

# GROENLINKS

## WASSENAAR



PROGRAM

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL 2022 - 2026

## DEAR FELLOW VILLAGER

Our municipal elections take place on 14, 15 and 16 March. If you have received voting papers (a “stempass”) by mail, please cast your vote! As a fellow resident of our beautiful village, you too can influence how our community is run for the next four years.

For more than 25 years, GroenLinks Wassenaar has been the most “green” party in the municipal council. We don't have a big election manifesto. We take you seriously, and don't make any promises that we cannot deliver results on. This is why we work with three core values. In this document, we explain for each core value which challenges we face and which feasible solutions we see.

There are no frills or big egos at GroenLinks Wassenaar: we make trade-offs based on local interests, observing the world around us. Keeping in mind what is important now and in the future.

We stand for a village where there is room for everyone. Regardless of gender, age, background or ideals. There is room for the teacher, the police officer, the civil servant, and all other Wassenaarders.

In Wassenaar, it is our responsibility that people receive the care they need. We look at the person behind the question and not at the rules, to see how much budget we can save.

For us, citizen participation is not a box that needs to be ticked. It is a way to achieve better outcomes. Working together is the only way to make our village more beautiful, social and sustainable.

We wish to live in a village in which our children can safely cycle to school and sports, because we have attractive and safe cycle paths. We believe in roads that are designed on road safety and healthy air for everyone.

We opt for a sustainable village, even if the choices are sometimes hard to make. We must and can combat climate change. And local councils play an important role in this. That is why the municipality should take the lead for those buildings it owns. The municipality cannot do it alone: we need all the residents of Wassenaar to chip in. GroenLinks Wassenaar wants to help our fellow villagers to insulate their homes and support families that suffer from rising energy prices.

For us, green is not just the color of our logo: it is something we've been fighting for years. We want to protect and where possible enhance Wassenaar's nature.

A strong council is instrumental for nature protection and social inclusion. A council that delivers, and doesn't stop at the planning stage. A council that is transparent when matters do not go as expected or agreed. A council that dares to make a stand if Wassenaar's interests are at stake.

We wish to make this happen and we would love your support. Please vote for your fellow villagers from GroenLinks Wassenaar in the municipal elections on 14, 15 and 16 March.

Sonja Hibbert, party leader GroenLinks Wassenaar, and all our candidates



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## OUR CORE VALUES

**GroenLinks Wassenaar is committed to our village.** To our residents - young and old - and to our entrepreneurs, associations and schools. We are there for you, no one excepted. GroenLinks Wassenaar is committed to our nature and to affordable warm homes in the winter, preferably without gas.

To prevent us from being driven by daily firefighting, GroenLinks Wassenaar works with the following three core values that guide us like a compass, now and in the future:

- 1: GroenLinks Wassenaar protects and strengthens nature
- 2: GroenLinks Wassenaar is socially inclusive and supports where necessary
- 3: GroenLinks Wassenaar is a cooperative partner, even when this is difficult

Below, we explain our core values. Within each core value, we show what has already been achieved and which challenges still lie ahead of us. We propose feasible solutions that fit within our core values.



## **Our first core value: we protect and strengthen nature**

Wassenaar is a great village to live in. We have the sea and beaches, dunes, estates and green fields. We wish to keep those intact.

This is why there is no room for large-scale new housing schemes, although this is a shame given our housing shortage. In the smaller plots, where construction is possible, GroenLinks Wassenaar strives for affordable, sustainable and comfortable homes for all generations. For starters, young families and senior villagers.

Given the limited space in our built-up area and the vulnerable nature in our outskirts (our fields and our dune and water extraction area), there is also no room for solar parks or wind parks, although that is a shame given the upcoming energy transition. Fortunately, there are good innovative alternatives. GroenLinks Wassenaar focuses on innovative and customized solutions that will suit Wassenaar.

