



## Newsletter September 2024

[www.devlamoven.be](http://www.devlamoven.be)

With the municipal and provincial elections approaching, we would like to inform you about the current state in the 'Nijvelsebaan/Zavelstraat/Stroobantsstraat' outdoor sports site dossier.

**Not only local residents have well-founded objections, the services for the Environment of Flanders and the Province of Flemish Brabant also give unfavourable advice about this project.**

### Where are we on 15/09/2024?

After the various advice and conditions imposed by the authorities involved (mainly by the Province and the Flanders Environment Agency), the municipality of Huldenberg submitted a new plan with explanatory memorandum and new preliminary designs in December 2023, taking into account the advice and conditions (see newsletter of December 2023).

In their new explanatory memorandum, alternative scenarios are also developed, in which the agricultural lands north of the Nijvelsebaan are filled in, so even closer to the residents of Stroobantsstraat, Neesveld and Breembosstraat, (see link below for more information)

<https://dsi.omgeving.vlaanderen.be/fiche-detail/57b32a3e-1613-4208-8fea-a409d6f21d0f>

The municipality also received an **unfavourable opinion on this new proposal from the Province of Flemish Brabant** with these comments (can also be read via the link above):

- The plans are **insufficiently substantiated** and there are possible **contradictions with good spatial policy**
- The effective need for additional space for outdoor recreation has **not been sufficiently researched and motivated**
- There is **too much space taken up**
- There is **too little qualitative compensation for the occupied agricultural land**

The **Flanders Environment Service also gave unfavourable advice** because this plan does not sufficiently meet:

- the provisions of the municipal spatial structure plan
- efficient use of space
- combating the fragmentation of open space
- creating spatial added value for the environment.

The Flanders Environment Service makes the following comment:

**'Ultimately, a design is proposed that will function as an island between the rural residential ribbons and without any coordination with the environment or with the village center 1.5 km away from this location. This design does not have any spatial added value for the environment, let alone encourages multiple use of space or makes use of existing facilities that the village center has to offer. Moreover, 8.7 hectares will ultimately be occupied, while the original requirement for the sites was 3 hectares. And based on the areas to be occupied, a very broad calculation is also included with regard to the parking requirement.'**

Finally, after recently abolishing a bus line on this route, De Lijn has responded that it has neither the intention nor the budget to provide an additional service on line X77 in the later hours and on weekends.

**We haven't had any news since then...**

We believe that if there is a real need for a new outdoor sports complex for Huldenberg, the chosen location is not the suitable location.

**Its grandeur is out of proportion and does not fit at all in this quiet area with a rural character.**

According to official calculations, the intended net area of sports fields would require 39 to 81 parking spaces. The municipality provides **162 parking spaces in its plans. More than double.** One can imagine **the increase in car traffic and decrease of road safety** in this quiet area.

The location is **no longer sufficiently accessible by public transport** as one of the two bus lines has been cancelled. As a result, the criterion of sufficient public transport to the Vlamoven site is no longer applicable: in other words, the original location survey is no longer valid.

We would also like to point out the soilhardening that this entire infrastructure entails. **What is the point of depaving the village center if the beautiful fields and agricultural land on the Vlamoven site were to be partially paved?**

Although the current municipal council repeatedly claims in the press that **citizen participation** is their strong point in Huldenberg, **no consultation took place with local residents** in this project about the choice of location. At the first and only Paraadt (citizen participation) at the beginning of the process, almost 2 years ago, the choice of location had already been decided and voted on by the current board. There has been no further consultation with local residents in those 2 years.

Moreover, **the Vlamoven site is situated within the area of the De Brabantse Wouden National Park**, which we can be proud of, but where farmers fear the loss of agricultural land due to so-called 'corridors' to connect the forests.

**We do not see the logic in building a noisy and light-polluting sports complex, leaning against a corridor of the National Park, and also taking up even more agricultural land.**

**THE RESIDENTS AND MANY WITH US CONTINUE TO OPPOSITE THIS PROJECT.**

[Our objections have now also been confirmed by official authorities](#)

The tranquillity, the sense of space, the atmosphere of rural living, the rolling landscape and the available greenery are the first reasons why residents have **consciously** chosen to live in this place, and many Huldenberg residents with them. **The excessive seizure of green space and agricultural land is unacceptable. Preserving rural space should be a top priority in a future-oriented policy for a municipality like Huldenberg.**

The municipal council claims that the concerns of citizens are taken into account. **But the severity of the impact of light and noise that this project will have on the mental (and physical) health of local residents has been minimized.**

Moreover, **the financial magnitude of this project** for a rural municipality like Huldenberg is something we wonder about. The municipality already has one of the highest municipal taxes in Flanders (8%).

You also know who ultimately pays for this.

**We are absolutely convinced that with some goodwill, more participation and more thorough research, another suitable location can certainly be found in Huldenberg, which meets the needs of the sports clubs, and with less impact on local residents, better accessibility with public transport, less use of open space and agricultural land.**

As a resident of Huldenberg, we once consciously chose to live in rural, quiet Huldenberg.

Let us keep it that way. There is enough space in Huldenberg for a sports complex, without overburdening local residents.



Actiecomité 'De Vlamoven'