



**Twello is taking
part in
Entente Florale
Europe**

2019



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SUMMARY

The village of Twello is located between the elevated sandy ground of the Veluwe (the second largest nature reserve in the Netherlands) and the flood plains of the river IJssel right in the middle of a green area whose landscape and heritage are extremely valuable. This area is a draw for visitors.

History

The first traces of human habitation on the sand ridges of Twello date back thousands of years. The current village stems from medieval times. Magnificent country homes in the open fields around Twello were built after 1800 by the well-off families from the surrounding cities of Deventer and Zutphen.

Present-day Twello

Twello with a population of about 12,000 is the largest village in the Municipality of Voorst. The surrounding countryside is home to vast farms and estates, predominantly agrarian operations. The health care sector is extensive and some of the former estates have been given a new lease of life and operate as health care institutions. Moreover, the pulling power of the village and the green surroundings draw many tourists and form a vital source of income for the residents. In a nutshell, Twello is a green and active village.

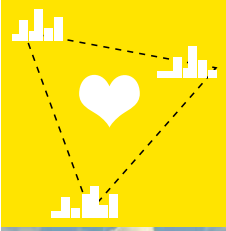


The village that wants to stay a village

The population of Twello is steadily growing. Its central location between Apeldoorn, Deventer and Zutphen is a helping factor in this. The village is easily accessible via two motorways (approximately 1-hour drive from Amsterdam) and it has its own train station on the Amsterdam–Berlin railway line. Twello might sit between the big cities, but remains a village, and wants to keep it that way. Everything in this community is focused on ‘the human dimensions’ and on direct contact with its green outlying areas.

The strength of the inhabitants of Voorst

Our municipal policy is based on trying to encourage and support initiatives from the residents as much as possible. Policy papers of the municipality are increasingly becoming shorter, more concise and also more visual. The following pages will reveal that plans are forged together with volunteers, associations, institutions and are also implemented by these stakeholders in daily practice.



1. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Spatial structure

Twello is hemmed in on all sides. How do we tackle spatial issues, enhance the qualities of them and prevent unwanted developments at the same time? Together with interested residents from the Municipality of Voorst, we have drawn up a Ruimtelijke Toekomstvisie, (Spatial Future Vision). The Spatial Future Vision sets down the elements that together form the identity of the Municipality of Voorst. These are: the quality of our landscape, our special heritage, the village scale of the core values and the powerful social cohesion in our municipality.



Green infrastructure

The guideline for the green infrastructure is the Landschapsonwikkelingsplan Van Veluwe Tot IJssel (LOP) (Landscape Development Plan from the Veluwe to the IJssel). This plan was drawn up in 2009 for the three municipalities of Epe, Heerde and Voorst. All landscape types that can be found here are described in this plan and are valuable landscape elements that must be retained, such as estates, sightlines, old roads and waterways. The LOP formed the basis for regulations in the Bestemmingsplan Buitengebied (Outlying area Zoning plan) and in the kapverordening (logging directive). All regulations to prevent that ponds are filled in, historical grounds are not ploughed too deep and distinctive waterway structures are not lost



due to being filled in and characteristic vegetation is not cut down are set down in this.

Sustainability

Just like the rest of the Netherlands, Voorst also had to switch from natural gas to sustainable energy. Voorst currently has three large solar parks under preparation: a 35, 13 and a 12 hectare park. These shall supply 56% of electricity needs. The municipality has recently set down guidelines for the installation of solar parks, such as improving landscape, financial compensation for residents in the vicinity and walkways around the area.



2. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



Water

Climate change has brought us to the conclusion that we can expect longer periods of drought. That is why rainwater can no longer be allowed to run-off but should be collected. Within the Municipality of Voorst, large waterways and parts of the river Fliert have been given a nature-friendly bank, which in addition to water storage also adds more space for nature to flourish and for recreational activities. Target species for the environment are the crested newt and garlic toad, both of whom have been

spotted in this area. Volunteers are on hand to monitor the progression of the species.

The dyke of the river IJssel has been moved in order to provide more room for the river and to store water during the wet seasons. The new bicycle path on the new dyke offers cyclists or walkers magnificent sightings of waterfowl who have since found their way back to the region.