### **In recent years, great things have been realized within our core value of nature protection.**

The municipality mows the verges and parks less intensively than previously. This saves money and is good for plants and animals. Wassenaar has participated in the Dutch paving slabs removal championship. Many garden and street paving slabs have been replaced by plants and shrubs. This has improved the quality of life in our neighborhoods. And during downpours, our partly outdated sewage system is less likely to overflow. Balloon releases have been banned during beach events. This prevents unnecessary litter and protects the sea and animals from plastic. The municipality has started insulating its buildings and installing solar panels. This saves money in the long run and reduces CO2 emissions immediately.

### **There are much bigger challenges ahead of us within our core value of nature protection.**

Because Wassenaar also has a building assignment and because it is certain that also in Wassenaar, gas consumption and nitrogen deposition must be reduced, the municipality must now spring to action. The municipality has two main roles: drawing up a logical and feasible local plan and setting a good example within its own buildings and streets.

Sitting still and waiting for mandatory government guidance is not an option for our vulnerable nature and does not suit Wassenaar. If we sit still, solar parks, wind parks and other locally undesirable measures will come our way. This while more and more innovative solutions are emerging that enable Wassenaar to become one of the forerunners. Think of neighborhood batteries and power-supplying cars. After all, Wassenaar is an enterprising and innovative village. Forerunner, not a trailblazer. Proactive, not passive. Solution-oriented, creative and independent.

During the energy transition period, everyday life continues. GroenLinks Wassenaar wants more green spaces throughout the village, for example in Oostdorp and Kerkehout. More greenery helps to prevent us from negative effects from downpours. And in hot summers, the greenery provides shade and cooling. A green living environment is an important factor for well-being and health. That is also why GroenLinks Wassenaar wants to strengthen nature.

**Based on our core value nature protection, we will commit ourselves to:**

**Conservation:**

- Strengthening nature also means preserving what is under pressure, such as the green buffer zone between the buildings on Valkenburg and Wassenaar. This increases quality of life for everyone.
- Meijendel is a beautiful nature reserve that annually attracts more visitors than the Hoge Veluwe. We can be proud of that. And we have to protect it: our nature is not marketing proof. Meijendel suffers from an excessive number of visitors. That is why we must protect it better than before. This includes better (electric) bicycle facilities and electric shuttle buses. Cycling is healthier and leaving the car at the edges of vulnerable areas is more social. This includes reducing the current amount of 500 free parking spaces in the vulnerable Meijendel area. Of course, people with disabilities can still park there for free. And: the parking pressure is not shifted to the local residents living in de surrounding areas.
- Trash cans that are placed are “gull-safe” and therefore animal-friendly for all animals because the plastic and other waste cannot roam around.

**Nature amplification:**

- Parking spaces are becoming greener: for example, by replacing existing pavements with paving slabs that allow grass to grow within them. In the summer, it will be cooler in the parking lots. And during heavy rain showers, our sewage system can continue to drain the water, resulting in drier shoes as our sewage system now often overflows.
- Following the example of The Hague (“free trees for residents”), every resident of Wassenaar can request a tree for an insufficient green space in his or her neighborhood. Nest boxes for birds and bats can also be requested.
- Lobbying to achieve a more sustainable solution for the N44 will continue.

**Energy solutions:**

- Making existing buildings gas-free starts with insulating. This is relatively cheap, increases living comfort and lays the foundation for turning off the gas in the future. The municipality itself is a front runner for its own buildings and is accelerating its sustainability efforts. All buildings that the municipality owns or carries responsibility for – such as association buildings

and schools – will be fully insulated and fitted with solar panels as soon as possible. Innovative solutions, such as neighborhood batteries, are seriously considered.

