

6. August 2025, 8:30 bis 10:00 Uhr Wiet van Meel

2011 Decision close Church Esbeek

Local challenge repurposing the Church

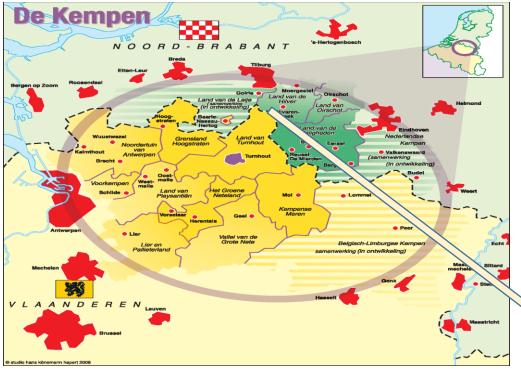
2019 Opening school in church







Hilvarenbeek- Esbeek : Facts and figures



Hilvarenbeek 15.500 inhabitants, 6 parishes, Esbeek 1.200; south-east part of the province of Brabant, near the city of Tilburg, on the Belgian border; Agriculture, tourism, small industry surrounded by pastures and nature estates "de Utrecht" 2800 ha, "Rovertsche Heide" 500 ha, "Wellenseind" 60 ha



Time schedule

- 2011 News: closing church
- 2012 Start proces oriëntation repurposing church Local government does not participate
- 2013 Church closed
- 2016 Decision: School in church; private funding & exploitation
- 2017 Decision : Local government takes over funding&exploitation
- 2018 Buildingproces
- 2019 Opening



Challenges

Feasibility Study

Conclusion: maintain Esbeek's liveability by realising broad school concept in church

Finance

Plan development : subsidies & volunteers 200 Keuro

Acquisition church under acceptable conditions 225 Keuro

Financial viability:; exploitation per year 100 Keuro

Investment partner: first private, then municipality investment 2.900 Keuro

Societal support

Physical: Fit within spatial program, usage costs, rental agreements

Energy reduction

Regulations and school & after school-care funding

Spatial planning, heritage, permits

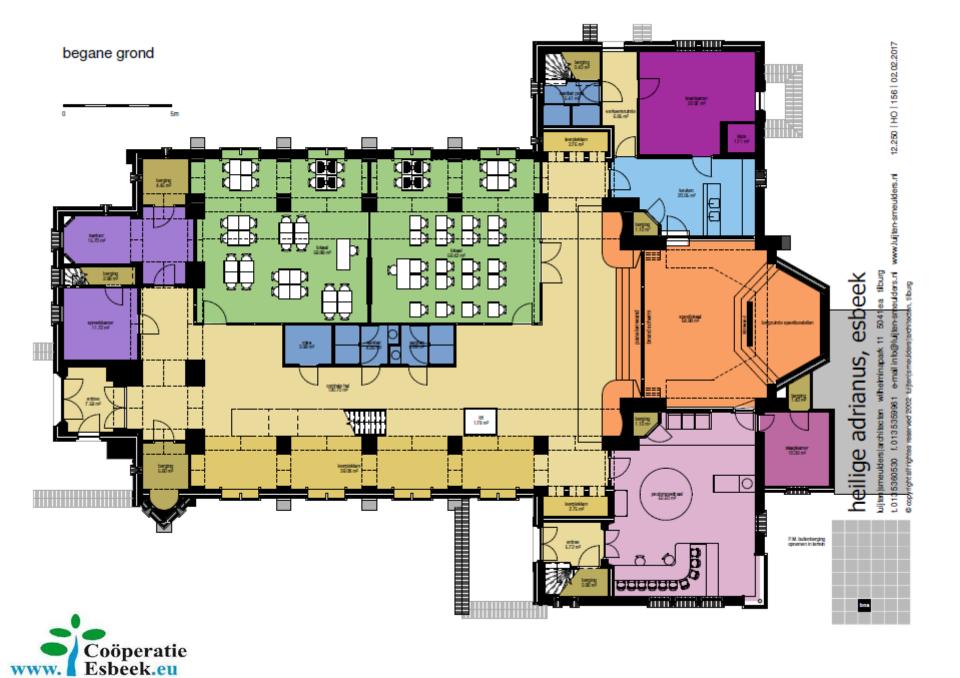
Social: Community support in Esbeek and Hilvarenbeek

