

Implementation of the planning forecast's ten strategic priority areas in towns and settlements

AASIAAT

Business development

Asiaat's potential role as a main supply base for offshore activities should be developed and enhanced by infrastructure and area allotment for related business etc. to the benefit of the entire municipality. Transit Island could be used for innovative business and cultural activities alike. At the same time, the fishing trade should be strengthened by granting area allotments allowing extensions and new constructions, along with better facilities for the fishermen, e.g. docking facilities by the factory and by the small boat port. Kayaking and bird life in the archipelago provide good opportunities for tourism development. Strengthened cultural and leisure facilities located centrally in the town are to become tourism drivers.

In the settlements, local business opportunities should be improved and investigated, e.g. through trading and processing of other fish, seals and whales. This calls for areas for production facilities, skin preparation facilities and quay facilities. In several settlements, opportunities for a simultaneous development of tourism exist. For instance, there is overnight accommodation and an arts and craft centre in Akunnaaq, and Kitsissuarsuit has a museum emphasising story telling.

Education

Asiaat is to remain an important centre for youth education in co-operation with Ilulissat. Nearby smaller towns and settlements should be included in the planning of educational functions and related needs, since, e.g., adequate child-care, housing, cultural and leisure activities are to be coordinated. The quality of the physical settings (both outdoors and indoors) is vital to the learning environment, all the way from pre-school age. It would be beneficial to locate courses and education related to the offshore industry in Asiaat.

The settlements need adequate facilities for child-care, schools, leisure facilities and activities. It would be beneficial to integrate these activities, and allot areas for, e.g., multifunctional houses and day-care centres.

Settlement and housing

Asiaat has many good town areas with homogenous and harmonic buildings and standard houses, and the characteristics are worth keeping. At the same time, it should be possible to establish new and exciting buildings that focus on architecture, while respecting the terrain and considering energy-saving solutions.

Asiaat is to be abreast of the demand for housing in relation to offshore activities. Housing development should take place towards and on Tupilak, and maybe to the south instead of the east. In addition, areas for senior housing, youth housing and dormitories are to be mixed in with family housing.

In the settlements, there is a need for redevelopment and rehabilitation as well as a rethinking of functions. For instance, a number of senior houses in Akunnaaq should be transformed into youth housing due to their inconvenient location. Area is to be secured for senior housing.

Culture and identity

The strong leisure and cultural youth life is to have sufficient opportunities. Areas for a larger cultural or community house should be allotted in the town centre. This would also provide options to strengthen the strong association activities, and allow the town to host large-scale regional events and tourist activities.

In the settlements, (empty) houses should be made available to cultural and public purposes. It is important to the citizens that local culture be passed on from one generation to another. Also, the use of the open country should be supported by spatial planning.

Safety and the good life

Public spaces affect the feeling of safety, not least in a town of Aasiaat's size, so the appearance of open spaces is to be improved, making squares and paths places where you feel safe and want to stay for a while, especially for the many children and young persons. The creation of community houses would also contribute to strengthening local solidarity and co-responsibility.

The settlements especially wish for a better daily life by means of better navigation and utilities, and involvement in the decision-making regarding their houses and a better environment. Even minor improvements such as the placement of benches and the removal of worn-down buildings would add to the sense of safety in the settlements.

Health-care and prevention

The regional hospital for Disko is located in Aasiaat, and its areas are to be optimum and sufficient. With regard to health promotion, the citizens' wish for an indoor pool and various outdoor activities (skiing, dog sledge, BMX) should be backed by planning.

The settlements also want more health promotion activities like playgrounds and fields. In Akunnaaq and Ikamiut, sport facilities can be combined with village halls, and in Kitsissuarsuit, meeting facilities for health information meetings should be ensured.

Infrastructure and utilities

Aasiaat's port area has great potential, both in terms of creating a good port environment and business development. Therefore, it is to be possible to extend the port and airport, meeting the needs of the new businesses. Overall, construction of basic utilities and infrastructure is to be carried out with due consideration of public space and public appearance.

There are good prospects for more sustainable supplies in Aasiaat. A hydro plant in Qasiqannguit can supply Aasiaat. It is also possible to utilise surplus energy and heat from the incineration plant, which also has the capacity to receive waste from other towns and settlements.

In the settlements, the citizens wish for better supplies, improved quay areas and a vaster port depth. In Akunnaag, areas can be allotted for a pontoon and sheds south of the settlement. Lighting and the water supply should be prioritised – small things which are of great importance to the inhabitants.

Climate, environment and nature

Today, the nature in the area is used for many leisure activities, and in the future, it is important to ensure protection of and access to nature, e.g. via hiking routes, camping areas and information on Ramsar areas and bird refuges. There is an urgent need to change the water protection at Aasiaat, as this will improve the water quality and enable town development and leisure activities south of the town. Waste management is also a problem due to location and nuisance.

In Ikamiut and Kitsissuarsuit, the citizens want to move the dump (and incineration site) further away from housing areas. Therefore, areas for new dumps or shipping should be reserved in the settlements.

Cultural heritage and preservation

Aasiaat has many memorials, sculptures etc. and they should be emphasised in urban spaces. The museum is important to the promotion of culture. The area around the museum is to be reserved for this purpose, but is at the same time to invite to contemporary activities. Several other preservation-worthy buildings are in bad shape, and preservation initiatives should be considered.

The settlements' focus on passing on their culture can be strengthened by cultural centres, active workshops, local museums etc. These could be located in the old warehouses. Promotion of the cultural heritage can also take place in a co-operation between the settlements and Aasiaat.

IT, democracy and dialogue

The town plan is to be an important tool in ensuring good administration of the town and settlements, ensuring that new initiatives are to be carried out in accordance with the goals for the area. This requires that information on the town plan reach the inhabitants and that they are continuously heard during the processes.

The town plan is also to be specific in its information on permitted activities in specific subareas with regard to dog keeping, boat storage, containers etc.

With Aasiaat as a new professional administration, dialogue can be improved through a more visible administration and the library can expand its activities to a regional library.

The educational institutions should also play a more active role in the development of (local) democracy. The three settlements want improved dialogue on fishing, mutual interests, hearings, cultural activities etc., emphasising their say in the municipality.