

De Veldkei, community center for the future of Havelte

Learning from the community spaces of Haveltes past and applying the knowledge to the future outdoor space of de Veldkei.



Loeka van der Eijk

Supervisors:

Sanda Lenzholzer

Elyze Storms-Smeeds

Colofon

Bsc Thesis Landscape Architecture
Wageningen University and research
LAR-81812

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Author

Loeka van der Eijk
1033804
loekavde@gmail.com

Supervisors

Sanda Lenzholzer
Elyze Storms-smeets

Thesis Coördinator

Gabriëlle Bartelse

Examiner

Gabriëlle Bartelse

Cover Image

Back entrance of de Veldkei (Drents Archief, Fotocollectie gemeente Havelte, 1982)

Abstract

Community centre De Veldkei is in need of a new outdoor space. The current outdoor space is outdated, grey and badly connected to its direct surroundings. In this thesis an in depth look is taken at the historical community spaces of Havelte. Five community spaces are selected and subjected to a social and spatial analysis. This results in a list of four historical spatial qualities: semi outdoor spaces, high trees, open areas and suspense. Next to this a participative process with the community of Havelte was undertaken. This resulted in a list of spatial questions for the future outdoor space of De Veldkei. In a research through design process two proposal designs are tested on the spatial questions from the community as well as the historical spatial qualities. The final design presented in this thesis shows how the historical spatial qualities can be applied in order to solve the issues with the current outdoor space as well as answer the spatial questions from the community.

Contents

1. Introduction	4
2. Methods and Materials	7
2.1 Models	8
3. The Community	9
3.1 Meeting the community	9
3.2 The spatial questions	11
4. Community spaces	12
4.1 Third places	12
4.2 Historical public places	13
4.3 Historical community spaces	16
4.3 Historical spatial qualities	23
5. Design proposals	25
5.1 Design proposal 1 - De Veldkei	25
5.2 Design proposal 2 - Conversation	27
6. Final design	29
6.1 The entrances	30
6.2 The high trees	30
6.3 The play forest	30
6.4 The terrace	31
6.5 The planters	31
6.6 The flagstones	32
6.7 Parking	32
6.8 Open spaces	32
6.9 Limited visibility	33
7. Discussion	34
8. Conclusion	35
9. Reflection	36
10. References	37
Figure references	38
Appendix 1 - Questionnaire results	41
Appendix 2 - Results from meeting the community	47

1. Introduction



Fig 1.1 The grand opening of de Veldkei by mr. H Staneke (Drents Archief, 1977)

The Veldkei is a community centre in the village of Havelte, located in Drenthe. Havelte is an old village. Originally Uffelte belonged to Havelte and together they, churchwise, fit under Steenwijk. In 1309 Philippus (Dean of the church of Steenwijk) and Wicherus (Pastor of the church of Vries) requested the bishop of Utrecht for permission for the erection of a church for the people of Uffelte, Havelte and Darp. The permission was granted under the condition that the costs were brought up by the community. At the time Havelte counted 22 houses in total but together with the other villages they arranged a deal and the church was built (Magnin, 1844). In the years that followed the village grew to 969 houses in 1939 (van der Torre, 2004). The village went through a second growth spurt around the 1970s and counts 1528 houses today (Alle Cijfers, 2021). Although the village grew quite rapidly in the last 50 years, the sense of community remains as strong as it seemed to be in 1309 when the church was built.



fig. 1.2 De Veldkei in its current situation. Map shows green and grey surface area

The community, however, needs a place to meet and come together. Or, as *Welzijn MensenWerk* (n.d.) describes it: “A meeting place where ideas come to life”. At the moment, this place is community centre The Veldkei. Opened on the 12th of may in 1977 (Drents Archief, 1977) the building turned 44 years old just a couple of weeks ago (Figure 1.1). This means the centre is a little dated and, as such, was threatened to be demolished in 2018. But once again the community of Havelte came together and they fought for the preservation of their community centre (RTV Drenthe, 2018). The renovation of the indoor space has already started but the outdoor space remains almost untouched.



Figure 1.3 Havelte and the location of de Veldkei. The old and new sections of Havelte are visualized

The Veldkei is located in centrally in Havelte, on the border of the old (southern) and the new (northern) part of the village (figure 1.3). The neighbourhood surrounding the Veldkei was, just like the building itself, built in the 70s. Taking a closer look at the surroundings of the Veldkei four different access routes can be distinguished (figure 1.2). The Veldkamp and the Molenweg from the north and the Molenkampweg and the Molenweg coming together from the south. There are a couple of main issues with the current outdoor space. First of all the area consist mostly of parking lots which are not in use for most of the year. Secondly, these stone parking lots create an impermeable layer which causes a big part of the rainwater to be transported directly into the sewage system instead of into the ground causing issues in dryer periods. Thirdly, the current layout and design of the outdoor space is badly connected to its direct surroundings. This makes the community centre less approachable. In order to create a suitable new outdoor space for the Veldkei it is important to cater to its needs. The Veldkei is currently in use for several different purposes. These include: a library, a centre for physical therapy, a meeting spot for different clubs and more. As such, the Veldkei hosts both small and big groups of people, some in a formal and some in an informal context. Ideally, the new outdoor space for the Veldkei responds to both current and future needs.