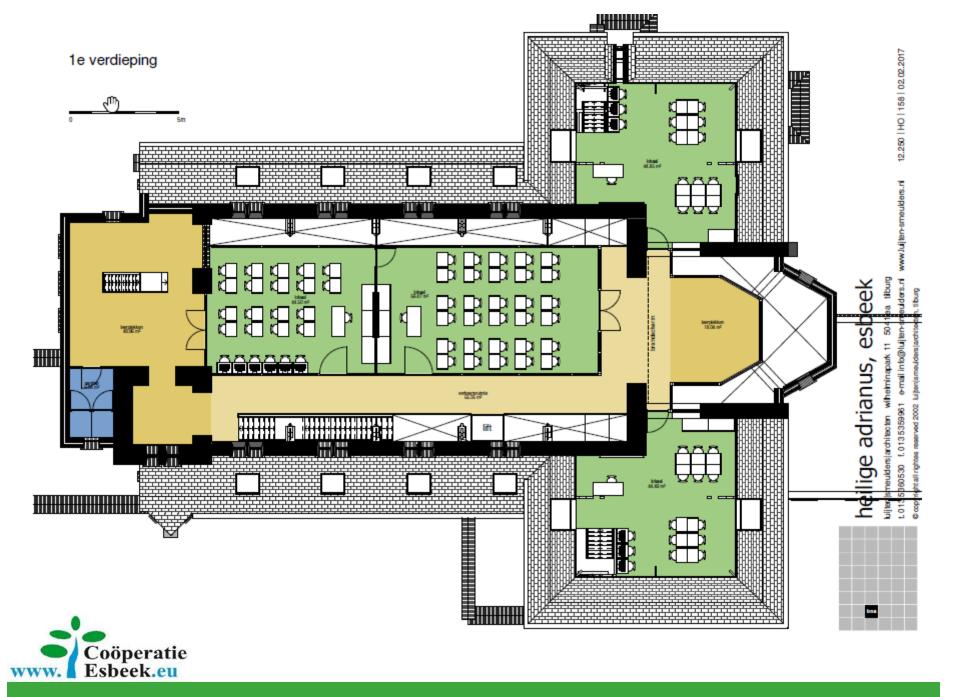
Political: Support from municipality: board, civil service, council











Process Facilitation

- Feasibility study
- Sustainability aspects. Viability.
- Users, fit, acquisition
- Investment, financing, exploitation
- Communication
- Local or external funding and exploitation



Success conditions participation:

- Define your goal
- Keep it small and smart
- Manage expectations
- Be proactive and positive
- Be good and tell it
- Build networks
- Mobilize people and knowledge
- Show and celebrate results



Success attracts attention

Generate & use Publicity

- 8 YouTube videos
- 10 newspaper articles
- 3 TV recordings
- 2 radio programs
- 1 full week of radio coverage

De Esbeekse jeugd weer terug in de kerk



Pride

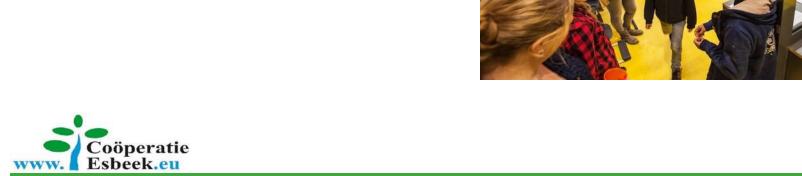
- The visit of the King
- Mentioned in national Christmas speech by His Majesty
- Mentioned in New Year's address King's Commissioner

