and influence the height of the approach routes. Despite various interests within the region, Oegstgeest should actively -if possible in cooperation with others- defend its own interest; protecting her inhabitants from air pollution and noise hindrance.

## 7. **Region**

Oegstgeest is not an isolated island. An active attitude within the region is wanted to ensure that the regional policy remains recognisable for Oegstgeest; cooperation on all issues where cooperation can improve the quality or the efficiency. Our motto is: Don't follow, but lead! The municipal government is aiming at an active role for the municipality in region cooperation.