Together with the business community, a future water treatment project is being set-up in the Waterfabriek in Wilp (Water factory in the village of Wilp). The water factory will supply the Twello stream, that is often dried up, with clean water. The future will see raw materials that are retrieved from the wastewater being refined here.





Rainwater is being caught within the village limits and is re-filtered back into the ground. This is done by collecting the rainwater in separate rainwater sewers. In the estates that do not yet have a rainwater sewer, residents are being encouraged to disconnect rainwater from the sewer through initiatives like the provision of free rain barrels and other materials.

Energy

The municipality has a range of facilities to encourage residents, businesses and associations to embrace sustainability, such as the provision of a low interest loan for sustainability investments. Voorst works closely with the local energy cooperation EnergieRijkVoorst, which is run by volunteers.

The swimming pool of Twello – at 30°C – is the warmest swimming pool in the region. This means high energy consumption and that is why we are busy making this more sustainable. So-called Heatpipes have been installed in a field next to the swimming pool. There are in total 136 solar panels that are used to warm the water of the swimming pool.



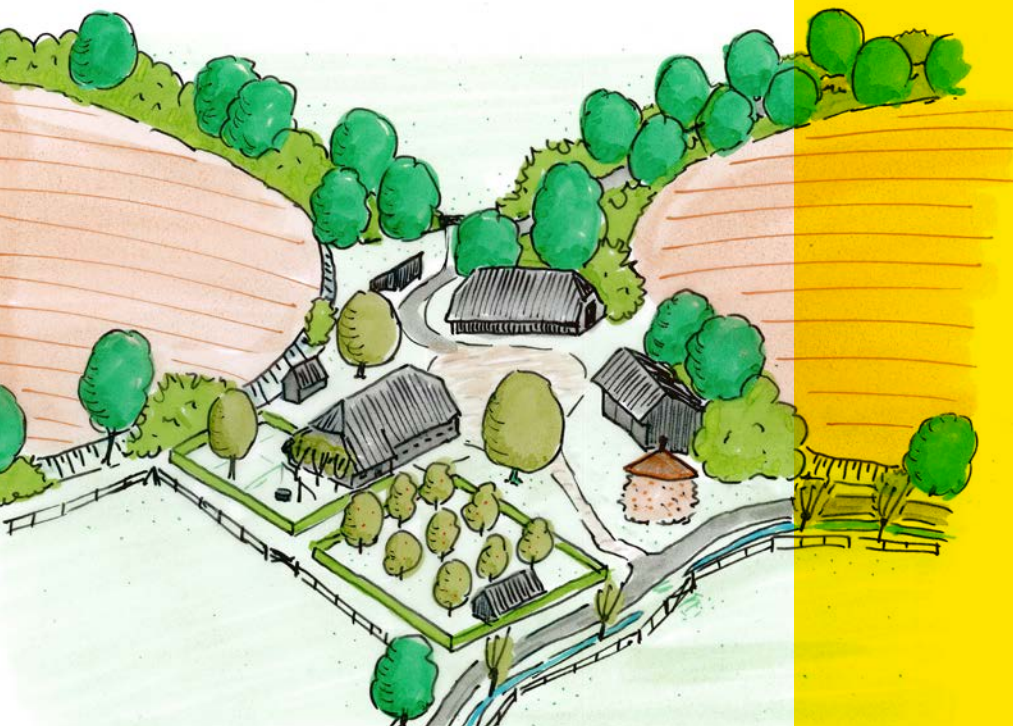
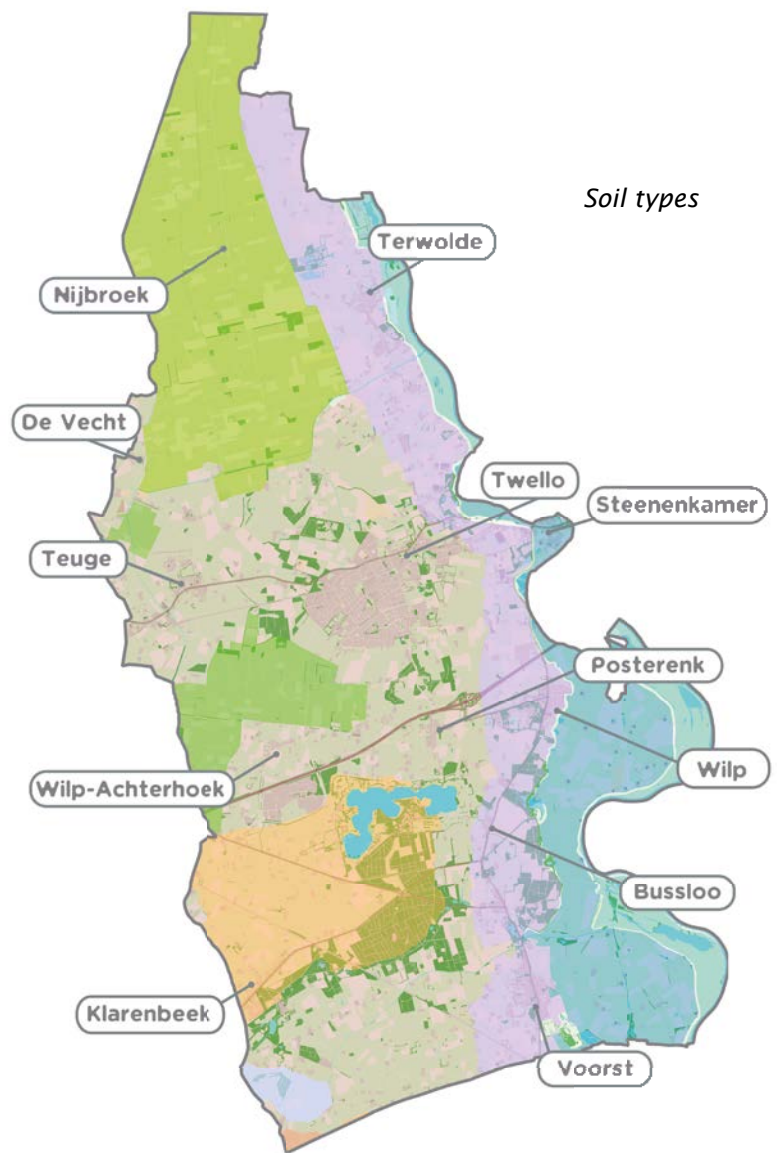
Fauna/flora

