

# **IN TILBURG EVERYONE BREATHES FREE**

ELECTION PROGRAM 2022 - 2026

**GROENLINKS**  
**TILBURG**

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# INTRODUCTION

“Here is where I breathe freely and feel happy,” is what king Willem II once said about Tilburg. Lately, we have all experienced how important it is to be able to breathe freely, literally and figuratively. Corona made it very clear once again how important it is that we deal with changes together in our city and villages. We took care of each other together. In doing so, the lockdowns emphasised the importance of a green and pleasant living environment. GroenLinks wants to continue to invest in the city and villages to further develop Tilburg as a green, social and open municipality in the coming period. We are working on broad prosperity for all residents of Tilburg, including residents of Berkel-Enschot, Udenhout and Biezenmortel.

## **Tilburg, a green municipality**

We remain committed to a greener and healthier living environment for people and animals. As a result, GroenLinks wants to further implement nature in and around the city, including our urban regional parks; Landscape Park Pauwels, Stadsbos 013 and Moerenburg-Koningshoeven. We aim for clean and safe ways in which we travel and provide space to pedestrians, bicycles and public transport. This is beneficial for the climate, air quality and our health.

We are sticking to the ambition of becoming a climate-neutral municipality by 2035, in which we generate all our energy and heat sustainably, with a fully circular economy so as not to waste any more raw materials. Of course, we do this together with our residents in a fair, affordable and social way.

## **Tilburg, a sociable municipality**

People are at the centre of healthcare and well-being and they retain control as much as possible. Facilities are close by, accessible and of high quality. All residents must be able to participate and have livelihood security and development opportunities. The municipality continues to actively combat poverty. Everyone should be able to live and work comfortably in Tilburg. We will provide more affordable and sustainable homes. There is also plenty of space for sports and exercise in your neighbourhood.

Every child deserves a good start. We, therefore, attach great importance to early childhood education and childcare. Education is the best way to increase your chances in life.

GroenLinks wants the municipality to remain a good and reliable partner of the educational system and to continue to make active connections with care, sports and culture.

## **Tilburg, an open municipality**

Tilburg is a colourful municipality for GroenLinks where acceptance and inclusivity are crucial. We take strong action against discrimination. We continue to work on global awareness because what we do in Tilburg has a global impact. A strong art and culture sector enriches every resident and is indispensable for continuing to profile Tilburg as an innovative cultural city. A place where our residents feel free goes hand in hand with a safe city and villages. We will continue to fight crime vigorously with both prevention and enforcement. We protect the privacy of our residents.

GroenLinks does not want a split in society. Everyone should feel heard, be able to participate and have equal opportunities and equal access to facilities.

# 1. TILBURG, A GREEN MUNICIPALITY

## 1.1 A GREEN LIVING ENVIRONMENT FOR RESIDENTS AND ANIMALS

Nature causes cities and villages to become nice places to live and work. The lockdowns during the corona pandemic made it even clearer how important greenery is in the immediate living environment for relaxation and exercise. Therefore we are proud of our city-regional parks (Landscape park Pauwels, Stadsbos013 and Moerenburg-Koningshoeven) and our green oases, such as Stadspark Oude Dijk, Reeshofpark, Quirijnstokpark, Spoorpark and all those other green places in our municipality. Unfortunately, all that green is far from self-evident. We remain committed to a greener, cleaner and more biodiverse living environment for people and animals. This is important for our health and to make us more resilient to the consequences of climate change, such as drought, torrential showers and heatwaves. Of course, this is not possible without paying attention to animal welfare and more focus on the environment in agriculture, industry, municipal services and (housing) construction.

### **This is what GroenLinks wants:**

#### **Strengthening and connecting nature concerning biodiversity and animal welfare**

- We connect our city-regional parks to the greenery at Tilburger's front door. The greenery must also be attractive and inviting to meet and move. We will give more space to walking, cycling and other responsible forms of recreation that leave the landscape's cultural-historical and natural value intact. We do this together with residents, farmers, neighbouring municipalities, the province and water authorities.
- We will continue to 'defragment' nature by creating ecological connecting zones and new nature. Landgoed Prinsenhoef is located in the middle of the estate zone of Stadsbos013 and is part of the cultural and natural-historical heritage. GroenLinks wants the estate to become a nature destination. We will continue the development of Waterlandscape Pauwels and the Zwaluwenbunders area will become part of it. We are creating a biodiverse landscape as an appealing and cool outdoor area for Tilburg Noord. The area prevents dehydration in the outlying area with excess water from the city.
- Preventing dehydration is an important point throughout Tilburg. We will prevent further expansion of water extraction in Tilburg and a decline in the groundwater level as much as possible. Or we take recovery measures if that is not possible.
- We build as much as possible within the already built-up area ('filling in' current residential areas rather than expansion), in which a green and climate-adaptive integration is the starting point. Wijkevoort was therefore the last piece of rural area for GroenLinks where a business park could be realised, provided that the nitrogen standards are not exceeded and the strict conditions for nature, sustainability and socio-economic added value can be realised. As agreed in the Regional Energy and Climate Strategy (REKS), Wijkevoort will be generating large-scale solar energy.

- When allocating space to companies in the municipality, we set sustainability requirements. Nature-inclusive construction will become the norm and will be included as a condition in the municipal environmental plans. For example, a minimum of 80 m<sup>2</sup> of public green space per home is the norm for new-build locations. In the event of filling in, this must be compensated in the project area or the immediate vicinity. This is also possible with 'innovative greenery', such as roof gardens ('multiple uses of space').
- We discourage events involving the use of animals. Where animals are nevertheless used, we strictly check whether animal welfare rules are complied with, as well as measures to prevent zoonoses. This also applies to the children's farms. We create the right preconditions so that the animal shelter and the associated animal ambulance can continue to do their job properly. We want to actively encourage chip registration of cats. We communicate more clearly where residents can go with questions about animal welfare.
- Animal welfare and nature inclusivity are important criteria in the municipality's purchasing policy and the granting of permits for (road) construction projects, events and (agricultural) businesses. In new construction, renovation and maintenance of buildings and green areas, a lot of attention is paid to sufficient nesting opportunities and sheltered places for birds, bats and insects.
- We will further expand green management with sheep, implement ecological and bee-friendly green and roadside management, create landscape elements in our city-regional parks and allow the budget for ecological green management to increase with the increased surface area of greenery.

### **Wijkevoort and Zwaluwenbunders**

In the past, developments around Wijkevoort made it clear which areas of tension exist when economic growth, employment and the value of the landscape come together. GroenLinks has recently reached a compromise regarding the area development of Wijkevoort to be able to carry out the majority of our election program and to prevent the Zwaluwenbunders area from becoming a business park. At the same time, we have set strict sustainability requirements for the realization of a business park in Wijkevoort, to make it as green and sustainable as possible and to ensure a good integration into the landscape. To prevent it from getting the same appearance as the Vossenbergh industrial estate. For GroenLinks, the area development of Wijkevoort was linked to stopping the business park at Zwaluwenbunders and thus preserving the green zone between Tilburg, Berkel-Enschot and Udenhout.

### **A green and clean living environment**

- Petrified places in public spaces that are not being used (for example, very wide sidewalks or redundant parking spaces) are made greener to improve the quality of life and to cope better with heat, drought and flooding.
- We strictly enforce the tree ordinance (rules on felling trees), which have been tightened up by GroenLinks, in which the climate-adaptive value of trees has been given a place, and we will tighten it up further if necessary.

- We ensure the (re)planting of trees as quickly as possible and with priority in old (often not green) districts and neighbourhoods and other places where the impact is greatest. In addition to even more tiny forests, neighbourhood gardens and other neighbourhood greenery, within walking distance for everyone. Where there is little space, we focus on innovative greenery: climbing columns, lantern greenery, vertical gardens or roof gardens. We are expanding the successful subsidy scheme for facade gardens and green roofs. Just like the information campaigns about fewer tiles and more greenery in the garden. We are working on this together with the housing associations.
- We disconnect the drainage of rainwater from the sewer system as much as possible to prevent flooding and replenish groundwater. We also pay attention to the quality and sponge effect of the soil.
- A healthy environment also requires better air quality. That is why we want to discourage wood burning, for example with subsidies for the removal of old wood stoves and fireplaces that emit a lot of particulate matter and with information about burning as cleanly as possible. A municipal fireworks ban for private individuals also helps to improve air quality and reduce nuisance for people and animals. Capacity is being made available for monitoring compliance and enforcement.
- GroenLinks does not want a manure processing factory in Tilburg North. The province is the competent authority, but we believe that the municipal council should exploit all possibilities to prevent this development on the Spinder.

