

Meeting with the residents of the pilot housing estate in Oborishte District

Minutes

Today, 11 May 2009, in the premises of the Community Center 'Aleko Konstantinov' the first meeting with the residents from the pilot housing estate of Oborishte District took place. The event was organized within the framework of the Urban Regeneration Project developed jointly by the Bulgarian Housing Association, Woonbron Housing Corporation, CAC and Oborishte District Municipality.

The meeting took place under the following working agenda:

1. Presentation of results from the survey of the residents' needs and vision for urban regeneration in the pilot zone;
2. Presentation on the urban regeneration practices, organization of stakeholder participation and negotiating with authorities in the Netherlands – content and capacity training for the members of the residents' platform;
3. Presentation of municipal vision for urban regeneration activities in the pilot area;
4. Discussion on the survey of the residents' needs, the municipal plans for urban regeneration of the pilot area and agreement on the main pillars of an urban regeneration program;

After an extensive discussion the participants in the meeting came to the following main conclusions:

The identity of the pilot estate should be preserved and it is based on the following distinctive features of the living environment:

- Preserving the children playground in the North-East part of the housing estates;
- Preserving the trees between the seven condominium buildings situated on Kalimantzi, Zemen, Popova shapka streets and Sitnyakovo Blvd.;
- Preserving of existing green areas that provide the calmness, tranquility and safety of this urban territory;
- Preserving the places for recreation that provide the basis for the social communication and building up the relations among neighbors;
- Preserving the detached inner city public spaces as "nests" for communication, tranquility and safety;
- Preserving all public green areas that refresh the air especially having in mind the noise and the pollution from the traffic on the two main arteries – Sitnyakovo Blvd. and Cherkovna Str.;

The renovation and the regeneration of the inner spaces between the condominium housing buildings in the pilot estate should include the following main changes of the living environment:

- Leveling of the inner spaces between the condominium buildings – geodesic surveying, vertical planning and improvement of inner spaces between the condominium buildings;
- Vertical planning of adjacent areas and repair of the pavement for draining the condominium buildings and fortification of public green spaces;
- New pavement of the inner pedestrian paths;

- Replacement of the old lighting pillars;
- Building up a new sport amenity for basketball and/ or volleyball with soft pavement in the North-East part of the housing estate;
- Renovation of the existing ground in the central part of the housing estate in order to transform it in a meeting and recreation point for elderly;
- Renovation of existing amphitheatre ground with incorporation of playing facilities for the children from the estate;
- Provision of covered arbor for gathering of residents instead of the old boat;
- Improvement of the garbage collection system – provision of more bins for separate waste collection and of bigger containers that could not be removed by the workers from the construction site in near proximity;
- Optimization of the parking places;

The representatives of the residents from the pilot housing estate between Popova Shapka Street, Sitnyakovo Blvd and Cherkovna Street took a unanimous decision to establish a Residents' Platform as an active counterpart of the district municipality in the process of planning the urban regeneration and renovation of the inner spaces between the condominium buildings in their neighborhood.

Residents' Platform. Members:

1. Nina Nikolaeva Georgieva (address: 9A, Kalimantzi Street)
2. Stefan Zlatanov Zlatanov (address: 2A, Zemen Street)
3. Antonia Borislavova Paraskova (address: 89, Cherkovna Street)
4. Petya Tihomirova Kitova (address: 7, Kalimantzi Street)
5. Yana Branimirova Dobрева (address: 50, Sitnyakovo Blvd.)
6. Liliya Simeonova Dimitrova (address: 2A, Zemen Street)
7. Ivan Georgiev Panchev (address: 50, Sitnyakovo Blvd.)
8. Valeriya Milcheva Bacheva (address: 50A, Sitnyakovo Blvd.)
9. Maria Petkova Bpgdanova (address: 7, Kalimantzi Street)