The municipality is affiliated with the National Databank for Flora and Fauna data (Nationale Databank Flora- en Faunagegevens (NDFF)) and because of this Voorst is fully up-to-date with all developments in flora and fauna data. Volunteer organisations are utilised to list all species in the field. Information on present species is passed on by the municipality to residents and entrepreneurs with construction plans and is also used for maintenance documents. The volunteers are also used to provide advice to improve, for example, the habitat of church and barn owls.

Noise

The railway runs right through the middle of Twello and caters to anywhere from 80 up to 100 trains a day. In the past, this was cause for much noise pollution. Recent years has seen Twello, upon the initiative of the municipality, provide large portions of the track with innovative so-called rail-vibrating mufflers. Furthermore, 1 metre high sound barriers have been installed and houses have been insulated. The noise pollution is virtually non-existent now. The height of the sound barriers was specifically selected so that the village would not be split in two and to ensure that its liveability and village character would not be lost.

Soil types





3. BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Compacting, the village way

The grounds of the former slaughterhouse and the nursery in the heart of the village have been redeveloped into a housing estate, (Sporzone). We chose for compacting, the village way. The layout retained the village character of the region and the contours of the former municipal nursery are still visible in the structure of the plots. Old shrubs and plants have been incorporated.

Studies into ways to improve the village heart of Twello have been conducted. These are the spatial planning of the heart of the village of Twello (ruimtelijke verkenning van het dorpshart van Twello) and subsequently the Inspiration layer with the Zoning plan for the village centre of Twello. The conclusion drawn from these is that the village centre, despite the abundance of trees, still leaves a built-up impression. This has led to the addition of hedges and green belts to emphasize the village character of its heart.

Empty premises and a new lease of life

The agrarian sector is constantly subject to upscaling. The unused barns could be left to rundown. Sometimes these premises are distinctive old farms which would be a shame if they were lost. One solution could be that empty farmhouses and barns in the outlying areas are given a new lease of life and since 2009, we have initiated the changing premises policy (beleid voor veranderende erven). The purpose of this is to give properties like these a new function which in turn will be a valuable addition to the landscape.