## 1.2 CLEAN MOBILITY WITHIN PUBLIC SPACE

Everyone should be able to move around freely in our city and villages. That you can come to work, to the store, to the care you need and to your grandmother for a cup of coffee. This way, mobility contributes to the quality of life. GroenLinks wants everyone to be sufficiently mobile to be able to participate fully. But in a way that has as few negative effects as possible on our environment (our environment, our scarce resources). That is why GroenLinks is rolling out the green carpet for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport. Exercising through more walking and cycling also contributes to health. We are aiming for a car-free city centre and thus create more space for additional homes and greening. Cars, delivery vans, trucks, ships and other means of transport will become emission-free as soon as possible. Good for the climate, air quality and our health. Because in Tilburg everyone breathes free! In addition, GroenLinks believes it is important to focus on safe transport.

### **This is what GroenLinks wants:**

#### **Tilburg, a real walking and cycling city**

- We provide good bicycle and pedestrian paths and priority for cyclists and pedestrians on roundabouts. Traffic lights turn green faster for pedestrians, cyclists and vulnerable road users. In addition, we are completing the “fast cycle path network”, we will continue to build detours (shorter walking routes) and we will connect Tilburg North with walking and cycling paths to Pauwels park and the city centre. In future area developments, we think from the perspective of pedestrians and cyclists.

- We provide good facilities (garages, charging points) for cyclists, such as nearby shopping centres (e.g. Wagnerplein), schools, community centres and health centres by introducing a bicycle parking standard (a minimum number of bicycle parking spaces based on the number of users/visitors). During work, we keep bicycle routes intact as much as possible and we provide good replacement bicycle parking facilities if necessary. In control of slipperiness, extra attention is paid to bicycle routes and the position of cyclists on the road.
- We will provide more information about walking or cycling for short trips more often, instead of by car. This is great for health and road safety. This creates more space in the neighbourhood to meet each other and for children to play outside together.

### **Not only cleaner but also safer traffic**

- Public space must be accessible to everyone, from young to old and to people with disabilities. So space on the sidewalk for wheelchairs and parents with strollers and safe crossings for people who are less mobile or visually impaired.
- Following the city ring, the maximum speed on all streets within the ring road will be 30 km/h. The ring road will be a maximum of 50 km/h, and means of transport with different speeds will be separated from each other as much as possible. Mopeds and scooters are relatively unsafe in traffic, which is why we strive for the mopeds to go to the road in many places where the speed is more appropriate than on the cycle path.
- On streets where there is no separate sidewalk for pedestrians, a maximum speed of 15 km/h must be applied, following the proposal of Safe Traffic Netherlands (Veilig Verkeer Nederland).
- We aim for a traffic-safe Tilburg, especially around schools. We are introducing school streets around more schools, where the street temporarily closes during pick-up and drop-off times.
- We encourage cycling and walking to school. This includes making the school routes that children often use to our primary and secondary schools safe for traffic. In potentially dangerous traffic situations between motorised traffic and school children, children are given priority. We also tackle other unsafe traffic situations.
- We want Tilburg to lead the way with the introduction of Intelligent Speed Adjustment (ISA) for cars around places with vulnerable road users. This means that car traffic in the vicinity of, for example, schools, care homes, shopping centres and playgrounds cannot drive faster than the permitted maximum speed.

### **Environmentally friendly distribution, public transport and innovative forms of mobility**

- We are working on a sustainable system for distribution and supply for the city centre, neighbourhood centres and village centres. We make agreements with companies about electric taxis and delivery with electric delivery vans and bicycles. We provide good charging infrastructure throughout the municipality. The ports of Tilburg are becoming frontrunners for sustainable goods transport by water (Lovense port) and sustainable pleasure craft (Piushaven).
- Tilburg buses still run on fossil fuels. We are replacing these with electric buses, where the electricity is generated sustainably.

- We are committed to free bus transport or a reduced rate for residents with a small budget.
- We want an upgrade of Tilburg University station and a new train station in Berkel-Enschot/Udenhout. We are committed to faster train connections with the Randstad, Belgium and Germany and we are positive about innovative mobility concepts to make the Efteling and the Beekse Bergen more accessible and to keep it that way. We also advocate for a night train network in Brabant.
- We encourage the sharing of means of transport, such as shared (electric) cars, scooters and bicycles. We make agreements with the companies that offer these means of transport about parking and about good communication with residents about trying out the offer. In addition, we will continue the trade-in scheme for mopeds.

### **Fewer cars: more space for greenery, living and recreation**

- No through car traffic throughout the city centre, only local traffic. This will create space for pedestrians, cyclists, children playing, greening and extra homes. As a result, people like to come to the city centre and that is good for entrepreneurs. This is also the reason why we want an investigation into the possibility of giving the Dwaalgebied the status of a 'woonerf'. If this is possible in the centre of Brussels, to the great satisfaction of many, why not in Tilburg? The development of the Stadsforum as a green, lively square where people like to stay also fits in with this. As far as GroenLinks is concerned, the city centre will be car-free as much as possible.
- Within the 'ring' road, more and more public space is being used for parking cars. We will discuss car ownership and use with residents and companies and will look for opportunities to reverse this trend so that there is sufficient space for safe cycling and walking and greenery in the street. When developing new homes, it is no longer self-evident that everyone can park their car in front of their door.
- We promote residential streets. A residential street is a street that temporarily (and if the residents want it permanently) is given a different interpretation: slightly less space for traffic and more space for residents to meet and for children to play. We will experiment with innovative ways to provide more space in the streets for relaxation and bicycle parking, such as with 'parklets' and 'fietsvlonders'. At the request of residents or entrepreneurs, we temporarily furnish parking spaces with greenery, seating areas or terraces. If successful, this can be finalised.
- We provide more space for sports, games and recreation in the public outdoor space, from walking paths and cycling routes to skating facilities and jeu-de-boules courts. This naturally includes sufficient safe, green and challenging play areas for children, as well as 'exercise gardens' for all ages.
- We are making preparations for transfers outside the city centre for when the parking capacity in the centre has reached its limit and to make the city centre as car-free as possible. Of course, we will ensure a good connection to public transport, rental bicycles and electric scooters.



## 1.3 SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR AND BY EVERYONE

The switch to sustainable energy and heat supply demands a lot from residents and the municipality, but we also get a lot in return. GroenLinks wants Tilburg to be a frontrunner with the Regional Energy and Climate Strategy (REKS) Hart van Brabant. We aim for a climate-neutral municipality by 2035. This means that all energy consumed in Tilburg will be generated sustainably by then.

We want to achieve that in a fair, affordable and social way. Residents help develop the plans, benefit from the proceeds and become (co-)owners. And we work closely with the local energy cooperatives of Tilburg, Berkel-Enschot, Udenhout and Biezenmortel.

### **This is what GroenLinks wants:**

#### **Real sustainability at the heart of energy and heat supplies**

- The municipality purchases energy from an energy supplier that scores high on sustainability.
- In the coming council term, it must become clear to all districts and villages how and when we will make the transition to gas-free homes in a sustainable, reliable and affordable way. In neighbourhoods where no sustainable alternative is yet available, we are focusing on interim solutions such as hybrid systems and insulation, so that CO2 reduction is achieved in any case. In any event, everything is done in close consultation with the residents.
- We continue to strive for a biomass-free municipality, where no woody biomass is burned to generate heat and opt for truly sustainable forms of renewable energy and heat. We are therefore not in favour of expansion and greater dependence on Amernet in its current form.
- We want the city's heating supplier of the Amer network (Amernet) to make more investments in the upcoming four years in insulating the outdated network with energy-wasting pipes and improving the home connections in Tilburg North and West. This contributes to a significant reduction in CO2 emissions and leads to lower energy costs for tenants and owner-occupiers.
- GroenLinks supports the development and construction of an innovative '5th generation heat/cold network', to be able to heat and cool all buildings in Tilburg South sustainably in the long term through the exchange of residual energy between homes, companies (think of the ice rink) and social institutions (such as the Elisabeth-TweeSteden Hospital).
- We will triple the number of solar panels in the coming council term. With favourable loans (such as the existing 'Sun on your roof' (Zon op je dak) scheme), collective purchasing campaigns and energy advice, the municipality encourages residents to install more solar panels on their roofs and to insulate their homes. We make agreements with companies and institutions about solar panels on large roofs, such as on large industrial halls. We use the 'solar ladder' as an assessment framework when integrating solar energy into our municipality. The solar ladder gives first preference to empty roofs and prevents solar panels from being installed on agricultural and natural land when this is not necessary. For our municipality, we also completely exclude nature reserves as possible locations for solar fields.

- According to the REKS, we are building fifty windmills together with the other municipalities in the Hart van Brabant region. Before 2030, we will realise twenty wind turbines in clusters along the Tilburg ring road and the A58. This is largely done on the industrial estates in combination with the generation of large-scale solar energy. We use animal-friendly technology to limit nuisance to birds as much as possible.
- Where possible, we combine investments in large-scale energy generation with investments in nearby nature and the landscape. The energy hubs around Tilburg can contribute to water storage, biodiversity and combating heat stress by constructing green structures.

