

LSAP Section Municipality Frisingen

6 years of solid opposition

6 years for the citizens

#TIME FOR a politics FOR the people, WITH the people!

Dear citizens

The LSAP has been represented by two councilors (Conseillers) in opposition in the Municipal Council for almost 6 years. The "Är Équipe-DP" coalition, with its very conservative mayor at the head, always tries to play down the importance of political parties in its speeches and actions. The LSAP is by no means socially politically neutral and has countered this with many oral questions and written motions. During these 6 years we voted both for and against the projects of the majority, depending on the facts and the discussion.

In doing so, we always counted on the good cooperation in the board of the LSAP Fréiseng section. Without the tireless support of every single member, the work in the local council would not have been possible. In the many board meetings, not only were the most diverse motions for the municipal council created, but urgent questions to the council of aldermen were also worked out. In addition, publications were compiled and distributed to all residents of the municipality.

With our work we also want to contribute to the interest of the citizens in the political life of the municipality. We also want to show the possibilities of participation for a good coexistence in the community.

The following pages describe the political activities of the LSAP in the last 6 years in the municipal council. Our position on the individual projects is presented. Misguided developments in the municipality are made clear.

Your councilors Yves GAFFINET and Guy BINGEN,

together with the LSAP board (Comité) of the Gemeng Fréiseng section.

INFO BOX

Frisingen has been a proportional representation municipality with a list election system since 2011.

Current composition of the municipal council, 11 seats:

Opposition, 5 seats:

LSAP 2 councilors

CSV 3 councilors

The majority, 6 seats:

Är Équipe the Mayor, 1 Alderman, 3 Councilors.

DP 1 lay assessor

The council of lay assessors is composed of the mayor and the 2 lay assessors.

As an opposition party, the LSAP has little influence on what happens in the municipality. The agenda is set by the Board of Aldermen and individual projects are decided by the votes of their majority.

Through questions and motions (motions), the opposition can influence what happens in the municipal council and thus in the municipality, but only with the will of Är Équipe-DP.

Especially in the case of large projects that are only brought to the municipal council for voting at the very end of the planning phase, the opposition has little or no influence.

On many points we have to look back on 6 lost years:

Participation of citizens

The commissions are currently the only possible form of participation for citizens. Unfortunately, they are not taken seriously: their opinion is either not asked or well-intentioned proposals are only implemented half-heartedly or not at all.

Other forms of citizen participation have not even been considered by the Är Équipe-DP council during the last 6 years.

The mayor and his two aldermen prefer to decide everything on their own without consulting the others.

Communication

Since April 2022, there has been no report on the municipal council meetings, hence no info in French. This means that non-Luxembourgish-speaking citizens no longer receive any information. The video is only in Luxembourgish.

The information newspaper "Gemeindebuet" is published irregularly or not at all. The reports are outdated and the "Buet" is generally far too extensive.

The citizens find a proliferation of flyers from the municipality in their letterboxes, instead of receiving a well-planned, clear calendar of activities every few months. This reflects the lack of planning and concept-of the Är Équipe-DP municipality leadership.

The municipality app is also not used in a meaningful way for the citizens. There is no communication with parts of the population in case of road works or problems with the infrastructure (water, electricity) (e.g. via SMS2Citizen or via the municipality app).

Communication and coordination with the associations from the municipality also leaves a lot to be desired. No efforts have been made by the Board of Aldermen to improve this.

Social housing

As is the case throughout the country, affordable housing is in short supply in Frisingen. At present, the municipality owns only one flat that it has been rented for many years.

In spite of the absolute imbalance in the housing market, the Équipe-DP coalition gave the young citizens the cold shoulder. It swept a project that was already at an advanced stage of planning and ready to go off the table without much ado, much to the regret of the LSAP.

The project of only 3 flats, presented shortly before the 2023 elections, was bundled with other projects which the LSAP could not approve. For this reason, the LSAP unfortunately had to abstain on the social housing as well.

Extension of the day care centre (Crèche)

A big problem is the lack of childcare places for babies and toddlers in the community. Although a new day care center for the community was in discussion for years, it took until shortly before the 2023 elections before the concrete project was presented by Är Équipe- DP to the community council.

A crèche with almost 70 children is far too large to guarantee optimal care. The implementation of this project will take years and cannot be considered as a pragmatic solution. Furthermore, it is planned that the crèche will not be run by the municipality itself, but will go to a PRIVATE service provider via a tender. The municipality will then lose its direct influence on the staff, the organizational process and the communication with the parents.