Listed buildings



The heart of Twello has numerous monuments, including the village church that dates from the 15th Century. Natural circumstances played a big role in the building of these monuments. The resident buildings of the estates were often built on an elevation in the land. From the vantage point of their dwellings, people were afforded views of the low lying areas, the agricultural land or parks. That is why greenery and water are often part of the monument in our municipality.

Dyke of Terwolde

The heritage showpiece of Voorst is the dyke at Terwolde – the Terwoldse Bandijk. It is a kilometres long dyke running past numerous listed buildings and farms. They form a harmonious unit with the floodplains of the IJssel, old farmyard vegetation and orchards of tall standard fruit trees. The municipality assists residents in renovating old farmhouses and new functions are conceived for these. Attention is given to the countryside, heritage, economy, industrial activity and tourism. The motto “retaining through redevelopment” can be fully seen and appreciated in our municipality! The same type of plan is now being implemented with residents in the area of Nijbroek (northerly of Twello): project Polder Nijbroek.



4. LANDSCAPE



Geomorphology

Twello lies halfway between the ridge of the Veluwe and the valley of the river IJssel. For a large part, the valley consists of stretches of clay-rich soil. 'Sand drifts' are common across the valley. Twello was founded on two of these sand drifts and the Twello stream runs through these. To the east, the village is bordered by the natural lowland brook the Fliert. While to the west lies the Hondsgriфт, an excavated watercourse for the drainage of the agricultural areas. The older housing estates are relatively high up on the sand drifts. However, the new housing estates are situated in the low lying areas. The ground water level is close to surface level, especially in the new housing estates, plenty of attention has been given to surface water storage and the drainage of rainwater. These areas – the ditches and filtration facilities – are an opportunity for developing greenery. The filtration facilities have a double function, they are also pastureland for sheep, a play area or they are planted with pollard willows, herbs and flowers.

Country estates

In old Dutch, the name Twello means 'between two woods' and that name is still apt today. To the south and the north, woods of the country estates can be found. To keep a country estate well-maintained is a struggle for many owners. The municipality supports them in this. Living, working or recreation on the estates is made possible but the priority

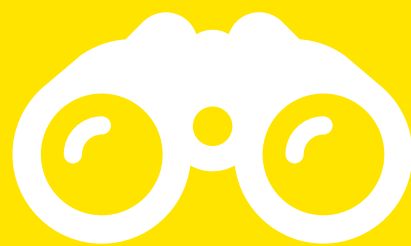
is maintaining the country estate. Examples are the industrial country estate Klarenbeek and the estate De Poll with castle ruins the Nijenbeek. The municipality also supports new estates, with one vital condition, that they have to be open to the public.

Protected areas

The flood plains of the river IJssel are to the east of Twello, a Natura 2000 site. This is home to nature reserves in the river valley plains and on the sandy chalky soil of the river embankments and the river dunes.

The province of Gelderland's Nature network (Gelderse Natuurnetwerk) that connects various nature reserves and country estates to each other is located around Twello. Private individuals, nature organisations and authorities can be awarded a subsidy if they contribute to the Nature network by supporting new nature projects. This ensures that plants and animals get a greater acreage which in turn helps them to thrive. The stream, the Fliert, as ribbon-shaped element, connects many nature reserves.





5. GREEN SPACES



Green public spaces

The village heart of Twello has more than 41 municipal hectares dedicated to green spaces and is home to more than 8,000 trees. For approximately 5,200 homes, this is 79 m² per house. That is more than the national guide number of 75 m², which many Dutch municipalities don't even meet.

Playgrounds

Twello also boasts 34 children's playgrounds to 1720 children, that is one playground per 50 children. The last years have seen the municipality pay a lot of attention to planting more greenery in school playgrounds. Twello now has one public natural playground, called the De Groene Wig. This playground has 500 children playing in it each day, no time for the grass to grow here.