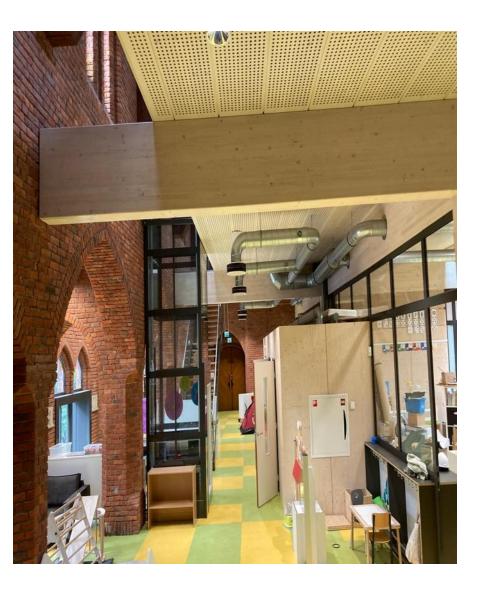


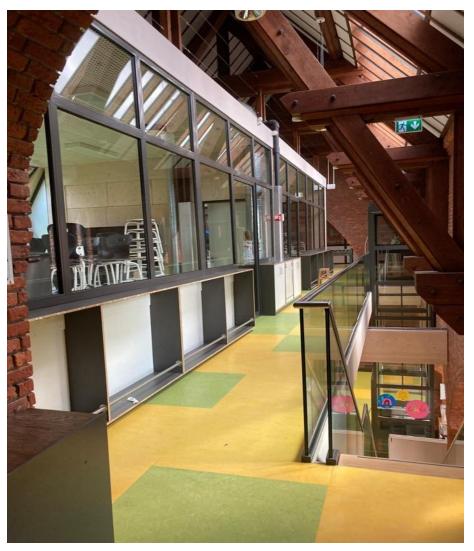














Additional info



Minor Week HBO Students – Avans Lector Day

- Study ambition: "Europe's most sustainable heritage building"
- Event: Intervision Rural Alliances
- Preliminary Study: Integrated Approach



Light, Air and Sound Central

Energy = essential precondition

Search for the right system

Involving expertise





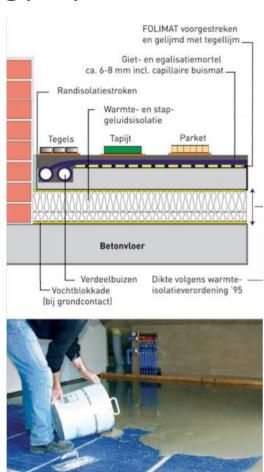


European Subsidy: Innovative Energy System

- Interreg Flanders-Netherlands
- 60kW air-to-water heat pump
- PV panels + solar distribution on Schuttershof
- Revenue sharing Schuttershof
- Underfloor heating: capillary mats
- Solartubes
- Roof insulation + stretch ceilings
- Innovative control systems







Societal Project Development

- Explore subsidy landscape
- Provincial: Cultural heritage, monument, cofinancing
- European: Interreg, energy innovation, POP3
- Other: Nationalfunds.nl, crowdfunding (external or Esbeek members)



Subsidy Management

	Key Partners	Intended Funding for Process	Intended Funding for Physical
Preparation	Cooperative etc.	Subsidy: Leader Plus + Cooperative budget	
Feasibility Study	Users, Parish Board, Cooperative, Municipality, Diocese, External parties	 Provincial Cultural Heritage Subsidy Scheme Municipal contribution Cooperative / own efforts 	
Acquisition	Negotiation Parish Board, Cooperative, Diocese	1) Cooperative 2) Parish	
Energy Performance	Research / Innovation / Implementation Technical Bureau, Architect, Knowledge Institute, Avans??	European (applied):InterregNational?	European: • Interreg
Implementation	Preparation: Architect, consultants	European (applied): • Interreg Energy • National?	
	Restoration part: Contractor(s)/consultants	Province (applied)	Province? Cultural heritage
	Interior build for new function: same	European (applied): • Interreg / craftsmanship • Funds?	
Exploitation	School, preschool, Mikz, Cooperative etc.		Cost bearer: tenants Social investor: Municipality? Corporation? Cooperative? Third party?