The LSAP could not accept this project in its present form. Day care centers should be smaller in size. The LSAP abstained from the vote.

The school

The plans for a new school had to wait 6 years. A commission accompanying the concept was strictly rejected by the Majority. Construction cannot begin until the end of 2023. Lost years. Despite the enormous delays, the LSAP has supported this important project for our children. Unfortunately, the children will have to wait until 2027 for their new school.

Maison Relais

Temporary, expensive and unsubsidized containers (modular construction) had to be built. The places available for the children are still not sufficient. Only the completion of the new school building in {2027} will ease this situation.

The problem of waiting lists has not been solved. The communication of those responsible for the Maison Relais with the parents has been criticized several times and the Board of Aldermen has still not succeeded in enforcing comprehensible communication in all cases.

Maison Relais for the Précoce

As early as 2019, the LSAP demanded the introduction of the Maison Relais services for the Précoce in Aspelt. Only after several requests by the LSAP in the municipal council and under pressure from the parents' association, this service will be introduced in the future. To the LSAP's regret, however, this will not happen before January 2024, and thus no solution will be in place for the back-to-school 2023/24 either.

The solution adopted by Är Équipe-DP only shortly before the 2023 elections is a container in the car park next to the Centre Culturel Al Schoul in Aspelt, which will no longer be of any use once the school in Frisingen is completed.

Other solutions, such as rebuilding or expanding existing structures or constructing a building that can still be used after the move to the new school, were not considered by Är Équipe-DP.

The LSAP abstained from this vote. A Maison Relais for the Précoce must come, but such a poor and unsustainable solution, must not be supported.

Holiday activities

Already in 2018, the LSAP asked how and when holiday activities could be organized for primary school children. This question had to be repeated several times until the first activities were finally organized in 2022.

In 2021, however, the holiday activities could not take place again because of the Corona pandemic. Therefore, the LSAP requested that all school children receive vouchers for various

activities. This request was rejected by Är Équipe-DP because of alleged administrative difficulties. However, other municipalities in the country have issued exactly such vouchers to children.

Youth activities and youth centre

The lack of provision for youths prompted LSAP 2019 to submit an application to organize much-needed youth activities. The motion was passed and a proper youth house was set to be put in place. To the LSAP's regret, the Council of Aldermen Är Équipe-DP did not manage to bring this project to a good end. Even in 2023 there is neither a youth center nor youth activities or other interesting offers for the young people.

Public playgrounds and skate track.

In 2019, a request from LSAP was rejected to refurbish the public playgrounds. To date, none of these playgrounds have been repaired and improved with new ideas. Some of the playgrounds are in a desolate state. The playground at the school in Frisingen was supported by the LSAP and is certainly a great addition to the school. However, this playground is logically not open to the public during school hours.

A motion to keep the skate track was rejected. Only after protests from the LSAP, the skate track was rebuilt in Aspelt in a small version.

New community center

The project to move the municipal administration to the castle in Aspelt was immediately stopped by the new majority Är Équipe-DP, although 500.000 € had already been invested.

The new project in Frisingen is still not ready for occupation at the beginning of 2023. Waiting for this oversized project has delayed other projects as well.

The LSAP voted against a new community center in this location.

Aspelt castle and outbuildings

The castle in Aspelt has cost many millions of euros and tied up a lot of manpower in the administration for years. To this day, there are hardly any regular cultural activities for the inhabitants. The LSAP voted against this project for this reason.

Work on the castle itself has been completed since 2019. Since then, the Council of Aldermen Är Équipe-DP has not managed to have an interesting and varied cultural program take place here. Often, cultural events do not even take place in the castle, but in other halls in the municipality.

A few small concerts and exhibitions cannot hide the cultural emptiness of this place.

For the statue of "Péiter vun Uespelt" 150.000 € was commissioned. This old-fashioned idea of placing statues of long-gone people in the middle of a village square no longer fits into our modern times. Events are no longer possible there.

The LSAP voted against this statue.

A proposal by the LSAP to use the cultural year Esch2022 to start the cultural program in the newly renovated castle was simply ignored by the majority.

Church in Aspelt

Even though the church is owned by the municipality, the church fund decides which activities can take place in this building. LSAP cannot accept that the municipality has to provide the money but does not have a say.