Country estates

The country estates are often in the hands of a foundation, a noble family or of private individuals. Yet large parts of country homes in and around Twello are open to the public. They are a mixture of nature, woods, agricultural land, parks and buildings. The municipality is prioritising making this landscape even more beautiful. In all developments, use is made as much as possible of native plant species. Pools, hedges, orchards, wooden banks, pollard willows, canals and woods suited for birds have been added and are maintained, mostly with the assistance of volunteers. Most of these are done together with the provincial body landscape management of the province of Gelderland (Landschapsbeheer Gelderland), a foundation that supports the landscape management volunteers. The so-called clog trails are also laid and maintained by these volunteers (see also tourism).



Private gardens and yards

Residents are encouraged to enhance the ecological value of their gardens and yards and to use local plants for this. Since 2010, we have been providing the residents with information about this. Plant days are also organised. This has resulted in more than 8,000 bushes like blackthorn, hawthorn, hazelnut tree and guelder rose as well as 56 pollard willows, 42 trees and 220 tall standard fruit trees being planted. Furthermore, people can take a course in landscape maintenance for yard owners (Everything about the landscape (Alles van het landschap)).

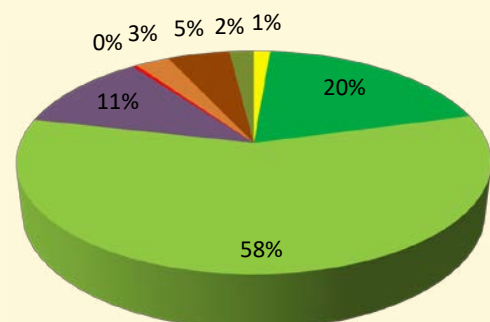
Green in the new housing estates

In the new housing estates, the greenery is truly appreciated. This is especially evident in the Achter 't Holthuis housing estate: all the current, valuable greenery like trees, thickets and bushes have been retained. The paths, laneways and hedges from a former country home are part of the green structure. At the same time, new greenery has been planted with recreational zones. This new greenery connects directly to the Ecological Connection zone around the De Fliert stream. We are also applying this approach in De Schaker, (see Urban planner Masterplan (Stedenbouwkundige Masterplan) for the estate).



green areas of Twello

flower bulbs (5.557m2)	forestry area (82.030m2)
green lawn (242.676m2)	ornamental garden (47.751m2)
perennials (1.504m2)	wild hedgerows (11.568m1)
shaped hedgerows (21.016m2)	trees (8.300st)