The aim of this thesis is to create a new outdoor space that not only brings new life to De Veldkei but also allows the community to meet and have their ideas come to life. Just like the community centre aims to do. In order to do so it was decided to take an in-depth look at some of the community spaces in Havelte's history. These places are selected using the third place theory. A third place is a social place that is separate

from your home (first place) and work (second place) environment (Oldenburg, 1989). The third place theory offers a selection of criteria that allow for the distinction between a public and a community space. What were the spatial questions for these communal in- and outdoor spaces? And how were these met? By answering these, and more, questions this thesis aims to learn from the past in order to present possible design principles for the future. It is important to remark that, by doing so, it is not intended to mimic or copy the past. Instead, the aim is to learn and make an informed design for the future which is rooted in the history of Havelte.

2. Methods and materials

As described in the introduction, the outdoor space of community centre De Veldkei currently has little relation to local history. The aim of this thesis is to tackle the problems of the outdoor space by using the knowledge of the spatial qualities of historical community spaces from Haveltes past. The main objectives are to:

- Improve the connection between the community centre and its direct surroundings;
- Decrease impermeable surface area;
- Answer the spatial questions asked by the stakeholders;
- Enhance the relation between old and new Havelte.

The General Research Question (GRQ) then becomes: *What can we learn from the community spaces in the history of Havelte? And how do we apply this knowledge in the re-development of the outdoor space of community centre De Veldkei?*

In order to answer this question four Specific Research Questions (SRQ) need to be answered:

These questions lead to the final design as visualized in the proposed research scheme below (Figure 2.1). The scheme contains all research questions (SRQ 1 through 4) and their foreseen results (boxes). The terms mentioned in the Research Scheme are bold in the following section. The scheme also shows how the research leads to the final design. The methods used (circles) are labelled up top.

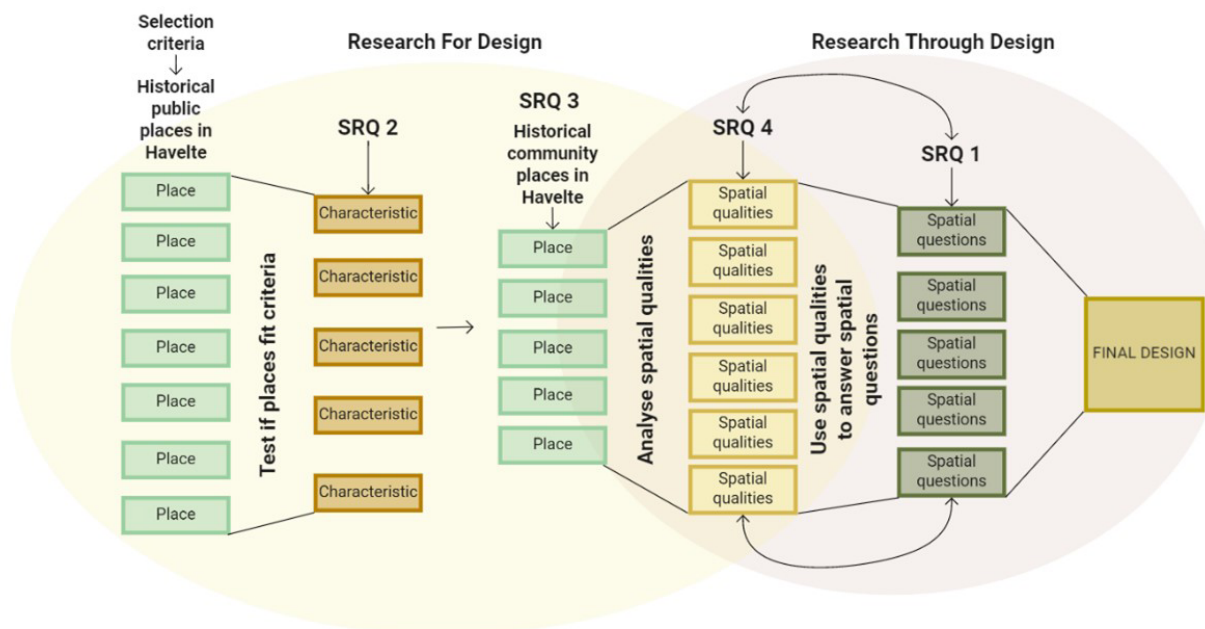


Fig. 2.1 Research scheme

SRQ 1: *What are the spatial questions for the future of the outdoor space of De Veldkei, as presented by its users?*

This question is answered using two main data collection methods. The first method is conversation and presentation. The second method is a questionnaire. Answering this question results in a list of **spatial questions** for the future outdoor space of De Veldkei. The final design can be tested on its ability to answer these spatial questions.

SRQ 2: *What is a community space? And what are its characteristics?*

In order to answer this question the third place theory, as presented by Oldenburg in 1989, is considered. A third place is another word for a community space, it follows after the home (first place) and the workplace (second place). Oldenburg proposes a list of characteristics that allow the user to distinguish a public place from a community space. Answering this question leads to a list of **characteristics** which are then used in answering SRQ 3.

Materials used: Literary research.