LSAP abstained from voting on the renovation of the church in Aspelt.

Safety along national roads

Through a motion in the Municipal Council, LSAP wanted to see more zebra crossings along national roads. The motion was passed, but to date only one of the proposed new zebra crossings has been voted on in the Municipal Council and has not yet been completed by the

Board of Aldermen. These zebra crossings are important for the safety of all citizens. Delays are neither acceptable nor understandable.

The posts on the pavement along Luxemburgerstrasse in Frisingen have not been replaced for inexplicable reasons on the instructions of the Council of Aldermen Är Équipe-DP. The posts are to prevent cars, buses and trucks from driving too close to the pavement. When asked by LSAP, other measures were promised, but to date they have not been implemented. The current majority Är Équipe-DP criticizes the posts but leaves them in place and does not replace the missing ones. Not to be understood!

The idea of training and deploying pilots for pupils together with a community worker was simply rejected by the Är Équipe-DP Board of Aldermen.

The traffic calming in the residential area of "Kierfechtstrooss" was unceremoniously abolished by Är Équipe-DP and replaced by a 30 km zone, which is hardly taken into account.

In 2018, the "Concept de Mobilité globale" was adopted by the municipal council at a cost of 100.000 €. Until today, concrete measures to make traffic safer are still missing: no bicycle lanes, no new zebra crossings, still unauthorized traffic on the country lanes, the existing zebra crossings still not all illuminated. Only a few small speed bumps (gendarme couché) have been installed in the streets.

Nature and environment

Through the LSAP motion called "Fridays for future", ideas should be collected in all advisory commissions on how the municipality can become more sustainable and climate and environment friendly. There was then to be a report on this. To the regret of the LSAP, this motion was rejected.

Ideas and important questions were ignored by the Är Équipe Mayor, for example on topics and ideas such as "Green Event", cleaning along the streams, moving the Chargy station at the municipality (because of the construction site), dead trees (because of the dry summer) or saving energy (energy crisis because of the Ukraine war). No opinion on noise or water quality was prepared by the Är Équipe-DP Board of Aldermen.

Subsidies for the associations

Due to the Corona pandemic, the income of the associations plummeted. The LSAP proposed an extraordinary subsidy to all associations.

To the regret of the LSAP, the motion was not accepted by the municipal council.

The new rules for the subsidies of the associations were supported by the LSAP.

Chalet "am Seiterter" in Aspelt

A regulation for the use of the chalet in the Seiterter forest was annulled by the current council of aldermen Är Équipe-DP. Since then, this place can neither be used by residents nor by associations. In this context, the LSAP has demanded alternatives, e.g. picnic benches with a table at various locations and hiking trails, but this has not been implemented so far.

Water tower in Hellingen

Thanks to the tireless efforts of the residents of Hellingen, the water tower in Hellingen will now be preserved and even registered as a national monument. The LSAP was the only opposition party to vote for the renovation of the tower (2020), but the LSAP has to note that even in 2023 the renovation has not been started.

Conclusion

Since 2017, the new majority Är Équipe-DP has simply cancelled several projects of the previous majority that were ready to go ahead. However, a lot of money had already been invested in these projects: Community administration in Aspelt Castle, social housing in Aspelt, community gardens.

It is incomprehensible that the Är Équipe-DP majority does not address the concerns of socio-economically weaker citizens. It is also regrettable that supposedly socially committed councilors are uncritically supporting such a policy.

Thanks to the efforts of LSAP Minister Kersch, the reform of municipal financing came about in 2017. This brought the municipal leadership around 22 million euros more money over the last 6 years. Nevertheless, at the end of 2022, many projects are still not finished or have not yet been tackled. Especially with respect to the construction of the school and the Maison Relais, wrong priorities were set which delayed the project.

Time and money were invested in large infrastructure projects. Even though some projects are important, priorities have too often been set wrongly. The Council of Aldermen Är Équipe- DP planned or built many ostentatious and expensive buildings (community hall, school, castle, care structure/social housing Aspelt or the scout house). After lengthy discussions in the municipal council, in which the very high costs were repeatedly pointed out, the LSAP supported some of these projects.

However, the LSAP remains of the opinion that smaller and cheaper projects would often have made more sense here. Small projects could have been implemented more quickly and the money saved could have been used for social projects. It becomes obvious that economic action has absolutely no priority for the Är Équipe-DP Council of Aldermen.

