Courage to change!

NEOS-ETTER PERCHTOLDSDORF

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MAY 2024 / ISSUE 2

WHERE WILL THE PERCHTOLDSDORF CENTRE GO FROM HERE?

Wienergasse between the market square and Franz-Josef-Straße will be undergoing reconstruction in the summer. This could be the starting point for revitalising the centre. Why could it possibly be? Read for yourself.

Perchtoldsdorf has a wonderful historic town centre. The market square could be an attractive and lively piazza. Wienergasse, starting from the market square, would have the potential to become a strolling promenade with attractive offerings.

Sounds good? Unfortunately, the reality is different. Instead of a lively piazza, the market square is a car park. There are only a few attractive gathering places for young and old. Shop closures in the town centre are increasing and this will continue if we do nothing. Complaining alone is not enough. We have to decide how we want our town centre to develop. And we have to act.



The reconstruction of Wienergasse, which is due this year, would be an ideal time to initiate a comprehensive revitalisation and development of the town centre. Wienergasse is ideally suited to be a shared zone, which can later be extended to the market square. In shared zones, it is still easy to drive up to the shops by car and stop for a short time. If you want to shop and Sabine stroll around for longer, you Schober can park your car in the immediate vicinity. Numerous town cen-

tres in Lower Austria and other federal states show that, despite initial reservations, shared zones prove their worth and have a positive effect for everyone. Unfortunately, it once again looks as if the attempt to use the reconstruction for a future-oriented solution and to make preparations for a shared zone that has long been under consideration is being nipped in the bud.



In the discussions over the past weeks, we sensed that there seem to be two camps in the ÖVP on this topic. The city development experts know that shared zones revitalise the local economy and contribute to the further development of the "mix". The "preservationists" are opposed to sensible changes and believe that it is enough to let everything continue "just as it is". Unfortunately, the "preservationists" seem to have the upper hand. The Greens originally proposed using the reconstruction of Wienergasse to prepare a shared zone. Unfortunately, they folded very quickly and are disappointed to note that the ÖVP is continuing to put the issue of "revitalising the town centre" on the back burner.

We believe that it is the job of the municipality of Perchtoldsdorf to make an initial effort to revitalise the town centre. An end-to-end concept is needed for the market square and Wienergasse. Such a concept consists of a series of measures to make

the centre more attractive The municipality can act as a driving force and contribute to positive development with active town centre and vacancy management. What has happened in Perchtoldsdorf to date in this respect? Nothing. The ÖVP and GRÜNE are push-



ing the issue from one committee to another and shrugging their shoulders as one shop after another closes. NEOS thinks this is a shame and wants to change that with a vision for the future of our town and tangible proposals.

Sabine Schober & Tony Platt

EUROPE STARTS IN THE COMMUNITY.

More and more people are asking themselves whether it makes sense to vote. Voter turnout in the last European elections in Perchtoldsdorf was only 62.5%. This is a pity, because Europe has a lot to do with all of us and with Perchtoldsdorf. Decisions made in Brussels and Strasbourg often feel far away. But they affect our everyday life and our community - including Perchtoldsdorf. Let's take a look at three concrete examples of the role Europe plays for Perchtoldsdorf.

1. Regional funding: the EU uses the European Regional Development Funds to support projects such as closing gaps in cycling paths, traffic appeasement and making town and village centres more attractive. The EU is therefore an active player in the mobility transition and also supports the municipal-ity of Perchtoldsdorf in making public transport and

2. Protection of our forests: with the EU renatura-tion law, the EU is setting a clear framework for the reforestation of forests and the renaturation of riv-ers. All of this also affects us. Our forest is a valuable

the Föhrenberge Nature Park are important local recreation areas and habitats for many plant and animal species.

Unfortunately, the ÖVP has regrettably put the brakes on this project at the European level.

3. Community life: Hundreds of expats from practically every European country live in Perchtoldsdorf. They all live, recreate, study and work here. They can do that thanks to the fundamental freedoms in the EU. But these freedoms cannot be taken for granted. We have to defend them anew every day.



Europe is starting here, in our community. We therefore invite you to exercise your right to vote on 9 June and decide in which direction our common Europe should develop!

CHILDREN OR JOB? BOTH SHOULD BE POSSIBLE!



If we want to continue to be an attractive community for young families, we need to focus much more on providing high-quality preschool and kindergartens. We need to shift gears, both in terms of the services offered for working parents and the quality of childcare.