### **More control, ownership and support in the transition to sustainable energy and heat supplies**

- GroenLinks is in favour of the establishment of a public energy company, in which the municipalities within the Hart van Brabant region take control of the generation of sustainable energy that benefits our residents and their environment as much as possible.
- For the wind turbines in the municipality of Tilburg, GroenLinks wants at least 50% of them to be owned by local residents (via local energy cooperatives). We develop the plans for this in consultation with local residents and local energy cooperatives. Good spatial integration into the landscape and limiting nuisance to local residents as much as possible are and remain important principles.
- GroenLinks wants to use an environmental fund to use part of the proceeds from the windmills and large solar fields in Tilburg to go to green and social projects that benefit local residents and the quality of their living environment (from playground to village hall and from school project to support for local sports clubs).
- We fight 'energy poverty' and ensure that everyone can benefit from sustainable energy and well-insulated homes. Together with the housing associations, the municipality ensures that all social rental homes are well insulated and energy-efficient before 2030 (at least at the level of energy label B). Low-income households and students receive free advice and tools for energy-saving and financial support for the transition to a gas-free home. This way we reduce energy bills, increase comfort in the homes and save the environment.

## **1.4 A GREEN AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY**

We are sticking to our GroenLinks ambition to make the municipality of Tilburg fully circular by 2035. The municipality helps companies in Tilburg to end cycles of raw materials. We encourage repair, reuse and sharing of items by consumers. The waste policy is for a circular economy, waste materials are raw materials for new sustainable products.

### **This is what GroenLinks wants:**

#### **Stimulating the circular economy**

- As a municipality, we want to stimulate the circular economy, for example through our purchasing and procurement policy, by setting conditions for land allocation, by realising construction hubs for reusable building materials and by working together with residents, companies and organisations.

- We encourage the establishment of circular companies in Tilburg and help existing companies to make the transition to a circular economy. In doing so we also create new sustainable jobs.
- There are now 'Green Deals' on several industrial estates. GroenLinks wants to accelerate this and expand to all industrial estates. Clean energy generation, energy conservation, biodiversity, climate adaptation and sustainable mobility form the basis for action. We promote the exchange of residual flows for a circular economy, especially in business parks. We use the residual heat from production processes as much as possible for new production processes or heating nearby offices and homes. We will also continue to encourage energy savings in (retail) companies, the catering sector, logistics centres and industry and to maintain the standards that apply to them.
- Start-ups and small entrepreneurs are very important for new employment opportunities and for retaining students and starters in the city. We want to support them, for example with housing options. We redevelop empty buildings into affordable and sustainable spaces for art and culture, starting entrepreneurs and homes. GroenLinks wants to investigate a vacancy tax to encourage property owners, where they are not (former) operators of the retail space, to rent out the space again earlier.
- We want to encourage companies, institutions and private individuals to contribute to a sustainable economy. La Poubelle and atelier Verhip are good examples. They ensure that things are not wasted and that costs are saved, leaving money for other things. They also support people with a disadvantage in the labour market to find work.
- We will help major (annually recurring) events in Tilburg to become more sustainable, in which the use of returnable cups will become the norm. That means less waste, less CO2 emissions and therefore less impact on our living environment.
- We will continue to focus on the prevention of waste, in particular the prevention of food waste, and the best possible separate collection of waste. The Tilburg waste company works as sustainably as possible and contributes as much as possible to a circular economy.
- We continue to look for possibilities to make it easier and cheaper to have waste collected or returned properly separated, also to reduce long waiting times at the recycling centres. The basic principle is that those who produce less waste and separate it properly will pay less.
- Together with other municipalities and the province, we ensure that the Environment Agency Central and West Brabant (Omgevingsdienst Midden- en West-Brabant) receives sufficient resources to better enforce the regulations for the collection and processing of electronic and other waste.

### **Making agriculture and food supply more sustainable**

- Together with farmers, educational and research institutions, food and environmental organisations, neighbouring municipalities, provinces and water authorities, we make our food supply and agriculture more sustainable and we draw up a local food vision. In doing so, much attention is paid to animal welfare and public health.

- The municipality prefers sustainable regional products in its purchasing policy. We want more local initiatives for urban agriculture, cooperative farms and food education. We, therefore, support the Brabants Bodem and Food013 project.
- We don't want giant stables or other bio-industry in the municipality. Small-scale farmers in the municipality do receive as much space and support as possible (for example with land-use plans and permit grants) if they want to combine food production with a sustainable social function, such as nature management, care farms, local shops, food education, recreation, water storage or the generation of sustainable energy.
- We conduct a sustainable lease policy to make organic food production more possible.

## 2. TILBURG, A SOCIABLE MUNICIPALITY

### 2.1 FEELING GOOD IN YOUR SKIN: CARE AND WELFARE, SPORTS AND EXERCISE AS A TOP PRIORITY

We think it is important that Tilburg residents feel good about themselves, are happy in their environment and feel valued, seen and heard, even when things are not going so well. That is why we are fully committed to a healthy lifestyle, a green, clean living environment that encourages exercise, healthy eating and meeting others and the wide availability of accessible aid and care facilities close to home.

The health, care, livelihood security, participation, youth and housing portfolios work closely together with GroenLinks in the municipal council. In the Social 013 Agenda, the municipality has determined the major challenges and priorities for Tilburg in the coming decades. We believe it is important to always measure the policy against this yardstick to stay on track so that everyone has optimal opportunities and feels seen. We are committed to a sufficient range of facilities and good connections between all layers of care. The basic principles are people-centric, cooperation, trust and solidarity. Control over your own life and being able to participate in society are therefore crucial conditions for GroenLinks. Do you need help with this? Then the municipality is there to help you.

#### **This is what GroenLinks wants:**

##### **Help is widely available, accessible and of high quality**

- We are making an extra effort to support the many great initiatives that are already there from residents and organisations that contribute to a pleasant life together in a district or village, to help deal with setbacks or to offer a helping hand to residents in need.
- We want to expand teams of social and youth workers (nearby teams). They know what is going on in a neighbourhood and people's lives. By being recognisable and easily accessible, they can quickly pick up on questions and signals. Certainly also in the neighbourhoods where we work with the so-called People Acting in Community Together (PACT) approach – a long-term approach where serious social, societal, economic and cultural issues play a role – we want the extra capacity to be made available for social and youth workers to support residents in those initiatives that they see as valuable for their neighbourhood.
- GroenLinks wants family caregivers to be better valued and supported by, for example, dealing fairly with the cost-sharing standard and the obligation to apply for a job. There must be sufficient opportunities to temporarily transfer family care tasks to someone else (respite care).
- GroenLinks wants extra measures to improve mental health. For this, we work together with educational institutions and general practitioners in the municipality. We are investing in the GGD and are focusing more on prevention and sexual health among all Tilburg residents.

- Good, inclusive care must be accessible to everyone, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, (cultural) background, socio-economic status or possible disability. Communication must be comprehensible for every resident. This requires knowledge and skills from municipal employees to communicate well with residents who have difficulty obtaining, understanding and applying health information.
- GroenLinks wants more cooperation within the care and social domain. This not only provides better quality help and support but is also cost-efficient. And we are focusing even more on prevention: an accessible offer of support where possible, specialised care where necessary.
- Let the healthcare professionals do their job. Time, money and energy should go to care, not paperwork.
- Care and profit do not belong together. Healthcare money is healthcare money and must be properly spent. But we don't want more bureaucracy to control that. We mainly work on fraud prevention through greater clarity in the rules, through trust in and good relationships with care recipients, and through good partnerships with providers.

### **Living, meeting and moving together in a nice environment**

- Public space must be accessible to everyone. We think it is important that this invites people to get moving and to meet each other. That is why we will continue to focus on revitalising neighbourhood shopping centres, more benches along the detour through the neighbourhood and dementia-friendly walking routes.
- We want an accessible and inclusive exercise and sports offer that takes into account diverse backgrounds, ages and the needs of people with an illness or disability. With the support of the municipality, associations and other sports providers can also develop adapted forms of traditional sports for this purpose. This lowers the threshold for being physically active and staying healthy. We finance the facilities for recreational sports and unfettered sports and can stimulate connections by which top sport contributes to the promotion of recreational sports or other social goals.
- No less than 94% of the Dutch elderly live at home. GroenLinks, therefore, wants to organise care 'closer', make 'intermediate facilities' possible for the elderly and have social workers and general practitioners work more closely together in monitoring the elderly so that they can continue to live independently. We want small-scale care facilities in the city and villages. A place where people feel at home and involved with each other.
- People with a care requirement who want to form a living group together must be given the space to do so, literally and figuratively. In a residential group, people retain optimal control over how they wish to organise their care and living environment.
- GroenLinks wants people with mental health problems to be at home in their neighbourhood. We aim to offer various forms of assisted living and we want sufficient walk-in centres, mental health information points and time-out facilities for people in crisis who want to take a breather.
- GroenLinks is fully committed to 'Housing First' (a successful approach against homelessness): homeless people are immediately assigned a house at the start of the counselling process and structural help in tackling the other problems.