- Small solutions with a big impact are implemented quicker. Not 25% of street lighting with LED lamps but 100%. As soon as possible. The outdated interior lighting of all municipal buildings will also be replaced as soon as possible and equipped with timers and a dimmer function.
- Our two housing associations are also immediately involved. All social rental homes must be fully insulated as soon as possible and fitted with solar panels so that the energy bill of social housing tenants is lower and the living comfort higher.
- Private landlords and home owners will also have to spring to action, with practical help and subsidies from the municipality. Neighborhood teams (such as the Groene Meent, the Wassenaarse Energie Corporation (WEC)) as well as other well-functioning initiatives will become an integral part of the solution. They are taken serious and are supported with knowledge and resources to become even more effective. To help everyone take the first steps. And to help those pioneers who already want to switch off the gas-grid, to realize their ambitious goal.
- The “green café” and the “sustainability counter” to which everyone can turn for advice and practical solutions will be further developed. In order to increase knowledge and advisory capacity, a physical sustainability store is set up, following the example of Rotterdam. Sufficient attention is paid to specific challenges for Wassenaar, such as houses without a cavity and capital-intensive challenges of local entrepreneurs, associations and schools.
- The municipality also leads the way within its large-scale renovations and new construction work. By striving for completely energy neutral new builds, without a gas connection. Think of Raadhuis de Paauw, the municipal yard, Den Deijl and other future large-scale renovations.
- Available government subsidies are no longer foregone by because the municipality is refusing to match subsidies. For example, associations and schools that wish to make use of a government-wide subsidy, where a subsidy match from the municipality is a condition, must be able to count on us. This applies to the energy transition and to obtaining ventilation systems suitable in times of virus outbreaks.

### **More sustainable mobility:**

- Throughout the village, parking will remain free for people with disabilities. It will also remain free for everyone in those places where the pressure on our nature and our quality of life does not become too great. Nobody wants to introduce paid parking, however, there can no longer be a taboo on this subject. Parking fees may become necessary to protect our nature and our tranquility, for example in Meijendel. Paid parking will not become too expensive for residents and parking pressure will not be shifted to surrounding neighborhoods.
- The delivery of goods to our village will become more sustainable. The Hague and Leiden have already joined the “zero emission city logistics” (ZES) initiative. If Wassenaar stays behind, more polluting vans and trucks from parcel deliverers and suppliers will enter our



village (a waterbed effect). Wassenaar also joins ZES, to prevent this side effect and because it ensures cleaner air throughout the village.

- Car-free recreation is made easier. For example, by making electric cargo bikes available in logical places. By more bicycle charging points at the beach and in Meijendel. The use of small electric neighborhood buses is also being investigated. So that it becomes easier to go out with a dog and/or family without a car. This results in fewer traffic jams and protects our vulnerable dune area better.

**Less waste:**

- Reducing waste should pay off financially. The average person in Wassenaar produces more waste per person than the average across the country. No wonder Avalex seems relatively expensive. Paying according to use is logical and fair. For example, by making a small waste bin cheaper than a large waste bin in the annual levies. Or by scanning the already available barcodes on our waste bins during the emptying cycle. Small changes can yield major climate gains. And make our waste processing cheaper. Customer service should not be thrown out of the window. That is why it makes sense to pick up green bins every week in the summer and autumn.

- “Zero waste” shopping is becoming normal. Wassenaar shopkeepers participate on a large scale in accepting reusable packaging materials and the municipality supports this, as a member municipality of the 17 sustainable development goals. Handing over your own bread bag at the bakery is becoming normal.

## 2. SOCIAL INCLUSION

### **Our second core value: we are socially inclusive and we support where required**

Wassenaar is an amazing village to live in. That is something to be proud of and to keep. One of the most important tasks of the municipality is to ensure that all residents and local entrepreneurs feel free and safe. And that associations and schools feel supported. Living together also means that everyone in our village looks out for each other. So that everyone can live a decent life, do business, play sports, and learn. Even when life gets tough. It is important that the municipality identifies and intervenes in a timely manner: residents, local entrepreneurs, associations and schools deserve a specific focus on sustainable solutions from the moment this is necessary and for as long as necessary.

### **In recent years, great things have been achieved within our core value social inclusion.**

The municipality pays extra attention to road safety around schools. This has become a core part in our traffic plan. Wassenaar participates in the program 'everyone against loneliness', aimed at lonely elderly people and provides better support for family carers. A “poverty director” has been appointed at SMOW, and a social counselor at Kwadraad. Wassenaar actively participates in the program 'early poverty detection', in which debt problems are identified as quickly as possible, in order to prevent worse.