6. PLANTING

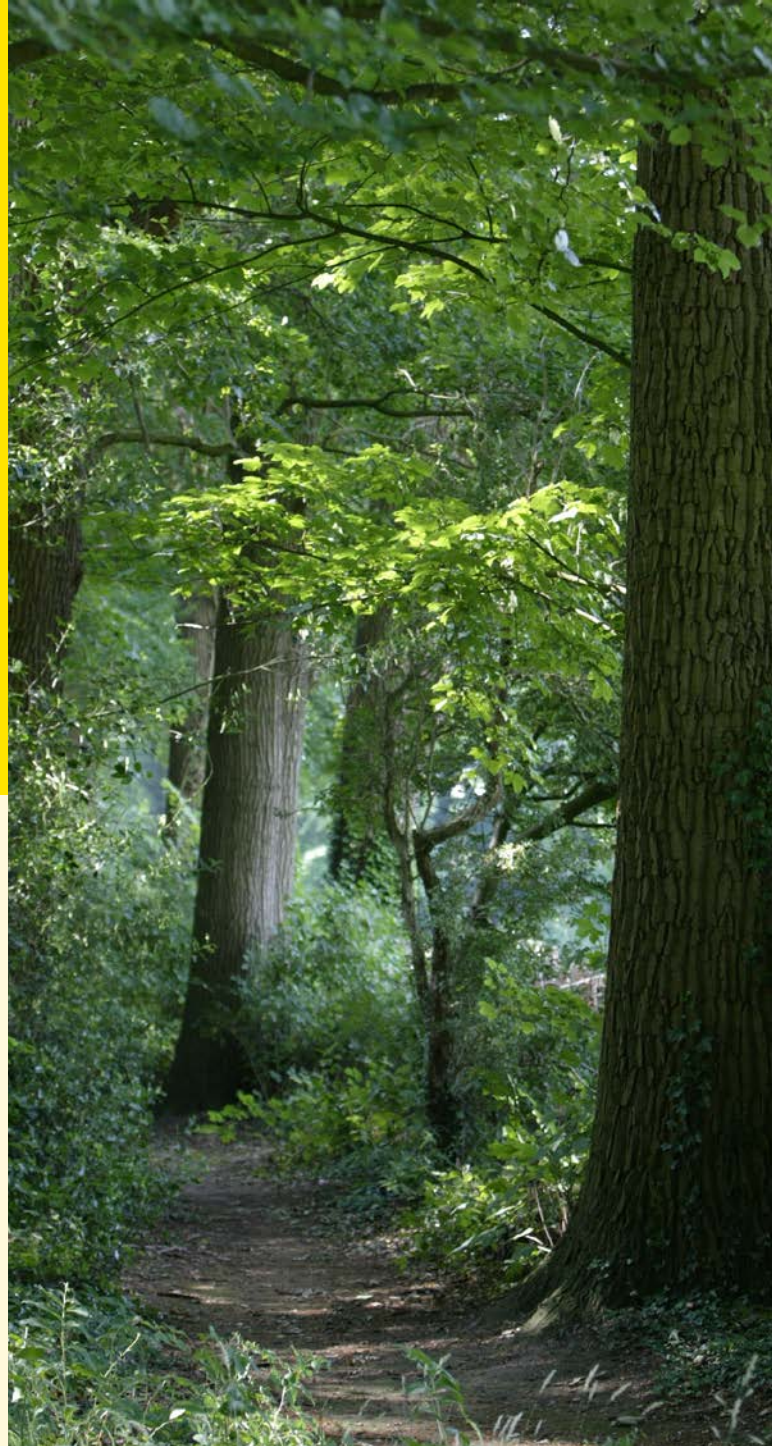
Seasonal planting

The volunteer organisation Beautification of the Village of Twello Foundation (Stichting Dorpsverfraaiing Twello) has been active in Twello for more than fifty years. Over 80 flower boxes are planted three times a year according to the season with suitable plants. The Foundation has also adopted three roundabouts and ensures these are maintained and annuals are planted each year.

Village green

The past years have witnessed much change in how green is managed in the municipality. In 2006, the municipality issued a memo on Optimisation of Green management (Optimalisatie van het Groenbeheer). This was during a time of financial cutbacks. In and around the village centres, there was a lot of old greenery which was past its prime. The greenery also had too much of a city feel for a village environment and was labour intensive when it came to maintenance. That was why the green policy needed to change. In four years, the green structure was renovated as follows:

- A clear distinction was made between public green spaces and private gardens;
- Emphasis was placed on hedges, lawns and tree lanes;
- Less species types were used;
- A prominent role for trees in the village centre.



Towards ecological management

Understanding has dawned these past years that the greenery in our village has a lot more to offer than just esthetic quality. The town council explicitly opted for a more natural and ecological management of the public greenways:

- This was implemented by planting bulb belts on lawns at various locations throughout the village, keeping in mind flowers that attract insects.
- We manage a number of locations in an ecological manner. Ensuring we only use sustainable planting and a more diverse species range.
- The municipality is experimenting with the sowing of flower blends in rough grass.
- The staff of the field service has been reschooled. They very carefully choose the mowing periods and leave the mowed grass, etc., for a few days, ensuring that seeds are left behind and animals can escape.
- The cutting of (hawthorn) hedges is only done when the nesting period of the birds is over.
- Public grounds or green belts are left as they were.
- Where ditches or trenches no longer serve a water convenience function, blackberry and willow thickets are left as they were.

- The contracts concluded with the landscaping companies now include that work is performed according to the Code of Conduct for durable management and maintenance (Gedragscode bestendig beheer en onderhoud) of the City Work Foundation (van Stichting Stadswerk).

With its participation in the green competition Entente Florale, the Municipality of Voorst is on the eve of a new future-oriented green and nature management. The first steps have been taken, the next years will see us continue this together with civilians. Our future plan is to monitor flora in the public greenways and based on the results of this monitoring, adjust our policy accordingly. Volunteers that are already monitoring the flora now will certainly be engaged for this, (see chapter 2).



7. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



Nature education at schools

The active beekeepers' association of Voorst is housed in 'the Octagon'. From this floral location, activities are organised each year. Primary schools in Twello are given information on beekeeping and the importance of bees. The children are led passed beehives and are given insight with the aid of glass demonstration hives. Together with the foundation Landscape management Gelderland (Stichting Landschapsbeheer Gelderland) and the Municipality of Voorst, an evening has been organised where bee hotels were made. Many residents of Twello were actively involved in this.

ZONE.college Twello

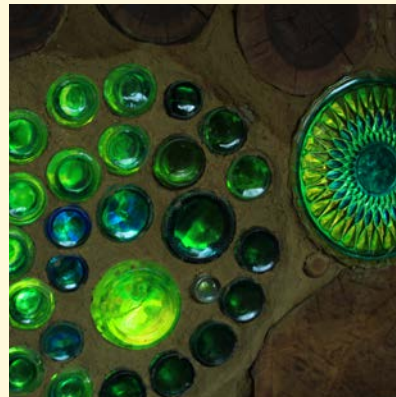
For more than 25 years now, Twello is home to a school dedicated to green vocational education, until recently known as AOC, Agrarian Education Centre (agrarisch onderwijs centrum) but now renamed ZONE.college. It is a school offering innovative green and sustainable education. A team of students has, for example, recently arranged for 518 solar panels to be installed on the roof of the school. The councillors and party representatives of the municipality of Voorst hold guest lectures on sustainability here each year.





Hof van Twello

Hof van Twello is an environmental-educational company of 12 hectares, where vegetables and fruit are cultivated, including forgotten species. It boasts a barefoot trail for children and a large shop that sells regional products. The company employs more than 100 staff with functions like allotment gardener, crowd-funder or volunteer. There are also some employed who are in a minor care plan as well as people serving a minor community service punishment.



8. EFFORT AND INVOLVEMENT



It is the people themselves who are Twello's greatest asset. The mutual connectivity is strong. Plenty of volunteer work, lots of informal care, an abundance of 'neighbourliness'. The mentality of 'helping each other' that came about in the old hamlets and communities can still be felt here. This also influences the relationship between residents and government.

Volunteers in landscape maintenance

There are hundreds of residents active in landscape maintenance. Twello boasts 17 different nature workgroups, such as nature education groups, tall trees brigades, clog-trails workgroups, country homes workgroups, a pool workgroup, a meadow bird group, and a church owl group. Each year, two evenings are organised by the municipality to which all the volunteer landscape managers are invited. In turn, the municipality can make use of all the expertise that the volunteers have gained from their actions. When we want to plant new greenery, we first consult with the beekeeper's association of Voorst (Imkersvereniging Voorst) to find out which species is most beneficial to bees.

Other Volunteers

The Foundation Beautification of the village of Twello (Stichting Dorpsverfraaiing Twello) has been active for more than fifty years. It is a volunteer organisation that maintains public green spaces and tackles litter and vandalism.

The protestant church of Twello assists with the growing of flowers that are essential for insects and butterflies, which are planted along the sides of the road.

EnergieRijk Voorst (ERV) is an energy cooperation in the municipality of Voorst that is run by volunteers. The past years have seen ERV realise several splendid projects, including solar panels on the roofs of the town hall, a parking garage, a sports hall and restaurant. The volunteers of ERV offer free advice as 'energy coach' to the residents on insulation, energy saving and sustainable energy such as heat pumps and solar panels.

The historical Steam Sawmill on the Wilp dyke (Stoomhoutzagerij Wilpsche Dijk), has been restored by volunteers and returned to operation. Twello was known for its clog industry. The name of the annual village fair is the Twello Clog Fair (Klompenfeest) – a reminder of this era. This business sector was almost lost but thanks to these volunteers, Twello has its clog industry back since 2015.



Polder Nijbroek

The residents of the village of Nijbroek have taken the initiative to work together with the municipality on a vision of the future of polder Nijbroek. Residents and municipality are looking at competing space claims like agriculture, nature, heritage and solar power. This ensures that large abstract challenges become concrete and are defined in a manner that matches the local DNA of the residents. The future vision is followed-up in various projects. When new trees were planted in polder Nijbroek, we opted for a tree species that was traditionally used in the clog industry.