## 2.2 EMPLOYMENT, INCOME AND ACTIVITY: LIVELIHOOD SECURITY FOR EVERYONE

In a sustainable society, everyone participates, whether through paid work, education, family care or voluntary work. As far as we are concerned, everyone has the right to work in the broadest sense of the word. We are investigating whether we can utilise a basic job in Tilburg. We also look at meaningful work that is not (yet) converted into paid jobs, such as in health-care, the energy transition, making homes and neighbourhoods more sustainable, education and the circular economy.

Even when there is no better possible perspective, livelihood security must come first: a roof over one's head and the possibilities to live a healthy life, to have social contact and to participate. We, therefore, have a broad vision of livelihood security and participation, and as GroenLinks, we are against obligatory compensation. That is why we have experimented with low-regulation assistance in the past period.

More than 14% of Tilburg residents live in poverty. That is unacceptable. In recent years, we as GroenLinks Tilburg have worked on a poverty and debt policy based on trust, instead of mistrust. We will continue to follow this course, together with fewer (complex) rules, more customisation and focusing on the living environment, self-management and dreams of the resident. What helps someone to break the circle is the focal point. To end poverty sustainably, we do everything we can to prevent poverty from being passed on from generation to generation. This requires a long-term view and commitment to children in vulnerable situations. Thanks to GroenLinks, we also strive to ensure that nobody in Tilburg has to deal with energy poverty and mobility poverty: nobody should be left out in the cold for fear of being billed and everyone should be able to move to participate in society.

### **This is what GroenLinks wants:**

#### **Social facilities: always a helping hand nearby**

- To quickly solve small concerns and prevent bigger problems, we need strong civil society organisations that are at the heart of the neighbourhood. They often know our residents best and each has their expertise and target group. We will continue to support the social organisations that are committed to the vulnerable residents in Tilburg and surrounding villages. Where possible, we invest more.
- We make arrangements with, for example, energy companies, sports associations and childcare, so that Tilburg residents are not stranded in the bulk of forms if they want to use something. We want to remove as many barriers to participation as possible.

- We make childcare free of charge to a wider group and thereby expand the possibilities, such as up to 52 weeks per year instead of a maximum of 40 weeks. This increases the development opportunities for parents and children.
- We actively combat mobility poverty. Displacement problems should not be a barrier to entry. That is why we support vulnerable groups who have mobility limitations so that they can still come to school or work and visit people. This concerns, for example, children in families with (very) low incomes (“Ieder kind een fiets”).
- We invest in strengthening the Dutch language and digital skills of Tilburg residents, regardless of their background or age. We are also committed to accessible facilities with a low threshold and take into consideration the stress, shame and limited basic or digital skills that can entail.
- Debt problems can often get very serious due to stigma, shame and stress. When people rely upon special assistance, we always want them to get an appointment with the municipality to see what is possible. We help Tilburg residents in vulnerable situations to keep an overview through smart solutions to organise their household administration. This way, in stressful times, not much is asked of them unnecessarily. In addition, we are committed to preventing debt problems by investing in awareness and early identification for various target groups, from young people to self-employed people.
- The municipality will have a Digital Affairs counter to help Tilburg residents with questions and complaints about municipal digital matters, even if these are outsourced by the municipality or take place in a partnership. The municipality also ensures that (chain) errors in data about residents are corrected.

### **Livelihood security and development opportunities**

- GroenLinks wants to continue and intensify the current assistance approach based on trust, freedom of choice, customisation and proximity. We are reforming assistance into a safety net and a springboard for people in need in Tilburg. We are broadening and relaxing the rules within assistance; Tilburg residents may earn more, receive gifts and gain access to training and development contributions.
- In collaboration with other municipalities and universities, we are setting up a large-scale experiment with a basic income. We investigate the effects of a single income scheme on the health, happiness and participation opportunities of Tilburg residents.
- A program director must be available for every job seeker, both within and outside assistance. We are introducing a right to work and to participate in Tilburg.
- GroenLinks wants Tilburg to invest in basic jobs. GroenLinks wants to discuss this with the ‘Diamant Groep’, employers and the (umbrella) organisations in care, education, energy transition and recycling management. Basic jobs must be well adapted to the diversity in backgrounds and the personal development of people. Important preconditions for basic jobs for GroenLinks are permanent, sustainable work with development opportunities and decent pay.
- We value every talent: when a paid job is not feasible, we invest in strengthening volunteer work and informal care, starting entrepreneurship and access to (additional) education and training.



- We will continue the successful breakthrough method for a youth unemployment-free region. We ensure that young people have the prospect of (voluntary) work, education or training or a care trajectory.
- All Tilburg pupils and students who need an internship should be able to get one. The municipality takes its responsibility and offers internships itself and holds companies and institutions accountable for their responsibility to offer sufficient internships.
- We invest in specific training and guidance to guide job seekers to sectors with a lot of employment and future prospects (care and welfare, ICT, sustainable construction and technology, circular entrepreneurship).

### **Safe work with a fair pay**

- We make agreements with the business community to distribute the work more fairly among various groups, whether it concerns age, gender, ethnic origin or people with disabilities. From the municipality, we support Tilburg residents to reduce the distance to the labour market.
- GroenLinks wants to pay more attention to healthy and safe workplaces. We are entering into a pact with (large) employers in the municipality to structurally anchor the theme of sustainable employability everywhere.
- We discourage the use of working through payroll structures and call on employers in the municipality to invest in contract security and higher wages. Fair compensation for everyone: makers and experts by experience are also fairly rewarded if the municipality uses their work or if authorities want to receive a subsidy from the municipality.

## **2.3 SUSTAINABLE HOUSING POLICY: FAIR LIVING FOR EVERYONE**

For GroenLinks, housing is not a commodity to earn money with, but a fundamental right. A sustainable economy not only means sustainable construction but also that current and future generations can continue to make use of this fundamental right. The enormous rise in house prices means that many families have no chance on the 'property housing market'. At the same time, rental housing is unaffordable for many people. The waiting lists for social housing are enormous, which means that starters and people with low incomes can hardly find a home. Everyone has the right to a good affordable home, regardless of income or where someone comes from. Because our residents know their own neighbourhood best, we actively involve them in these major changes in their environment and integrate their good ideas for improvement into the plans where possible.

### **This is what GroenLinks wants:**

#### **More, affordable and sustainable homes**

- We are introducing a self-occupancy obligation and an anti-speculation clause for new owner-occupied homes. As soon as a legal framework is in place for this, we will also introduce a self-occupancy obligation for existing homes. We are setting a rental ceiling and a maximum rent increase for rental properties in the private sector.

- We tackle the exploitation of tenants. A landlord permit is required for renting out a house or room. Anyone who exploits tenants who do not provide decent living conditions or discriminates in admitting tenants will lose his or her permit. We will continue with the Rental Team.
- We will build 25,000 homes between now and 2040. At least 30% of this is social rent, at least 10% medium-priced rent and at least 10% affordable owner-occupied homes. We apply higher percentages of 30-40% social rent and 20-30% in the middle segment for new construction for neighbourhoods where there is still relatively little social rent, medium-price rent and/or affordable owner-occupied housing.
- GroenLinks supports the fundamental choice that we as a municipality have made for filling in. The focus is in areas such as Spoorzone, Stappegoor, Piushaven and Tilburg Noord. We also see opportunities for transformation of the Canal Zone, the Volt complex and the Kenniskwartier. There will also be room in the villages for the addition of sustainable and affordable housing.
- GroenLinks is committed to integration that goes hand in hand with making the city as green as possible. Tilburg is leading the way in sustainable construction: climate neutral, 'nature inclusive' and circular with the reuse of building materials (using the materials passport as the standard for new construction) and the repurposing of existing buildings (for example, converting vacant office and retail properties into homes).
- We are concluding a sustainability pact with housing associations and tenants' associations, which makes it easier to participate in the energy transition to affordable sustainable rental homes.

### **Attention for special forms of living**

- We support special architecture and experiments with alternative forms of housing and new forms of collaboration, such as cooperatives, residential care clusters, tiny houses and residential groups. Together with housing associations, we are looking for ways to share homes – for example, to make housing splits more possible under certain conditions – and we take the maximum scope for not applying the cost-sharing standard to combat a housing shortage.
- We are making it more attractive for the elderly to move on to a more suitable home in their neighbourhood by realising more of those types of homes. As a result, more single-family homes will become available for starters and families.
- For students, we are going to build on a large scale, as was done before with Talent Square. At the same time, we limit the 'compartmentalization' where this leads to nuisance.
- Migrant workers have the right to decent housing. Before we permit companies to work with migrant workers, we check whether sufficient decent housing can be realised and what contribution companies make to this. The roles of employer and housing provider must be separate. It is also important to spread migrant workers well over different districts and to enter into discussions at an early stage with all those involved to make agreements about how the housing will be fitted into the district and who can be held accountable for this by the residents.