### **There are far greater challenges ahead of us within our core value social inclusion.**

Wassenaar has an aging demographic, while our WMO budget is limited and our healthcare facilities are under pressure, for example due to the impending closure of the Bronovo hospital. Children and adults are becoming less sporty while a healthy lifestyle can help to grow old in a healthy way. Our youth experiences a lack of sports, culture, and recreational activities. Young families cannot find a suitable home due to limited availability of new builds and because the liquidity on the housing market is declining. There is a growing lack of understanding for each other's perspectives and interests. And the (psycho) social and economic consequences of the corona period continue.

### **Based on our core value social inclusion, we will be committed to:**

#### **Health:**

- There will be more accessible exercise options, such as public sports equipment and jogging routes and challenging and inclusive playgrounds for all children.
- Youth sport remains subsidized. Schools and sports associations are encouraged to open their schoolyards and sports fields for general use outside their standard opening hours.

- The options for preserving Bronovo hospital are being investigated in consultation with the municipality of The Hague. A rapid opening of the health center in the former St. Joseph Church is proactively supported.
- The municipality plays an important role in the care of our elderly, which must be properly arranged. For example, by arranging affordable help for them as soon as it is needed. And good support for family carers.
- Cycling is encouraged more actively because it is healthy and helps us achieve cleaner air for our village. Involved citizens and social organizations such as the cyclists' union and sports associations help with bicycle promotion. Following the example of The Hague, efforts can also be made to find and appoint a 'bicycle mayor' for Wassenaar.
- Volunteers give cycling lessons to children and adults who would otherwise not learn to cycle, for example status holders.
- The municipality supports a healthy and animal-friendly diet by purchasing local vegetarian food at municipal meetings.

### **Lively neighborhoods:**

- In residential construction planning, the focus is on a mixed supply of housing, not on one category of homes. A lack of good transition opportunities is one of the causes of housing shortage. For example, from social rent to affordable private sector rent. And from large family homes to comfortable senior housing, with a view of and (partial) use of gardens.
- In the plans for the municipal development locations, the possibility of a physical social building is given high priority. A building, in which inclusion and ease of access to help is central. Where experiences can be shared, loneliness is reduced and self-reliance is increased.
- All entrepreneurs, not just start-ups, can count on support. The municipality provides advice and support where necessary, for example through temporary tax relief and/or subsidies. The two main objectives are: financially healthy companies and a versatile and attractive offering of products and services in our village.
- our week market will be maintained and the levies for stall owners are stable and predictable. Where necessary, the municipality supports the market organizer in attracting diverse and attractive market stalls.
- Our theater is well organized, future-proof and deserves the annual subsidy. Cultural activities in our village cost municipal money and provide social cohesion.
- Overdue maintenance work on municipal buildings, such as the Warenaar, cannot happen again.
- More attention will be paid to the perspective of our youth, and there will be better recreational opportunities for teenagers.

### **Safety:**

- Footpaths and cycle paths are better maintained. Crosswalks will become more wheelchair-friendly and the surroundings of our schools will become more traffic-safe.

- The maximum speed throughout our entire village will be 30 km per hour. This discourages unnecessary car movements within our village and it reduces traffic throughout, not only in parts of our village. Everywhere 30 is fairer, it is cheaper to implement and will be less confusing for drivers than different speed limits within such a small village.
- Wassenaar retains its own police station. There will be more uniformed people on the street rather than more cameras. Image analysis and investigation takes a lot of police time, which is more effective on the street. Good police officers and other uniformed officers achieve more social safety and cohesion than cameras. Especially after two years of the corona pandemic.

## COOPERATIVE PARTNERSHIP

### **Our third core value: we are cooperative, also when this is difficult**

We must adapt to climate change and we must master corona together. That requires flexibility: being open to perspectives other than our own. This may mean that we have to adjust our plans. At the same time, it requires us not to give up too quickly and to keep an eye on the long term. Either way, it means we have to work together constructively. Within our council, with residents, entrepreneurs, associations, and schools. Only a well-run council, and skilled and committed civil servants can contribute sufficiently to a green, social and independent future for Wassenaar.

### **In recent years, great things have been realized within our core value cooperative partnership.**

In complex matters, such as construction work and mobility planning, goals and objectives have been improved through council interventions and were brought more into line with our public interests and the responsibility of the municipality in this regard. The municipal budget and other important plans have been made more widely available and more transparent.