SRQ 3: *What public places, in the social history of Havelte, fit these characteristics?*

This specific research question aims to select the most important community spaces from the history of Havelte. A list of public places is proposed on the basis of set selection criteria. The selected public places are then tested on the third place characteristics that result from answering SRQ 2. This way a distinction can be made between the historical public places and the historical community spaces. The result of this question is a list of the most important **historical community spaces of Havelte**.

Materials used: Archival research and Literary Research.

SRQ 4: *What are the spatial qualities of these places?*

To aid in answering this question the selected historical community spaces (SRQ 3) are analysed on usage history, social significance and spatial arrangement. This results in a list of **historical spatial qualities** that can then be applied in the final design.

Materials used: Archival research, Literary research and Spatial Research.

2.1 Models

There are two main research models used in this thesis: research for design and research through design.

Research for design: This method is applied in the first half of the thesis and is aimed to gather information on the area. Doing so allows for the making of informed decisions later on (Stappers and Giaccardi, 2017).

Research through design: This method is applied in the second half of the thesis and is aimed to create a final design. This is done by performing design activities and testing them. By making these 'prototypes' and testing them the best solutions for the space can be found (Stappers and Giaccardi, 2017).

3. The community

In order to create a suitable design for the outdoor space of De Veldkei it is essential to understand its function within the community. Who is currently using the space, and who isn't? What users is the space aimed towards? What are the communities questions for the future outdoor space of De Veldkei? How do they prefer to use the space in the future? And what current aspects of the space do they want to keep, and which ones do they want to change? These questions, and more, are answered in this chapter.

3.1 Meeting the community

In order to get a good view of the communities spatial questions for the future of the outdoor space of De Veldkei two data collection methods were used. A questionnaire was send out via post and e-mail and shared on Facebook. This resulted in 15 responses. Next to this, feedback and other input was gathered in three separate online and face-to-face meetings in different stages of the process. The full results of the questionnaire and the individual idea market in Havelte on Thursday June 10th can be found in appendix 1 and 2 respectively.

Results of the meetings with the community of Havelte

For the purpose of this thesis meetings with the community of Havelte took place at three different stages in the design process.

The first meeting took place at the start of the thesis period. Several stakeholders from the community, De Veldkei and the municipality illustrated the current situation, the issues and the assignment. Following is a summary of the main findings from this first meeting.

Currently, De Veldkei functions as a social meeting point: "the living room of Havelte". Its significance for the community was illustrated using the example from 2018 when De Veldkei was threatened to be demolished. Approximately 500 out of the 4800 inhabitants of Havelte voted for De Veldkei to be saved. The companies, residing in De Veldkei, requested for the interior of De Veldkei to be taken on first in order for them to stay. As a result the interior of De Veldkei has been partially renewed.

Apart from the indoor space there are several aims for the future of the outdoor space. The space needs to be inviting and allow people to meet and hold conversation. Next to this, De Veldkei aims to reach a younger audience and wants the outdoor space to reflect that. The older generation, which is currently the main user of De Veldkei, should, however, not be forgotten. For them, parking lots are important. Arriving by car and parking nearby allows them to visit De Veldkei regularly. The walking and cycling infrastructure surrounding De Veldkei is not sufficient. It limits the ability of the older generation to visit De Veldkei by foot or by bike. The stakeholders mention requests for so-called 'rollator promenades' and public gardening facilities

The second meeting took place online on the 28th of May. Here, our initial designs and concepts were presented and discussed with a neighbour and several stakeholders related to *Welzijn Mensenwerk*. The most interesting ideas and subjects of discussion from this meeting are highlighted below.

The ideas that got the most positive response were: Outdoor sports facilities, conversation corners (with flowers), public gardening facilities, re-developing the roof and housing for birds, bees and butterflies. It was also mentioned once again that rollator access to the community centre is of key importance and that appealing to the younger generation is an important goal.

The parking issue, however, was a point of discussion. Ideally, no parking spaces would be lost in the new design. The neighbour, who has a 24/7 view of the parking lot, provided some valuable information on the occupation of the several parking areas. The parking lots near the entrances are used most frequently, followed up by the parking lot in the south. An employee of *Welzijn Mensenwerk*, mentioned that the parking lot up north need to be accessible in future designs because of the artist entrance to the theatre.

The third meeting took place in Havelte and allowed us to present our preliminary designs. As a result, both general feedback on the design concepts as well as specific feedback on the designs was gathered. The general and specific feedback per student can be found in appendix 2. The general feedback, gathered by each of the students, brought up some key points of interest. These include: greenery, materialization, function, parking and infrastructure.

Greenery and an increase of green surface area seemed to be generally appreciated. However, some concerns were raised on the upkeep and potential nuisance due to, for example, leaf litter in autumn. Across all designs people, both young and old, seemed to be drawn to natural materials. Wood or stone elements were pointed out repeatedly for their nice outward appearance. Water was also a point of interest, being both appreciated by kids, as well as a point of concern by adults for safety reasons. Parking, however, led to some discussion once again. Several students received feedback on the shortage of parking space in their plan. In an open conversation with one of the people who had raised some concerns on the available parking lots we came to two main conclusions. Firstly, it is unclear how the parking lot occupation will change after covid-19 but the participant suspected that the parking lots would be used less often. Secondly, a pleasant and functional outdoor space would be of higher value to De Veldkei than the current 80 parking lots. Changes to the infrastructure, outside De Veldkei, that improved accessibility for people with limited mobility were appreciated. New functionalities for the outdoor space that were highly appreciated were: sitting areas, permeable paving, playgrounds for kids, a terrace and sport apparatuses.