## 2.4 EVERY CHILD DESERVES A GOOD START

The international rights of the child as described in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child are our starting point. In our municipality, we bear joint responsibility for all children. Together we ensure a safe, healthy and promising start. That starts with nice neighbourhoods where we look after each other, with a rich associational life and space to play, move and meet. Much has been achieved in recent years when it comes to prevention and early identification of possible problems. Equality of opportunity already starts before birth, through good support for children's wishes (for example, the Nu Niet Zwanger program, for Tilburg residents in a vulnerable situation) and pregnancy (such as VoorZorg and Stevig Ouderschap). And even after the birth, parents can count on easily accessible support if they need it. This includes support from healthcare professionals within the childcare or school building. This way children, parents and teachers have an accessible point of contact, and pedagogical staff and teachers can continue to use their energy and enthusiasm optimally for the daily guidance of our children. Everyday worries can be picked up quickly and close by in daily life. This way we want to normalise everyday concerns instead of problematizing them. It should always be possible to contact us with a care question. In this way, we prevent a minor concern from becoming a major problem and avoid help only being offered when a diagnosis has been made or a label has been attached. In the coming council term, we want to deepen and expand these working methods where possible. The opportunities circle, developed in Tilburg, is a wonderful tool to ensure that children and their parents feel heard, seen and appreciated. In conversations, for example, it is not the problems, but the development and opportunities of the child that are central, and parents can remain in control. In Tilburg, we look after our children together and there is one point of contact for a family. To emphasise this extra, we want to continue to 'decompartmentalize' the systems that we have built around children. We, therefore, attach great importance to good early childhood education and integrated child centres, where children can count on a smooth transition to their next step.

### **This is what GroenLinks wants:**

#### **Support close by in everyday life**

- In every district, there are places, groups and activities where children can play and parents can meet, possibly with a social worker as an informal point of contact. Schools, childcare centres, community centres, petting zoos, nature play areas and other playgrounds thus become lively meeting places where parents can build networks.
- Parents proactively receive information to optimally support their children and know where to go if they need support, no matter how small or large.
- We make innovative forms of pregnancy care and care for parents and babies in groups (centeringPregnancy and centeringParenting) accessible to every new parent who would like to experience parenthood together with others to learn from each other's experiences.

- Healthcare professionals can give their full attention to the families and do not lose any unnecessary time keeping up with administration. In the region, we make it possible for providers to provide care as a partnership, to share administrative costs and burdens.
- We provide a well-arranged youth care centre where families are central, not the rules. That is why we are committed to the tailor-made approach: doing what really helps and thereby achieving sustainable breakthroughs (between funds, types of care providers, organisations, regulations). Above all, children and their parents should have a say in seeking the best solution.
- With and between (youth) care providers we enter into strong collaborations based on trust and shared goals. Waiting lists are unacceptable.
- Families receive help to keep their care organised so that different care providers don't constantly keep barging in. In the case of a family with multiple problems, we work according to the principle of '1 family, 1 plan, 1 director'.

### **Children deserve a safe and healthy environment**

- GroenLinks invests in an equal chance of a healthy future for every child. Tilburg wants to be a forerunner in the Youth at a Healthy Weight programme (jongeren op gezond gewicht). That starts with sustainable childcare and school buildings that are sufficiently ventilated and that invite a better lifestyle with healthy canteens, green schoolyards and plenty of water taps. Water taps are being built in every district. Green schoolyards (already 51 of the 63) and (nature) playgrounds are being added to more and more educational institutions and childcare organisations. As a municipality, we will continue to subsidise this. Vegetable gardens are also being planted, so children are exposed to healthy food from an early age. If it's up to GroenLinks, it will no longer be possible to open a (new) snack bar near schools.
- GroenLinks wants children in Tilburg to be able to grow up in a smoke-free environment. To this end, we want to give a stage to beautiful smoke-free initiatives and use the subsidy policy, permit policy and/or lease agreements in this regard.
- Every child should be safe. The Task Force on Child Abuse has done groundbreaking work in our region to create broad awareness. We continue to invest in prevention and a professional, multidisciplinary approach to domestic violence and child abuse. Everyone needs to know how to deal with worrying signals.
- We aim is to ensure that no child ends up in a social shelter. We do everything we can to prevent out-of-home placement for families with children.

## **2.5 EDUCATION: THE ENGINE OF OUR CITY AND EVERYONE'S DEVELOPMENT**

Tilburg is an educational municipality at heart. For more than a century, teachers have been trained in Tilburg and all kinds of educational forms have been established here. You can tell by the buildings, the growing Stappegoor campus and the knowledge lane along the railway. And you can see it in innovative projects in which pupils and students collaborate with companies and organisations. We cherish our pupils, mbo, hbo and university students. Because with their talents they contribute to the Tilburg of tomorrow and they help us find solutions for the challenges we face.

Education is still the best way to increase your chances in life.

We believe it is important that everyone can develop their talent and find the job that suits them best. But not everyone has the same opportunities to do so. That's why we want to bring people into environments where they have more opportunities to explore and develop their talents. Equality of opportunity starts in education and childcare. Schools and child centres know what is going on in a neighbourhood and receive all the support from us to create the best possible opportunities for children with partners in the neighbourhood. Although we as a municipality have only limited influence, we want to be a good and reliable partner for education and work together with them for equality of opportunity. But it does not end there. GroenLinks believes it is important to focus on opportunities for lifelong development. GroenLinks opts for inclusive education, with strong roots in society.

## **This is what GroenLinks wants:**

### **Education in and for the city**

- GroenLinks wants primary education nearby and on a human scale. With increasing populations due to new construction and infill locations, we carefully examine whether existing schools can cope with this or whether a new school location is needed.
- GroenLinks also invests in good facilities for secondary education at all levels. Vmbo, practical education and special education explicitly deserve extra attention. Connections with the business community and private initiatives to provide young people with work experience/training places are strongly supported. After all, you do not only learn at school but (especially) in practice as well.
- GroenLinks wants the municipality to become a proactive partner of mbo in the coming period to involve young people in issues and thus offer an authentic learning experience, such as BOOTS Projects from ROC Tilburg. Such experiences, in turn, can motivate young people in mbo more and thus prevent dropout. Tilburg badly needs mbo students.
- Education in Tilburg can play an important role in the innovation of the city. GroenLinks would like more collaborations like the Mindlabs in Station 88, where entrepreneurs, education and government work together in innovative projects and forms of collaboration.
- Tilburg University, Fontys and Avans Hogeschool have grown in size in recent years. This leads to a shortage of student housing. For this reason, GroenLinks wants to increase the supply of student housing by 10% in the coming period, mainly by building large-scale facilities that are not left to private rental. The municipality is also taking up its role with the parties involved in finding suitable accommodation for international students.
- GroenLinks wants to stimulate education to get science more among the people. We are already familiar with the Night University and the Children's University. GroenLinks also wants the university and college in the district: summer school, neighbourhood lectures and social debates. The municipality can act as a partner in substantive themes and facilitate collaboration.

## Education and equal opportunities

- Pre-school facilities – together with the GGD and R-Newt – play an important role in preventing deprivation. We want to make its use as accessible as possible by offering more free half-days and opening it up to 52 instead of 40 weeks a year. Out-of-school care must also be accessible to all children, preferably 52 weeks a year.
- There is no better place where so many children and parents come together daily than education and childcare. We want to make better use of this reach for collective and preventive activities in collaboration with relevant partners in the field of upbringing and growing up.
- Children and young people of all school levels and social backgrounds should be motivated to take up their place in society. Role models that can broaden children's perspectives play an important role in this. More students should therefore be able to follow extra classes in addition to their regular program to deepen and broaden their social education and language development. Extended school days, summer schools and the IMC Weekend School for groups 7, 8 and the first grade in North, West and soon Reeshof are examples of this, but secondary and mbo students should also be able to use these kinds of facilities. We also support projects that encourage children to engage with their neighbourhood in a positive way, such as the Move Foundation.
- We emphasise the importance of integral child centres, peaceful schools and other initiatives that promote the meeting of students from different socio-economic and cultural backgrounds and with different talents. Education initiatives that fight segregation and polarisation are supported.
- Equal, fair opportunities for development also means that all children can participate in cultural activities, both in and out of school, as audiences and performers.
- Ongoing learning careers and broad talent development remain crucial. That is why we want more primary schools, especially in underprivileged districts, to participate in Cultural Education with Quality in Tilburg, for a continuous learning pathway to be added to secondary education and for cooperation with cultural and social institutions to be expanded. This does not only apply to art and culture but also to technology (for example with the Discovery Station) and sporting activities. We want to excite children by offering new experiences that can lead to a lifelong passion.
- At every school, children can play sports and exercise. We want to keep what is going well: the deployment of combination officers, the Try-out sports program and also the programs that make sports financially possible for every child.
- We are investing more in nature and environmental education in collaboration with the education sector and nature and environmental organisations.
- Whatever the circumstances, money or materials should not be an obstacle to participation in education (for example by making a laptop available) and culture, sports and swimming lessons. The Leergeld Foundation plays an important role in this.
- We offer both young people and adults equal opportunities to access information. Where necessary, we support literacy and digitisation. The language houses (taalhuizen), ROC Educatie and De Stadsbieb/Kennismakerij have an important role in this.