Besides the big building projects, the service to the citizens has been forgotten too often. There is a lack of proper communication with the citizens. A well thought-out cultural offer as well as offers for the youth are non-existent. The public space is not very attractive, the playgrounds are still at the level of 2005.

Before the elections, it is supposed to be the time of "inauguration". In only 2 sessions of the municipal council at the beginning of 2023, the majority Är Équipe-DP quickly approved projects for over 60 million euros, instead of finally completing ongoing projects. Where will this money come from in the next few years? Why do ongoing projects keep getting delayed?

The mayor would not or could not give us answers to these questions. The Council of Aldermen Är Équipe-DP is obviously not capable of finding pragmatic, quick and also sustainable solutions.

LSAP motions or proposals adopted by the Council of Aldermen Är Équipe-DP

- LGBTQI+ Motion to protect and uphold the rights of all Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Trans, Queer and Intersex persons
- Introduction of the "Handwierkshëllef" service for older persons
- Ban on fireworks on New Year's Eve (with listing of the municipality in the media), unfortunately only weakly implemented by the Board of Aldermen as "good advice".
- Extension of the "Prime Encouragement" for the "Brevet Animateur"
- The organisation of the holiday activities ("Vakanzaktivitéiten").
- The introduction of the Maison Relais service for the Précoce.
- Prohibition to park vans in the commune during the night (particularly relevant for Hellingen).

LSAP motions and proposals ignored or rejected by the Board of Aldermen.

- Continue to make Chalet Seitert available to residents or offer an alternative,
- Renovation of the playgrounds or complete preservation of the skateboarding area.
- Financial support for associations because of COVID
- Proposal and ideas for more environmental protection and sustainability
- Request for vouchers for school children during holidays
- Preservation of the posts along the Lëtzebuerger-Strooss in Frisingen
- Advisory committee for the new school
- Improving communication in general.

Major projects supported by the LSAP

- Scout house (Scoutshome), school, community studio and recycling place, Hellinger water tower, extension of the swimming pool in Roeser, conversion of the Office Social in Bettemburg, synthetic football pitch, forest cemetery

- Road projects (e.g. Buerbiert in Hellingen, Péiter vun Uespelt-Strooss) and field paths
- Infrastructure projects such as fibre optics, water pipes, pavements, LED street lighting or PAPs (PAP: general development plan).
- The project of the new PAG (PAG: partial development plan).

Large projects that were NOT supported by the LSAP

- The renovation of the castle (lack of concept).
- The extension of the castle with 2 gites, 1 epicerie and a small concert hall (missing concept).
- The statue of Péiter vun Uespelt (outdated concept)
- Container (modular building) for the Maison Relais (abstention -we do not vote for a temporary building)
- Container for Maison Relais Précoce in Aspelt (abstention - we do not vote for a temporary solution)
- The oversized parish hall
- The renovation of the church in Aspelt (abstention because the community has no right of co-determination)
- Day care centre in Aspelt (abstention - much too big, private service provider).

Activities of the LSAP Frisingen Section.

The LSAP is represented in the advisory communal commissions for transport, integration, culture, music and sport, as well as in the Climate Pact, the Logement Pact and the Office Social.

Publications and activities of the LSAP in the last 6 years:

- Our newspaper **Op e Wuert:**

Op e Wuert 2018: Maison Relais communication with parents, Recycling Square in Hellingen, Skate Track in Frisingen, the Castle.

Op e Wuert 2019: Container Maison Relais, Old Rectory in Aspelt, Water tower in Hellingen, Posts in Luxemburgerstrasse in Frisingen, Youth activities, playgrounds, participation of citizens.

Op e Wuert 2020: Maison Relais for Précoce, deletion of the general driving ban in Kierfechtstrooss in Aspelt, partial construction of the skate track, problems with the church square in Aspelt, water tower in Hellingen, personality cult around Peter von Aspelt, support for associations

Op e Wuert 2021/22: Special edition on the topic of participation of the citizens.

- Walks through the three villages - discussions with citizens - summer 2022

- Mushroom walk autumn 2022

- Walks through the three villages - Talks with citizens - March 2023

- Information on municipal voting rights for non-Luxembourg citizens

- Herb walk April 2023

#TOGETHER for Hellingen, Aspelt and Frisingen.

<https://lsap.lu/sektioun/frisange/>

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