Results of the Questionnaire

The questionnaire was answered by 15 individuals. Six respondents were between 30 and 60 years old and nine were older than 60. This means only a select group of stakeholders and limited age groups are included in the results. As such, the results are not fully representative for the opinion of the full community of Havelte and need to be treated accordingly. The results of the questionnaire can be divided in several sub-sections: infrastructure and parking, outdoor activities and the outdoor space of De Veldkei.

Infrastructure and parking

Infrastructure and parking turned out to be of great interest to the community of Havelte. 3 out of 15 respondents (20%) mentioned their car as their main mode of transport when visiting De Veldkei. Reasons for visiting De Veldkei by car varied. Bad weather or the transportation of luggage or groceries were the main reasons. Limited mobility was also mentioned. When asked what could be improved to facilitate other modes of transport the respondents mentioned improved sidewalks amongst sufficient parking spots for bikes.

Outdoor activities

Whilst currently in the middle of a pandemic more and more activities take place outside. We asked the respondents what outdoor activities they undertook in the past year. The main activities turned out to be hiking (12 people, 80%) and cycling (11 people, 73%) with gardening (9 people, 60%) coming in third. 47% (7 people) mentioned that they saw possibilities for De Veldkei to be involved in the organisation of these activities pointing out that De Veldkei is already involved in the Diabetes Challenge (Bas van de Goor Foundation, 2021). When asked what other outdoor activities they would like to undertake at De Veldkei multiple people mentioned requests for both seating and meeting spots. One person suggested outdoor arts-and crafts afternoons for the local children. Spare time, when not spend at De Veldkei, was generally spend in the local forest or nature areas or, at nearby restaurants or cafés. Sports clubs or facilities are also popular places to spend spare time.

The outdoor space of De Veldkei

Several of the questionnaires questions were aimed at the current and the future functionalities of the outdoor space of De Veldkei. We asked people what features they wanted to see in the future outdoor space of De Veldkei. The response was generally of a positive attitude and multiple requests were made. 5 out of 11 responses (45%) included a request for more greenery in different shapes and sizes, pots being the most popular. Also 5 out of 11 respondents (45%) requested sufficient parking lots or parking lots for disabled people. Other ideas included seating areas, terrasses and water elements.

3.2 The spatial questions

Having thoroughly evaluated all feedback from the community it is now possible to answer specific research question 1 (SRQ 1): What are the spatial questions for the future of the outdoor space of De Veldkei, as presented by its users? The answer is a list of design criteria to test the final design on. From this point onwards these design criteria are referred to as spatial questions.

The outdoor space of De Veldkei needs to:

- » Be **accessible** to elderly people or people with limited mobility.
- » Cather to the local **youth**.
- » Increase the amount of **green surface** and vegetation.
- » Offer sufficient **parking** facilities. (For the final design, keeping 50% of the currently available parking lots (approximately 40 out of 80) was considered to be sufficient)
- » Stimulate **conversation** and meeting new people.
- » Have public **gardening** facilities.
- » Stimulate **movement** and/or exercise.
- » Have a **natural appearance**.

4. Community spaces

This chapter aims to find the key community spaces from the social history of Havelte and their respective spatial qualities. Firstly, the concept of a community space is explained. What are community spaces? And what are their social characteristics? To answer this question the third place theory by Oldenburg is explained. Secondly, criteria for the selection of historical public places are introduced. On the basis of these criteria a list of historical places is presented. These public places are then tested on the third place characteristics. Thirdly, the selected community spaces are subjected to a historical analysis. How was the space used historically? And how was the space arranged in order to be used in this way? The aim of this chapter is to answer SRQ 2, 3 and 4. The result is a list of historical spatial qualities related to the historical community spaces of Havelte.

4.1 Third places

Community spaces, they can be found anywhere and everywhere. Some community spaces are very obvious, for example: community centres and clubs; but others are less remarkable. In order to get a good understanding of what makes a place a community space it is valuable to take a look at the third place theory. The third place, a term introduced by urban sociologist Oldenburg in 1989, is 'the home away from home' (Oldenburg, 1989, p. 58). The third place comes after the first place, which is home and, the second place, which is the workspace. It is a local and inclusive space which allows diverse groups of people to meet but also to feel at home (Oldenburg, 1989).

These third places, no matter what shape they take, share a couple of common features or characteristics. These social characteristics allow for a differentiation between merely a public place and a place that functions as a third place. The characteristics of third places are: neutral ground, leveler, conversation, accessibility and accommodation, regulars, a low profile, a playful mood and the home away from home. These characteristics are described below.

Neutral Ground

A third place is a place of neutral ground. It is the place where all individuals feel at home but none are the hosts (Oldenburg, 1989).

Leveler

A third place also functions as a leveler of society. It is a place where social and political differences are temporarily set aside and people from all levels of society are able to connect to each other. Next to this, a third place also allows its visitors to level their emotions, to set aside their worries and have a place to relax (Oldenburg, 1989).