- No child or young person may be written off. Every one who is required to attend school is in school or follows an appropriate trajectory to finish the school career in an alternative way. Education, companies and organisations (such as Prins Heerlijk and R-Newt) play an important role in this.

## 3. TILBURG, AN OPEN MUNICIPALITY

### 3.1 DIVERSITY AND AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

For GroenLinks, Tilburg is a colourful municipality where acceptance and inclusivity are paramount. The municipality sets a good example in this regard. First of all, by being a good work organisation. We ensure that the municipality of Tilburg is a reflection of its residents and involve more residents in the decisions.

Every Tilburger is allowed to be themselves and to be seen and heard, regardless of, for example, social, religious or cultural background, age, gender identity, sexual orientation or limitation. Conversations about inclusion are often sensitive and people are afraid of saying 'the wrong things'. That is why we invest in a municipality where acceptance, safety, visibility and accessibility come first. This will strengthen the position and participation of all residents of Tilburg.

The discussions about MeToo, Black Lives Matter, and the harsh attitude towards LGBTIQ+ people in European countries show that there is still a world to be won in which everyone can be themselves. We take strong action against discrimination. We cannot tolerate the fact that, as recent surveys show, 1 in 5 Tilburg residents experience discrimination, mainly because of skin color, religious and/or ethnic background.

GroenLinks will continue to focus on a diverse art and cultural policy and colourful events to express the tolerant character of the municipality. We connect (young) Tilburgers with each other by bringing them together at these kinds of events, but also in education and at sports and culture (associations). We support Tilburgers, individually and collectively, who want to strengthen and propagate the inclusive character of the city and villages.

#### **This is what GroenLinks wants:**

##### **Municipal administration and organisation reflecting the population of Tilburg**

- The municipal council, the Board of Mayor and Alderman and the official organisation must be a reflection of the municipality and its residents. The diversity of our population is not yet fully reflected in the municipal council and the official organisation. That is why we support initiatives, such as 'politically active' courses, to familiarise new target groups with municipal politics. That is why we want the municipality to actively recruit staff who reflect the diversity of the municipality. This applies in particular to positions at the top and internships.
- Within the municipal organisation, we continuously work on a safe working environment where you can be yourself and we invest in appropriate, modern and up-to-date leave and sickness schemes.
- GroenLinks wants diversity officers to be appointed to provide training, advice and contacts both within and outside the municipal organisation. Experiences at other organisations show that training for selection without prejudice and for dealing with diversity in the workplace is very useful.



- At the initiative of GroenLinks, the municipality of Tilburg has established a new Inclusion Agenda that focuses on women, Tilburgers with a disability, LGBTIQ+ people and Tilburgers with a culturally diverse background. To strengthen the position and participation of these groups and to be able to achieve sufficient impact, we are increasing the budgets for diversity and inclusion.

### **Supporting organisations for inclusion and acting against discrimination**

- Together with employers, the municipality is combating discrimination in the workplace and more attention is also being paid to discrimination in the catering sector. We encourage residents to report discrimination.
- The classroom or lecture hall is a safe haven, diversity and inclusion is the norm. We support educational and knowledge institutions in the city with guest lectures on how to deal with diversity and combat bullying. We support the establishment of Gender Sex Alliances (GSAs) at all schools in the municipality. Security, freedom and resilience will be given a central place in the next Local Educational Agenda (LEA).
- We will maintain the existing knowledge infrastructure that is present in the city about women and LGBTIQ+ emancipation, and we will provide suitable and structural housing for Feniks and the COC. We promote cooperation with new initiatives and organisations that arise in the municipality. In addition, we strive to strengthen the knowledge infrastructure in the municipality for cultural diversity and inclusion. We are investigating the possibilities of a structural place (Inclusion house) where all organisations can be accommodated.
- We are concerned about the hardening of social contradictions and intolerance. We see the mayor as the figurehead of emancipation, promoting diversity and combating discrimination and (sexual) intimidation in our municipality. If the current mayor does not start a new term in office, the next mayor of Tilburg will, for the first time, not be a man.
- At the initiative of GroenLinks, the municipality of Tilburg has started a successful pilot for a Huurteam (Rental team). We make this structural, so that Tilburg residents are always helped in the event of discrimination in the housing market.
- We promote inclusive workplaces at Tilburg institutions and companies through assignments, tenders and subsidies. We want a municipality-wide pilot with anonymous applications with the municipality as the driving force.
- We invest in increasing the willingness to report crimes involving discrimination. The mayor must ensure that the police free up sufficient capacity for this and commit to proper and careful registration.
- We tackle discrimination, racism, sexism and homophobia firmly. Organisations and companies guilty of this can lose their licence. In case of discrimination in the catering sector, the mayor takes enforcement action.

## **Making inclusion visible and celebrating it**

- We fully endorse the ambitions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In recent years we have invested in making municipal buildings, Spoorzone/Piushaven hotspots and bus stops accessible. In the coming years, we will accelerate efforts to make educational locations, district buildings, sports facilities and cultural institutions accessible. In 2026, all social real estate in Tilburg will be fully accessible. We ensure that communication from the municipality is understandable, findable and accessible for every Tilburger.
- We continue to celebrate connection and diversity and are positive about existing and new colourful events in our city, such as Carnival, Pink Monday, Tilburg Pride, World Day of Cultural Diversity, Iftar meals, Keti Koti, a Summer Carnival or a Liberation Festival. We support art and culture and events that promote diversity and connection. Through music, theatre, musicals, debate and exhibitions we tell and celebrate the inclusive nature of the municipality of Tilburg.
- GroenLinks stimulates the dialogue culture in the city and villages. The municipality holds regular discussions with residents with a migration background.
- In the public space, the tolerant character of our municipality is expressed more through rainbow paths and flags, murals and art objects in consultation with the residents. Article 1 of our Constitution will be given a prominent place in or around the municipal office.
- We are looking for appropriate and contemporary ways to translate statues, given street names and other heritage, placed in the context of the past, to Tilburg today. This could mean that street names will change. With new street names, extra attention will be paid to people of colour and women.

## **3.2 TILBURG AS A METROPOLIS**

GroenLinks is aware of the fact that our daily actions have an international impact. When you go grocery shopping, turn on your heating, check your mobile phone or book a holiday: you are always dealing with energy and materials that are produced in other parts of the world. For this reason, we think it is important to be aware of this international involvement and to focus on issues such as climate, sustainable energy, fair trade and combating inequality and exclusion in our contacts in other countries. This is reflected in the extent to which Tilburg presents itself as an internationally oriented municipality. This is reinforced by the European and international orientation of Tilburg educational institutions and companies.

### **This is what GroenLinks wants:**

- GroenLinks wants to continue its policy on global awareness. The municipality supports initiatives in Tilburg that are committed to raising awareness of international issues in developing countries.
- GroenLinks believes it is important that we, as a municipality, continue to show and propagate global awareness in our business operations, for example by paying attention to fair trade in our purchasing policy. We want the municipality to switch to a sustainable bank, where cash flows are invested in sustainable initiatives.

- We want to give refugees and new Tilburgers a warm welcome and humanely accommodate them. They deserve opportunities to pick up the thread again as quickly as possible, to integrate and to participate in line with their capabilities and talents. We actively bear responsibility by offering refugees shelter, housing status holders, integrating them into the city and offering bed-bath-bread to asylum seekers who have exhausted all legal remedies. In doing so, we keep an eye on vulnerable groups, such as unaccompanied minors and LGBTIQ+ refugees.
- In addition, we will continue to be a Shelter City for human rights activists.
- We will continue to focus on good international (transport) connections and European collaborative projects. These not only provide new contacts, knowledge and insights, but also additional financial resources from the European Union.
- We use the principle of Broad Welfare as a touchstone for the realisation of major tasks in the city. People, planet and profit must be in balance in the choices we make for the future of Tilburg.

### 3.3 ART AND CULTURE ENRICH TILBURG

Art stimulates, challenges, beautifies, connects and initiates conversations. That is why a strong art and culture sector is essential. The corona pandemic and increasingly tight or missing budgets from higher levels of government are putting pressure on our 'City of Makers'. GroenLinks believes that we should preserve the valuable cultural sector for the city and villages. We will therefore continue to push for investment in this important sector.