9. TOURISM AND LEISURE

Touristic identity

The touristic identity of our municipality can be summarised with the words 'Ijssel Valley'. Specifically, we feel no other river in the Netherlands compares to the Ijssel, with its abundance of nature, floodplains, streams and springs that flow towards the Ijssel and the meadow birds. Furthermore, the Ijssel valley is rich with monuments and country estates. The combination of these with the landscape is unique in this region. Our challenge

is to make the river area more accessible and ensure it is 'experienced' by more and more people. A start has been made with the launch of the following website: [Ijsseldijk & Uiterwaarden: Cultuurhistorische waarden in beeld \(Ijssel dyke & floodplains: heritage values brought to life\)](#).



Bicycle routes and Clog trails

The beautiful surroundings of Twello are perfect for strolling and cycling. A network of clog trails(or walking trails through the farmlands) has formed around Twello. The routes are laid and maintained by local groups of volunteers. A route like the Fliert trail (Fliertpad), along the ancient stream, offers both residents and recreational visitors the opportunity to actively discover the landscape. Clog trails have been drawing many visitors to the village of Twello for years. Twello is also situated on an express bicycle route between Apeldoorn and Deventer, which forms the start of many leisure cycling routes.



Regional partnerships

The Municipality of Voorst has no tourist information office. However, tourist information folders can be found in the town hall, in the local book shop and at touristic entrepreneurs. The municipality works together with [Visit Veluwe](#) and with other municipalities along the IJssel. A strong network in the region is the result of these partnerships and all campaigns and activities are coordinated.



Tourist attractions

Voorst also has tourist attractions. Most important is the recreational area (Leisure land) Bussloo, with more than one million yearly visitors. Another one would be the airfield in the village of Teuge – Teuge Airport – which draws 200,000 visitors each year. These attractions are cherished, because when these visitors are in Voorst, they will witness its beauty. This ensures they will return for another visit.

Accommodations

Twello and its surroundings boasts about 50 different tourist accommodations, shared across 4 hotels, 20 bed & breakfasts, 14 campsites, 11 holiday homes and 1 marina. Yearly, there are approximately 150,000 overnight stays in the municipality of Voorst. The most popular overnight stays in the municipality are on (mini) campsites. These are small scale campsites – on farms – where visitors can spend the night.



10. COMMUNICATION



How do we communicate with the residents?

The best example of our communicating with the residents is the manner in which the new Spatial Future Vision (Ruimtelijke Toekomstvisie) was formed. This started with a think tank of residents. The think tank mentioned the following, amongst others, as challenges for the municipality:

- Involve residents and keep them involved in every process of change
- Believe in the power of the civilians
- Early identification of developments and cater to these
- See changes as opportunities

Eventually, the conclusions of the think tank were enforced by the board and by the town council.

An app for the civilian

We used an app in the Spatial Future Vision process by which people could indicate what they thought of a development: positive (click on the heart) or negative (click on the X). The users were presented with fifty cases to which they could respond. More than 10% of the population used this option to give their opinion. This resulted in 93% of the respondents specifying that more greenery and trees should be present in the village. While 94% felt that as resident, you also have a responsibility for providing a sustainable living environment.

Online village square

Every village centre ('core') of the municipality has its own digital village square: Kijk in de kernen (Check out the Cores). Residents can find information there about everything that is going on in their own core. The objective of Check out the Cores is to make society more safe, fun and pleasant. This is done by making it easier for people to meet each other, get to know each other and do more together.

Entente Florale

Last year, we received plenty of enthusiastic help from our residents when we participated in the Dutch Entente Florale.

In the run up to the Entente Florale Europe, we will inform the residents that we are participating through articles in the local free newspaper and via the internet. We will also inform them about the date of the jury day and will publicise the route. Each resident is invited to put forward ideas to help show off Twello. That could be by ensuring a volunteer organisation is represented or just by making sure that individual gardens and footpaths get that extra bit of attention.

What do you want to share with the population and why are you taking part in the EFE?

The most important reason for taking part in the EFE is that we really want to learn from others what we can do to improve. We have achieved much these past years but there is still plenty of room for improvement and we are fully aware of that. There is especially still a long way to go in our ecological green management and we would appreciate any advice on this matter.

The second reason is simple: to be proud and become even more proud of our beautiful village.



Colophon


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