Conversation

Once the neutral ground is provided and the differences set aside the third place offers a perfect stage for conversation. Although conversation might not be the main aim of the third place, the conversations are often of high value to the participants. These conversations often coincide with casual games of sort (Oldenburg, 1989).

Accessibility and accommodation

A key condition for a third place is easy accessibility. The threshold to visit the space is low. The third place is open for many hours of the day and lies in close proximity to the homes of its users. This way the place accommodates for people to visit in the afterhours (Oldenburg, 1989).

The Regulars

For the third place to really come to life it needs its regular visitors. These regulars, who feel truly at home in the place, ensure an open atmosphere. It is here that newcomers can find their new connections and become regulars themselves (Oldenburg, 1989).

A low profile

The outward appearance of the third place is often not very impressive. This is, however, an important feature for the third place. The low profile appearance of the place aids in the levelling described above. It allows the visitor to be the truest version of themselves while not feeling the need to dress up (Oldenburg, 1989).

A playful mood

The third place is often home to a playful mood. Joy and acceptance are key. The aim of the participants is not to be taken seriously but to be included. The activities in the third place are often prolonged by joyful conversation and ended with the suggestion to “do this again” (Oldenburg, 1989).

A playful mood

The third place functions as a home away from home. Not in the definitive sense of the word home, which is: “fixed residence of family or household” (Coulson et al., 1975, p. 402). Oldenburg refers to David Seamon and his 1979 book: A geography of the Lifeworld. In this book Seamon lists the five aspects of at-homeness unrelated to permanent residence at a place. These include: rootedness, appropriation, regeneration, at-easeness and warmth (Seamon, 1979).

4.2 Historical public places

Although Havelte is a relatively small village, it has many public places. But which of these places fit the third place characteristics? In order to narrow down the list a couple of inclusion and exclusion criteria were set in place. The list was then tested on the third place characteristics presented above.

1. The public place is located within the present day village boundaries;

This criterium rules out café van Lunzen, Theehuis het Hunebed and 'T Hunehuis. These are all located in the present day village of Darp.

2. The place functioned as a public place from 1900 until the opening of De Veldkei in 1977. Public places that had gone out of use after 1900 or were put in use after 1977 are thus not included.

This criterium thus rules out the Nije Wheme which was opened in 1993. 16 years after De Veldkei was opened (Borsboom et al., 2002).

3. Sport clubs are not included. Different arguments can be made as to why these should or shouldn't be on the list. Oldenburg (1989, p. 53) argues that they, in nature, do not stimulate conversation and thus do not "complement third place association". Other scholars (amongst whom, Fullagar, 2019; Hickman, 2012; Lane et al., 2020; Pavlidis & Fullagar, 2014), argue that these should be included because of, for example, their potential communal value. For the sake of this thesis it was decided to acknowledge the differing opinions but to stay true to the original argument of Oldenburg (1989).

This means all sport or exercise clubs are not on the list. An example of a historical sportclub from Havelte is the korfbal association (Figure 4.1).

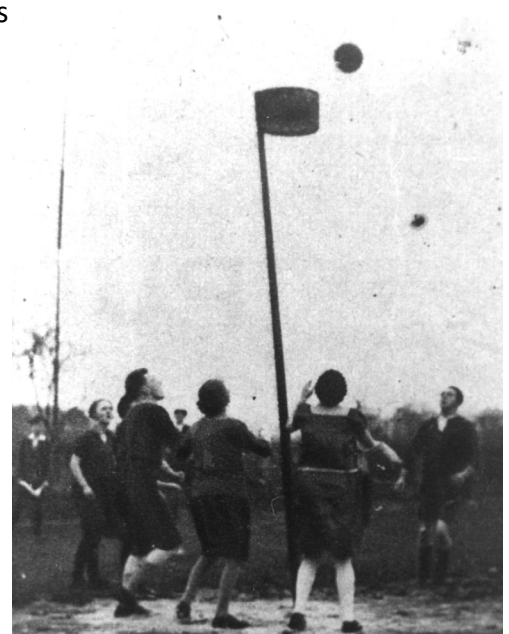


Fig 4.1 U.D.I Havelte playing a korfbal competition against Samen Eén from Giethorn on the field behind Café Tuin in 1927 (Drents Archief, 1927)

4. Places of which no record, apart from name and/or location, can be found are assumed to be of less social significance as compared to other places which are mentioned more often. As such, these places are not included.

This means both Café de Hilde and Café Jetten are not assessed. It also affects the old community building which was supposedly located in one of the old German barracks. Although stories of this place are still alive today no written, drawn or photographic record could be found. Undoubtedly several other public places are left un-mentioned in this thesis. This includes several other cafés and public places of which no name, mention, or location could be found.

Results

The selected public places are listed in the table below (table 4.1). All places have their corresponding addresses and dates of origin noted. The date describes the date the area was put in use as a public place. The top row also lists the characteristics for third places as they were defined above.

The places were then judged on how well they fitted each of the characteristics. This was based on the nature of the place, the stories describing its use, its pictures and potential newspaper articles surrounding it. Whether the place fits the characteristic or not is indicated with a 1 or a 0. 1 indicating the characteristic was fulfilled and 0 indicating it was not.