GroenLinks supports innovative cultural initiatives that show what we have to offer. Makers within and outside art education and cultural institutions must be given the space and facilities to profile Tilburg as an innovative cultural city. Social contact, meeting and connection are the foundation of our society and they arise in our libraries, production houses and many other creative incubators in Tilburg.

#### **This is what GroenLinks wants:**

##### **Strengthening the cultural sector and the position of makers**

- Together with other cities in Brabant, we lobby with the province and the government to maintain, and where possible, expand the financing of cultural institutions, initiatives and events.
- Together with makers, we look for creative possibilities to strengthen the cultural sector in the municipality. The Makers Fund has proved to be an excellent resource in this regard, which GroenLinks will continue to support wholeheartedly. It is important here that there will be a follow-up for projects that were created by the Makers Fund and that deserve further support. This can be done by expanding the Artist Initiatives or through other forms of support.
- By tagging part of the income from tourist tax for culture and events, these sectors can get back on their feet more quickly after the impact of the corona crisis.

- If it is up to GroenLinks, Tilburg will continue to distinguish itself with innovative street art, performance and visual arts sector, and with the city as a stage for music, theatre and dance. Kaapstad, Circolo and the murals are beautiful examples of this that we would like to continue and expand where possible.
- We support the usefulness and necessity of a lively culture of debate.
- We are committed to incubators to stimulate innovation and talent development, of course together with Ateliers Tilburg and any new initiatives, such as new studio space in the museum quarter (museumkwartier).
- The position of artists, performers and other culture-makers in the labour market must improve. In this, the municipality is setting a good example by paying good rates and prices when purchasing art and cultural services and is including this as a condition in its subsidy policy.
- For GroenLinks, an attractive, sustainable and bustling city means the preservation and redevelopment of monumental heritage. We prefer innovative ideas that create development opportunities for the residents of Tilburg. Think of the Hall of Fame and the Kennismakerij in the Spoorzone.
- In recent years, there has been a significant catching-up with the designation of new monuments. Now it's time to start a conversation with the city about the monuments of the future. GroenLinks wants to draw up a list, together with the residents, of buildings (from after 1965) that we do not want to lose, because they are already part of our DNA.

### **Connecting culture to development opportunities**

- The connection between the cultural sector and education and childcare contributes to the development opportunities of children. The municipality continues to invest heavily in cultural education. We also provide space for creative students from Fontys and ROC to show their talents to the city and villages.
- We also want to make a stronger connection between care and welfare with art and culture. We want to make sustainable use of investments from the care and welfare sector. Think, for example, of financing projects that bring vulnerable people into contact with art and culture, such as dancing with Parkinson's patients, making music with people with dementia, art projects with mental healthcare clients or the organisation of music and theatre performances in institutions and homes for the elderly. This is also done in collaboration with libraries, community centres and village halls.
- In the Reeshof we are looking for space to develop more cultural activities and we are committed to further perpetuating and stimulating the many small-scale initiatives that arise from the various makers from this district.
- Culture and art must be accessible to everyone. This means that it must be affordable, but also that we continue to keep an eye on the physical accessibility of our cultural institutions and events.

## 3.4 IN TILBURG, WE KEEP THE PEOPLE AND THEIR PRIVACY SAFE

A place where people of Tilburg can feel free goes hand in hand with a safe city and villages; on the street, but also at home and when it comes to privacy.

Prevention is always better than cure. Especially vulnerable people are often tempted or pressured to engage in criminal activities. In certain families and in certain neighbourhoods, people are less free to choose in which sector they will work. We want to proactively break this pattern, in which we realise how difficult that is and that this is something that takes a long time. With proximity, accessible facilities, kitchen table discussions, employment and activities, we want to show that another 'normal' can also exist. Undermining by crime affects neighbourhoods and the integrity of Tilburg society. That is why we support a combination of structural preventive and robust approaches.

### **This is what GroenLinks wants:**

#### **Prevention and enforcement through an integrated approach**

- At the district level, together with residents and other stakeholders, safety in the district, at schools, when going out and in public spaces is examined.
- In the most vulnerable districts, we will continue to work with the PACT (People Acting in Community Together) approach, in which residents are given control to tackle problems in the district and investments are made for a very long term (15 to 20 years). Where necessary, we do this more often. We involve organisations and initiatives already present in the neighbourhoods to make the best possible use of the accumulated expertise and existing networks.
- GroenLinks considers a comprehensive approach to care and safety important, such as through the Care and Safety House (Zorg- en Veiligheidshuis) and integrated crisis aid. Such an approach requires a good position of youth boas (special investigating officers) and district employees of the municipality as a point of contact for residents and as ears and eyes in the city and villages. GroenLinks is a strong supporter of expanding the personal presence of community-based professionals in neighbourhoods and villages. In a staffed location, where these professionals work together, they are accessible to the neighbourhood.
- Partly thanks to GroenLinks, a lot has been invested in the countryside of Tilburg. Moerenburg and Stadsbos013 are places where our residents like to come. However, some uninvited guests cause nuisance, damage nature or want to get rid of drugs (waste). GroenLinks wants the municipality to appoint green boas alone or in conjunction with neighbouring municipalities for surveillance in rural areas.
- People who are more advanced on a criminal life path should not be allowed to mix the underworld and the upper world. The Act on the Promotion of Integrity Assessments by Public Administrations (BIBOB) must be applied consistently if there is a danger that, for example, a permit will be misused. In this way, we prevent the government from facilitating criminal activities and we protect the competitive position of bona fide entrepreneurs.

## **Focus on criminal undermining**

- We want structural cross-connections between various municipal departments. This makes it easier to organise monitoring of criminal activity. By clearing the barriers, signals of human trafficking, money laundering or other undermining activities come to light more quickly.
- We support experiments with tolerated cultivation of cannabis for recreational use. We are also committed to providing more and better information for parents and young people.
- We are taking a strong approach to the hard drug trade. In addition, we also look at whether we can help small traders or producers with any problems that have caused them to start trading or producing, such as debt, school or work problems.
- We take a critical look at the mayor's drug closure policy and believe that an alternative to closure, such as a cease and desist order to prevent a recurrence, should be considered where possible.
- We will continue to track down and combat exploitation and human trafficking. We will also continue to work hard to break the stigma associated with sex work. Tilburg, for example, is at the forefront when it comes to talking to sex workers instead of talking about sex workers. We want to maintain that leading position.

## **Protection and privacy**

- Journalism, judicial process, aid and administration appear to be particularly vulnerable to threats and intimidation. GroenLinks wants to discuss the taboo that rests here and, together with the parties involved, come up with a support plan to help people who are confronted with threats.
- We remain very cautious with camera surveillance and the collection of personal data in public spaces. We are against the use of facial recognition software.
- If the municipality uses computer programs to assess residents, the algorithms used therein must be transparent and listed in a public algorithm register. An ethics committee will be set up to provide the municipality with solicited and unsolicited advice on new technology and the use of data. The municipality maintains high privacy standards.
- We guarantee the right to demonstrate peacefully in Tilburg.

## **3.5 TRANSPARENT GOVERNANCE IN WHICH EVERYONE CAN PARTICIPATE**

For GroenLinks, democracy starts from the bottom up. With people who want to make their street, their neighbourhood, their municipality, their country a better place. Democracy requires a government that provides space for discussion, meeting and initiative and who dares to invest in the maintenance of democracy and takes a stand against forces that undermine democracy. Democracy also means ownership of our healthcare, our housing associations and our schools. GroenLinks is working on a stronger democracy in which people are not addressed as 'customers and consumers', but as the owners of the government and our public sector.

Participation is therefore an important part of local policy for GroenLinks. Not only to ensure that everyone has a sufficient say in policy but above all to ensure that people participate equally and can make use of the facilities arising from that policy. We can still take major steps in the latter. In doing so, we must ensure that participation does not have the opposite effect. Research shows that people with hbo and university degrees and higher incomes participate more on average. GroenLinks wants to prevent a split in society.

To avoid this split, it is necessary to continue the dialogue with all groups in society, especially when opinions differ greatly. GroenLinks is aware of the great diversity of views on social and sustainability issues in society. This diversity is also reflected in the council chamber. However, tackling issues will require cooperation. GroenLinks will enter into discussions with each party based on a sense of responsibility – and with an eye for a green, social and liberal society – to find solutions for the issues we are dealing with.

### **This is what GroenLinks wants:**

- Each policy proposal is linked to an appropriate form of citizen participation. A team of participation coaches will support all municipal departments in organising policy development as participative as possible. This prevents the under-representation of certain groups of people in city discussions, dialogue tables and consultation evenings. We also involve our residents in the climate and energy transition by, for example, setting up randomly selected citizens' councils.
- We increase the awareness of the Citizens' Panel and want an even broader and better representation of all Tilburg residents in it. To better hear the voice of children and young people, we are introducing a youth council, a children's mayor and question hours between young people and politicians. We will continue with the pitch evenings.
- GroenLinks wants the municipality to have a clearer picture of which groups make less use of facilities and schemes to support these groups more actively.
- GroenLinks advocates better telephone and counter accessibility for groups that need it.
- GroenLinks prefers to collaborate with progressive and social parties in the municipality but in the pursuit of an inclusive municipality that is in line with the idea of a liberal society, GroenLinks will not exclude any party in advance. GroenLinks wants to prevent society from polarising and that local policy choices are made at the expense of a greener, more social and open Tilburg, in which everyone can breathe freely.