### **There are far greater challenges ahead of us within our core value cooperative partnership.**

Our municipal council is fragmented, and partly due to this it sometimes has difficulty in separating the sense from the nonsense. Efficient and effective collaboration within our municipal council will be crucial in the coming years. Because our biggest challenges, such as further strengthening our civil service, overcoming the corona period, as well as securing our future energy supply, transcend political colors. The challenges we all face are too important and urgent to get sidetracked. Doom thinking about the possible loss of our municipal independence due to an insufficiently balanced budget is such a sidetrack. The budget of the municipality of Wassenaar is in order. Wassenaar is in more danger of losing its independence due to a poorly functioning municipal council than due to its financial position.

**Based on our core value of cooperative partnership, we will be committed to:**

### **A strong local government**

- A strong local government forms a cooperative partnership. Debating is constructive, it serves a purpose, and is not done to create theatre.
- A strong local government includes full-time ordinaries, who have sufficient time to keep up to date on all matters and to be proactively involved with residents, entrepreneurs, associations and schools.
- Our local politicians also suffer from an aging demography. That is why we are committed to get young people involved. Political parties play an important role in this. For example, we have a 16-year-old on our electoral list. The office of the mayor can also play an important role. For example, by teaching occasionally at local schools, or by offering 'mini internships' within local government. Installing 'youth ambassadors' is also a viable option, following the example of The Hague.
- The municipality involves residents and local entrepreneurs at an earlier stage. Their perspectives can then contribute to better decision-making. "Participation" is not a box to be ticked: it adds value. The municipality will clearly indicate in advance how and when the municipality will decide on a matter. Only then is it sufficiently clear what role citizens can play in decision-making. This way, citizens do not waste their time and their input can become an essential part of decision making in complex situations.

### **A customer-friendly civil service**

- Reduction of bureaucracy. Local entrepreneurs who have a lot of dealings with the municipality obtain a central point of entrance. So that they can be helped quicker and more effectively. This also applies to residents, for example by making the walk-in consultation hours widely available again.
- Consistent and fair enforcement of rules. At least, those rules that make sense. Nonsensical rules should be abolished rather than tolerated. After all, the municipality must provide legal certainty and protect its citizens. Effective and consistent enforcement is an integral part of this.

### **Healthy budget**

- The municipality budget is healthy and will remain healthy. Nobody wants unnecessarily high local taxes, however facilities that the municipality provides cost money. Our financial planning must be long-term oriented and safeguard our two public interests: nature protection and social inclusion. All Wassenaarders should feel free and safe, now and in the future.
- Given inflation, our local taxes can only be lowered if our expenditures, meaning our local service level for residents and entrepreneurs, decrease. Given our major tasks, including youth

care, care for the elderly, strengthening our civil service, as well as overcoming the corona period, this is not realistic. Avoiding an increase higher than inflation rates through good governance and management is more realistic. One-off windfalls are best spent on amenities, to help reduce costs in the long run.

- Tourism supports our local economy and it puts a strain on our nature. Tourist tax remains an important source of income for the municipality and it balances the advantages and disadvantages of tourism.
- The municipality's budget and plans will become even more transparent. This transparency includes our performance on nature protection and social inclusion. Following the example of Leiden and Oegstgeest, Wassenaar could implement “the donut” of Oxford economist Kate Raworth. All matters that “fall” beyond the outer rim of the donut show where nature protection is at risk and where a municipality exceeds its share of the earth’s capacity. All matters that “fall through” the inner rim of the donut, on the other hand, show where social inclusion is at risk and indicate where a municipality must intervene more effectively to ensure that all residents, entrepreneurs, associations and schools feel safe and free.

In order to secure a healthy and green future for Wassenaar, we also need your individual contribution. Cycle, help a neighbor to cycle more often, talk to others about sustainability, support voluntary activities in your neighborhood. Look after each other. Support each other and our entrepreneurs and buy locally.

**GroenLinks Wassenaar. Together we are strong. Are you in**



# TEAM VOOR VERANDERING

1. Sonja Hibbert
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