As a result four places fitted all of the characteristics and could thus be considered true community spaces. These include: the brink, café Lubberink (its original name), café Vos (its original name) and youth society 'de Overkant'. The church (Clemenskerk) ended up with a total of seven out of eight points because of its 'high profile' exterior. Stories surrounding the church, however, indicate its high value to the community historically. As such, it was decided to include the church in the historical spatial analysis.

Address	Date of origin	Public place	Neutral ground	leveler	conversation	accessibility and accommodation	the regulars	a low profile	playful mood	the home away from home	total
Dorpsstraat 21	12 th century	De brink	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
Dorpsstraat 19a and 21	1908	Cafe 't Knooppunt Tuin de Brink Scholtmeijer Lubberink de Groot	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
Rijksweg Noordzijde 21 22	Before 1926	Cafe Vos De Stam Buter De Linthorst	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
Meeuwenveenweg 1	1947 may 10 th	Jongerenhuis 'de Overkant'	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
Uffelterkerkweg 1	1309	Clemenskerk	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	7
Raadhuislaan 7	1880	De Wheme	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	7
Dorpsstraat 16	1929	Cafe Götz Hoffmans Vertellingen	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	6
Linthorst Homanlaan 1	1630-1642	Huis Overcinge	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	6
Kerklaan 2a	1935	Openlucht-theater de 'Speulkoele'	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	4
Raadhuislaan 1	1843	Gemeentehuis	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	3

Table 4.1 Public places of Havelte's History tested on third place criteria. 1 means the place fits the criterium 0 means it does not.

4.3 Historical community spaces

The five selected community spaces are all unique spaces (Figure 4.2). They all carried their own functions in society and thus came with their own spatial solutions. In this section the community spaces are looked at in depth. In order to understand their spatial qualities it is necessary to thoroughly understand how the space was used historically. What spatial questions were there for these spaces? And how were these questions answered?



fig. 4.2 The historical community spaces and their location in Havelte

De Brink

A brink is a public area, usually found at the border of the village, that was used to gather the villages livestock. It is an open area, usually planted with oak trees and provided with a dobbe. A dobbe is a round waterbody that is often used by the livestock for drinking. The trees on a brink are often planted closely together in a linear pattern. This makes the trees grow straight up which makes them more suitable for harvesting. Next to this, the brink also functioned as the meeting spot of the village. Important meetings, fairs or other communal activities often took place in this central spot (Bruijns et al., 1979). As the villages grew the brink often ended up in the centre of the village and, in modern days, often takes the appearance of a town square.

The brink in Havelte fits this definition of a brink almost perfectly. It was originally situated at the edge of town but, as the village grew, ended up in a semi-central position. In the last 100 years the brink slowly lost its agricultural functions but it remained of social importance to the inhabitants of Havelte. Pictures of the brink tell us that the brink continued to be a place to meet for the local community, ranging from small groups to the Havelte summer fair of 1979 (figures 4.4 and 4.5).



Fig. 4.3 Approximation of de Brink historically

The brink of Havelte historically has a triangular shape with three streets, named Dorpsstraat (village's street) bordering it (Figure 4.3). The brink itself consisted of a field of grass with oak trees planted densely in a linear pattern. It is unclear if there was a dobbe at some point in time. Across the brink are some diagonal paths providing direct access to the surrounding buildings. This spatial organization allows for the brink to be used as diversely as it used to be. The trees offer a nice amount of shade but their high density also give the space a semi-closed off feel. This facilitates a more intimate feeling when meeting at the brink with smaller groups. The openness of the grass underneath, however, contrasts this and offers the space for larger group meetings. This way the brink accommodates both large and small gatherings.



Fig. 4.4 Several people meeting on de Brink (Drents Archief, 1915-1920)



Fig. 4.5 Havelte summerfair of 1979 at de Brink (Drents Archief, 1979)

Café Lubberink

Located right next to the brink, café Lubberink is one of the oldest cafés in Havelte. The inscription on the face of the building tells us it was built in 1908. Throughout the years it has been known under many different names. The café was opened by the Lubberink family and given the family name. In the years that followed the café was named Tuin, de Groot, Scholtmeijer, de Brink and currently bears the name 't Knooppunt. But not only the name of the café changed throughout the years, its form and function did too (Figure 4.6).