## A REFLECTION OF THE PAST TERM OF OFFICE AND A PREVIEW OF THE NEXT

Despite the corona crisis, the development of Tilburg has not stood still in recent times and is still in full swing. And that's a good thing because, in addition to the challenges of corona, we are about to make major transitions in the field of climate and energy, mobility, the housing task towards 2040, ever-increasing digitisation and the transition to a 'participation society'. For GroenLinks, in the development of Tilburg and its districts and villages, it is paramount that this takes place in a balanced and therefore sustainable way, in consultation with our residents. So that social, ecological and economic progress in Tilburg go hand in hand, do not interfere with one another but reinforce each other, and are of value to our current and future residents.

This also means that vulnerable residents and residents with a small budget must be able to participate in and benefit from these developments. We do not want to be a city where the differences in livelihood security and health continue to grow. With its past in the textile industry, which is inextricably linked to Tilburg's history and DNA, this city has also traditionally been known for an accumulation of problems such as poor education, vulnerable health and unemployment. Social resilience and quality of life are not self-evident in some neighbourhoods, even apart from the corona pandemic. GroenLinks wants to remain committed to long-term and stable investments in these vulnerable districts and neighbourhoods because intergenerational poverty and inequality of opportunity require a long-term approach.

Improvements are possible, as the PACT approach with the many 'breakthrough initiatives' in North, West and Groenewoud demonstrates, both on a social level and through physical interventions. Take, for example, the transformation of Wagnerplein, the refurbishment of Pater van den Elsenplein with, among other things, a health centre, or 'Double Sustainable' in the Kruidenbuurt, where making homes more sustainable and 'behind-the-door conversations' go hand in hand.

GroenLinks considers it important that existing networks are optimally used and connected, they have a strong connection with the neighbourhood, know the residents, empower them and at the same time have an eye for the problems that arise. Think of the Round Table House (ronde tafelhuis) cultural centre in Tilburg-Noord with the 'referral consultation hour' that remained active even in the heyday of corona, or of the Beter Projects (BeterStokhasselt, BeterWest, BeterGroenewoud) where people for whom this is less obvious are helped on their way. And help others with chores around the house. And our young people, the future generation, deserve our permanent attention. We, therefore, appreciate and support the efforts of initiatives such as R-Newt, as well as an important meeting place for young people such as the Hall of Fame, which we have been able to keep for the Spoorzone and which will soon include a beautiful new skating rink, practice rooms and pop hall.

All these initiatives contribute to a strong social base, to strengthen the social structure in neighbourhoods and districts. GroenLinks continues to fight for this strong social base because we believe that this can help prevent worse problems on all fronts. This also means that we have to be on time with growing children because differences in inequality of opportunity already arise in the first few months.



Despite the sometimes restrictive effect of the regulations from the national government (as is poignantly reflected in the 'toeslagen affaire', the extreme flexibility of the labour market and the high barriers on the housing market), GroenLinks wants to continue the movement that we have initiated in recent years to help people with finding work or other meaningful daytime activities with strength and conviction based on confidence. We remain committed to livelihood security and equality of opportunity because we cannot accept poverty and deprivation.

Of course, GroenLinks will also continue to work for our ecological capital, because, just like the social capital, this is not self-evident, as the summer of 2021 with many floods, drought and forest fires shows stronger than ever before. In addition to the intrinsic value of resilient nature, the greenery in and around the city makes a huge contribution to the well-being of our residents, to that pleasant, liveable and green city where you like to be, with an environment that invites you to meet and move. If you cycle through the neighbourhoods of Tilburg and the surrounding villages, you will see the green beds, planting areas, ecologically managed and herb-rich roadsides and new plantations of trees appearing in more and more places in the urban area. What lush greenery, what a feast for the eyes, wherein the heyday of spring and summer it blooms and buzzes full of life.

In the outlying area, you end up in one of the three city-regional parks, Moerenburg-Koningshoeven, Stadsbos013 or Landscape Park Pauwels. In these areas, nature comes first, there is room for recreation, relaxation and entrepreneurship in balance with the environment. A good example of such an initiative is Groeituin013, located on the Reeshofdijk.

With the city nature map 2040 in hand, we want to steadily continue to connect the greenery around the city with the greenery in the city, the construction of new nature and the construction of ecological connecting zones between natural areas. We also want to continue steadily with the Regional Energy and Climate Strategy (REKS), where sustainable energy and the climate challenge in the landscape go hand in hand. Just like the social issue, this also requires a long-term and structural approach, to face all the challenges associated with climate change and climate adaptation, such as drought, heat stress and flooding. Following Moerenburg, the developing water landscape in the Pauwels landscape park is a wonderful example of how the excess water from the city can be used to prevent desiccation in rural areas and to create a (bio)diverse landscape where water, perception, walking and cycling and strengthening the ecology together are given a place.

As mentioned, Tilburg is growing as a city, with 25,000 additional homes required within the city limits until 2040. GroenLinks supports the fundamental choice for infill, in which we see opportunities for transformation of the Canal Zone, for example. The realisation of sufficiently suitable, affordable and sustainable homes is paramount, in which a green, nature-inclusive and climate-adaptive integration is the absolute starting point for GroenLinks. However, this is not an easy task. More and more homes and residents mean increasing pressure on the existing environment. It is also simply not possible to continue facilitating car traffic straight through the city centre, or an extra lane on the city ring will have to be added. That is why GroenLinks has recently initiated the move towards a car-free city centre, with more greenery and space for pedestrians and cyclists. A pleasant place where you like to come. We would like to continue this movement in the next period, with the further greening and relaxation of the city centre, the realisation of a lively and green Stadsforum and the transformation of the bleak Koningsplein into a green Koningswei.

Tilburg is also a student city, with plenty of activity and dynamics. This is a positive development but also requires a balance because more and more people live in Tilburg's city centre. As far as GroenLinks is concerned, we will ensure that this balance does not tip over so that it remains clear where the main catering sector is and where it is not. We also cherish our cultural capital, which has been hit hard during the corona crisis. As far as GroenLinks is concerned, Tilburg is and will remain a city of makers, in which we are committed to a rich and diverse cultural offer, with large crowd pullers such as pop stage 013, Natuurmuseum and the Stadsschouwburg, but also space for small-scale productions and innovative initiatives such as Kaapstad.

As far as GroenLinks is concerned, economic development in our city takes place sustainably and circularly, because we cannot continue to extract raw materials indefinitely. This is getting more and more off the ground, but we are not there yet. Here too, permanent investments are needed. We invite the knowledge institutions, colleges and care institutions in our city to actively contribute ideas and to contribute to (social) innovations and the strengthening of the sustainable economic structure in this city. The intentions of the municipality and the Elisabeth-Tweesteden Hospital to develop an innovative network in which users exchange residual heat and cold and Tilburg South can eventually get rid of natural gas is a strong example of this according to GroenLinks.

GroenLinks wants to continue to invest in the city and villages and their residents. We want to do this in a smart, social and future-proof way. With the dynamics of a student city and the many knowledge and educational institutions, we have a fertile ground to do even more work on meaningful employment, economic recovery and at the same time solving major social issues.

Making the municipality climate-proof and making the switch to a sustainable energy supply and circular economy offer many opportunities. Of course, this has to be done carefully, fairly and socially, with an eye for the quality of the environment. For example, we are working on broad prosperity for all Tilburg residents, by which we also mean all residents of Berkel-Enschot, Udenhout and Biezenmortel. And by all residents, we explicitly mean our residents with a culturally diverse background or belonging to the LGBTIQ+ community. Because equal opportunities or treatment are by no means always self-evident, here too we have a responsibility to improve this sustainably.

GroenLinks has a long track record in the municipal council. We are proud of this because it has enabled us to achieve many of our social and green goals. Governance is therefore not an end in itself, what we can achieve together with our residents is always paramount at GroenLinks. Participating in the municipal council means not only keeping in touch with one's supporters but also collaborating with other parties. Working together also means that we can never achieve 100% of our election program and have to accept that other parties have different ideas on how to achieve a beautiful Tilburg. Sometimes some ideas make GroenLinks less enthusiastic. That's the honest story, in which we as GroenLinks always keep the total picture in mind. We are therefore extremely proud of what we have achieved in recent years to make Tilburg a lot more beautiful, more social, more sustainable and fairer. Can we live up to this for the next period? Then we will also be prepared to use our rich experience as of 2022 to make Tilburg more social and greener.