A Rural Alliance

Cooperation Esbeek

Ecosoc 1 October 2014
Wiet van Meel
Esbeek: Facts and figures

1200 inhabitants, 600 families

35 social, cultural and professional associations

Primary school, Toddler playroom

135 sme’s (25% agricultural, 25% industry, 20% experience, 20% construction-related, 10% services), 1 Industrial estate

1 pub, no shops, 1 cash dispenser

surrounded by pastures and nature estates “de Utrecht” 2800 ha, “Rovertsche Heide” 500 ha, “Wellenseind” 60 ha
Vibrancy of Esbeek

- General problem of small villages
- Withdrawing local government
- Declining facilities
- Emerging “Do-democracy”
- Closure last pub as a threat
- Cooperative as tool of solving the problem
Aim and strategy

- A vital and futureproof village for all generations a good life, work and living.
- The basis lies in a balanced age distribution.
- The community in charge of livability through partnerships with governmental and other bodies.
- Coöperation Esbeek takes initiatives and ensures local support.
Closing of the church
Public Facilities
Nucleus with a heart
organizational strength
with responsive swinging governments

Social              instruments
Planet-spatial     Profit-economical   People-societal

Fysical            instruments

Sustainability

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Dinsdag 10 juli 2007 ESBEEK
Minister Agri-Culture visits Esbeekse Fertilizer factory
On 6 policy fields institutional support from local to European level

• Fysical Societal: - 42 houses under own governance
  - Acquisition/renovation Schuttershof - elderly Encounter & Residation, Museum Schotel
  - New community school in closed Church

• Social Societal: - Care & Seniorprograms

• Fysical Spatial: - Bridge Coevoirde, Flaestower
  - Reconstruction Centre Village

• Social Spatial: - Hikingtrails & Local History programs


• Social Economical: - exploitation Schuttershof, Activities Museum, 
  - proces Energy Coöperation Esbeek
  - Made in Esbeek
Options for Policy:

- Participation: Consult vs dictate
- Decompartmentalise
- Status “between/bridge-consultants”
- Fund-integration
- What is a Social Entreprise?