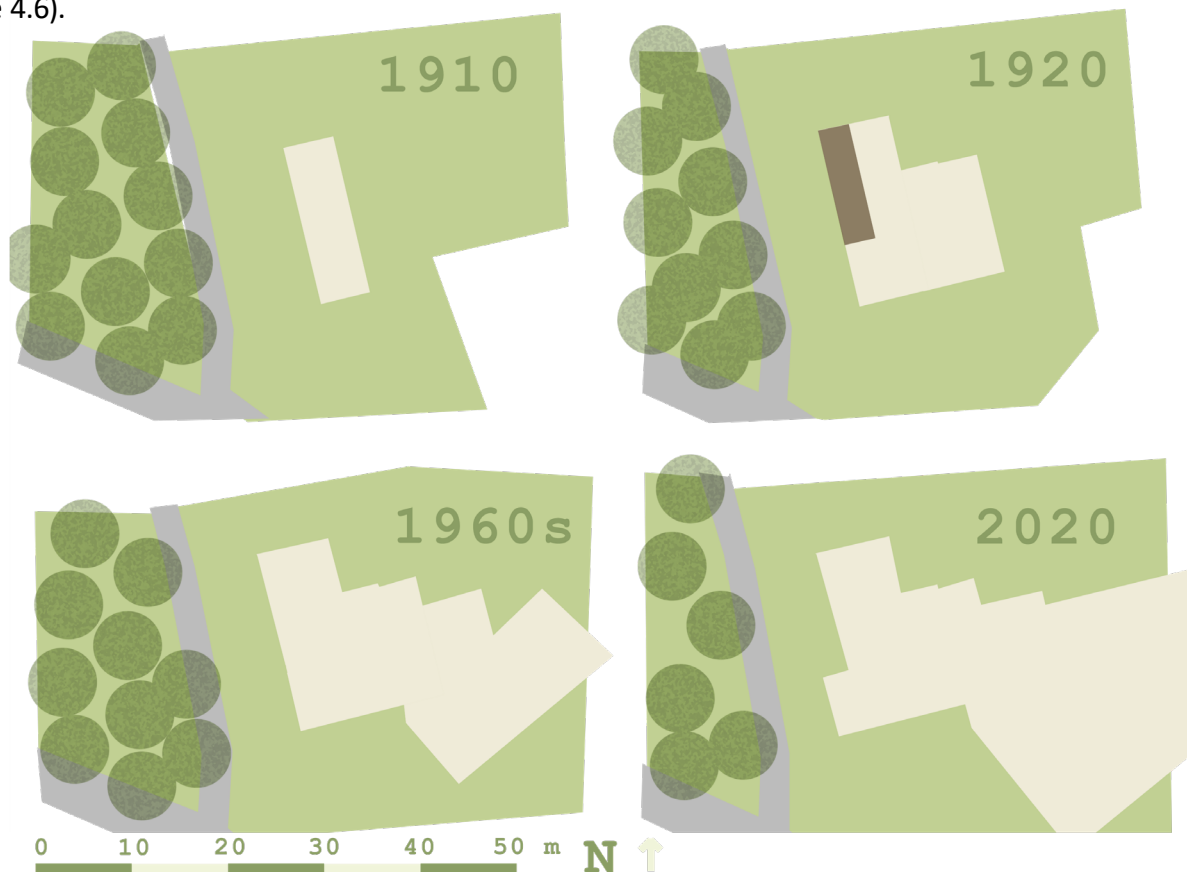


Fig 4.6 Approximation of Café Lubberink and its spatial changes throughout the years

The earliest pictures of the café date back to the 1910s and show a rectangular building with a flat façade and no outdoor facilities in front (Figure 4.7). By 1920 the building had changed tremendously both inside and out. The entrance was extended forward and a covered outdoor dining space was created right next to it (Figure 4.8). The café also expanded towards the back where a big dance hall was opened (Figure 4.6). These changes are a reflection of the changes in the social life of the people of Havelte. In the earlier years most spare time was spent by joining a singing and/or theatre group. These, however, were often not serious and resulted in consuming vast amounts of alcohol. The alcohol consumption of the inhabitants of Havelte reached a summit at the yearly Easter fair which, occasionally, took place behind café Lubberink. Nearing the 1930s and the beginning of the second world war a change was taking place. Instead of drinking, people found a new interest in dancing (Figure 4.9). From the year 1948 onwards weekly dance lessons were offered at the café, which was named de Groot at the time. Styles ranged from the waltz to the foxtrot and the samba. Even people from the neighbouring villages came to Havelte for their weekly dance nights (van der Torre, 2004).

In the 1960 the building was changed again. The covered outdoor dining area was removed and the remainder of the façade extended forwards. The face of the building became flat again. Pictures dating back to 1965 suggest that the brink was occasionally used to dine outdoors. The open space in the back of the building remained, although it was no longer in use for the annual Easter fair (Figure 4.6). Instead, the occasional musical performance or other event took place there (Figure 4.10).



Fig. 4.7 De Brink with on the right café Lubberink (Drents Archief 1900-1910)

Spatially, the place has changed a lot over the years in order to respond to the different usage patterns. The initial closed off indoor space created a private environment, suitable for small groups of local people. As the demand for more big group activities increased the café changed. By building a large separate dance hall and a covered outdoor dining space the two different functionalities of the café were split into their own sections. The terrace and the restaurant for the smaller local groups and the dance hall for the larger groups and the weekly visitors. The covered terrace creates a closed and private feel because of its separation from the road and the rest of the café. The dance hall, however, feels really open because of its large windows and spacious setup. After the 1960s the main audience of the café becomes the small, local, groups again and the space is changed accordingly. By removing the terrace and using the dance hall as an extension of



Fig 4.8 Café Lubberink in 1920 (Drents Archief, 1920)



Fig 4.9 The danceclub of havelte in the dance hall of Café Tuin (Drents Archief, 1929)



Fig. 4.10 Musical festivities behind Café Scholtmeijer (Drents Archief, 1962)

the restaurant the whole atmosphere becomes more private and indoor focussed. The outdoor space in the back has been a grass field since the day the café was opened and functioned as a diverse but open place catering to large groups and events throughout its time.