It would be important to orient ourselves towards model countries such as Iceland or Norway. There, around 2% of GDP is invested in elementary educational facilities. It has long been recognised in these countries that high-quality childcare has only advantages for all children. It is important for parents to know that their children are well and professionally looked after while they are at work. It is not a question of every child having to go to childcare as quickly as possible, it is about freedom of choice.

The answer to the question "Children or full-time job?" still depends heavily on where you live in Austria. While Vienna ranks at the top, Lower Austria continues to be at the bottom of the league. Less than half of under two-year-Mart olds and only a guarter of three to Künsberg five-year-olds go to childcare facil-Sarre ities that fulfill the criteria for full-time employment for both parents. There is room for improvement here in Perchtoldsdorf as well. The ÖVP constantly emphasises that supply meets demand. However, it fails to realise that many families have to resort to grandparent help due to a lack of longer childcare hours or, because this is not available, have resigned themselves to part-time jobs. Freedom of choice looks different!

When it comes to childcare, the goal must be smaller groups with a high number of primary school teachers and well-trained support staff. This will not be feasible from one day to the next, but we as a municipality should bear this goal in mind. One thing is obvious: we will have to shift funds within the municipal budget towards the challenges of the future - a sensible first step would be to reduce administrative costs in favour of our children.

Martina Künsberg Sarre

Christoph Müller

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ACCOMPLISHED FOR PERCHTOLDSDORF

NEOS has an impact - with our constructive and critical opposition work, we have achieved positive results for all residents of Perchtoldsdorf in recent months.

Sewerage and water charges

The Office of the Lower Austrian Provincial Government has confirmed our view that the calculative interest was set too high by the municipality. We have approached the Austrian Federal Audit Office with a request to review the legitimacy of the general costs allocated to the sewerage. You can find the entire submission on our website.

Four-track railway expansion

Our demand for a joint working group has been fulfilled. We are generally in favour of the expansion. However, this does not mean that we are prepared to wave through all of ÖBB's proposals without criticism.

FOR A EUROPE THAT MAKES US STRONGER

It is important to participate in the European elections on 9 June or to vote by mail.

Why vote for NEOS?

We are in favour of a Europe that is capable of taking action, that is more democratic, more capable of making decisions and closer to its citizens.

We aim for a sovereign Europe to be a strong voice in the world. We want a United States of Europe with a common foreign, security and defence policy.

We want a Europe capable of defence that enables security and peace.

We are working towards a dynamic Europe for a Wirtschaftswunder through reforms in the areas of budget quotas for the future, deregulation of the internal market and strengthening the industrial sector through innovation. Only a financially sound Europe can be a

healthy basis for a successful Europe. A responsible Europe stands for both secure

borders and human rights. Europe should be made attractive for qualified labour by promoting the free movement

of skilled workers and dual training.

WASN'T THERE SOMETHING ELSE?

The ÖVP and the Greens have made little or no progress when it comes to these issues

Saving pointless subsidies

The Province of Lower Austria has explicitly recommended that no additional subsidisation of the sewerage charge should be permitted. In addition to the increased administrative burden, we also question the urgency and social justice of such additional subsidies.

Savings programme

Nothing has happened since the first meeting on 19 March. The second meeting was cancelled on short notice and a new date has not been agreed to. It looks as if attempts are being made to muddle along instead of tackling structural reforms.

Beatrixheim

There is no new information about how, when and if anything will move forward on the issue.

Bike path improvements

The Vice Mayor emphasised in the last municipal council meeting that this is very important to him. In any case, there is no mention of this in the road construction programme and there was also no definite information in the relevant committee about how to proceed.

THIS IS WHAT WE ARE **O** PASSIONATE ABOUT. Christoph Martina Hans-Holger Müller Künsberg Sarre Herrnfeld Youth Education Europe Education Science Community dev. Community dev. Legal system Human rights Claudia **Tony Platt** Max M. Mader Buchanan Mobility Mobility Culture Environment Integration Finance Sport Transparency **Zsolt Janos** Sabine Schober Roman Nossal Economy Community dev. Finance Environment Mobility



NEOS PERCHTOLDSDORF INVITES YOU TO A GUIDED TOUR OF THE PARLIAMENT WITH MARTINA KÜNSBERG SARRE ON 21 JUNE!



JUNE 9 X NEOS

What does NEOS say about this?

In our blog, we comment on current issues in the village. Take a look! Sorry, this is in German only.

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