Café Vos

Café Vos is another one of the oldest cafés of Havelte dating back to before 1910. Contrary to café Lubberink, café Vos is located further from the centre of Havelte near the Drentse Hoofdvaart. Starting off as café Vos the name of the café changed to Hotel Buter in the 1920s. This name was kept until somewhere between 1981 and 1997 when it was changed to De Stam. The last name the café carried was de Linthorst before officially closing its doors in 2014 (Dagblad van het Noorden, 2014).

Café Vos shares a similar social history to café Lubberink. Initially focussing on smaller local groups but catering to a bigger dancing audience from the 1930s until well after the second world war. Café Vos and Café Lubberink were the only cafés in Havelte that had suitable dancing facilities. As such, the honour of hosting the annual performance and ball was shared (van der Torre, 2004). In later years, when the interest in dancing decreased again, the café took on a different role. Until the opening of De Veldkei in 1977, most of the local schools performed their annual plays in the old dance hall (Appendix 2).

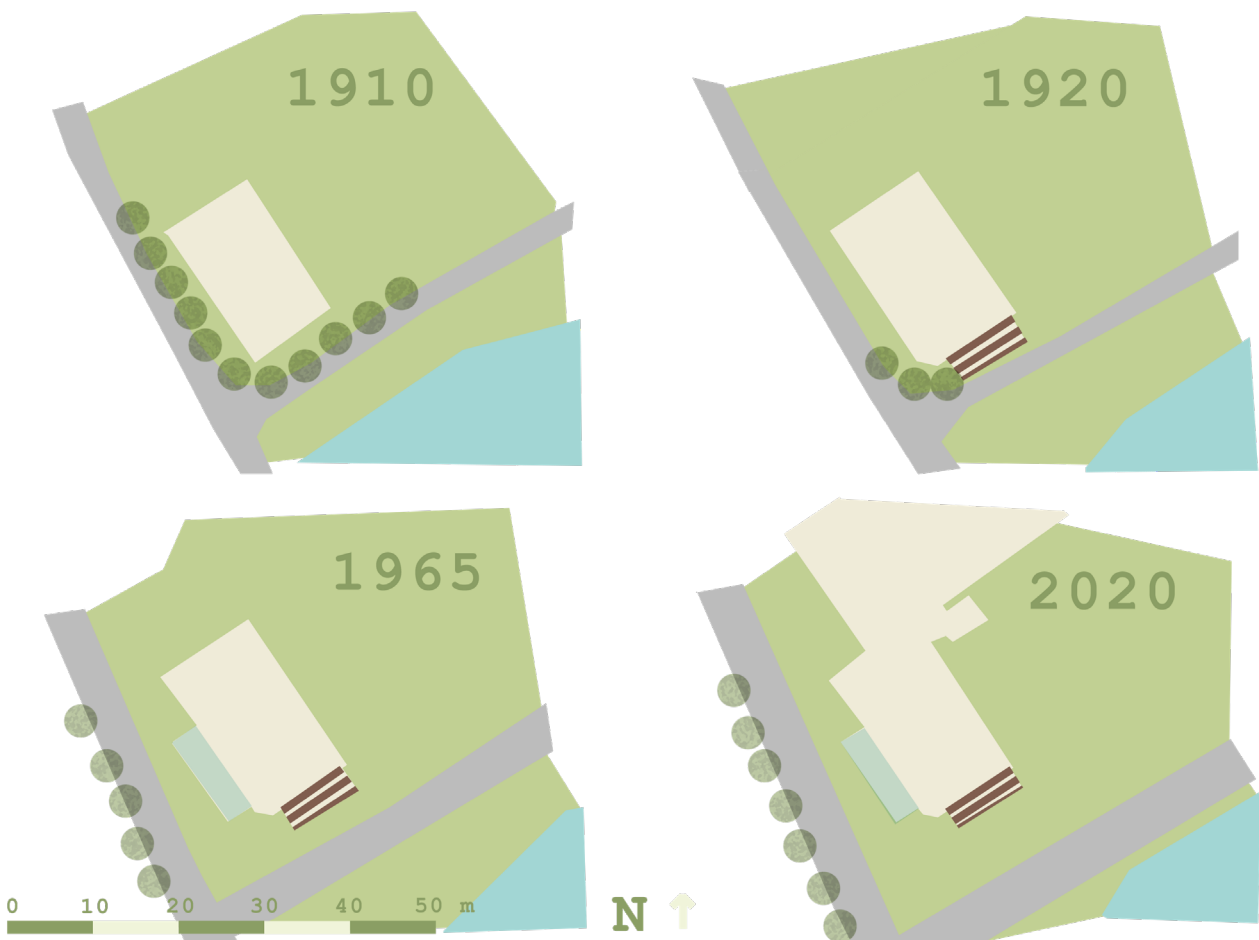


Fig 4.11 Approximation of Café Vos and its spatial changes throughout the years

When the easter fair no longer took place at café Lubberink it became tradition for (at the time) Hotel Buter to host the event (Opregte Steenwijker courant, 1951). The significance of the fair for, not only Havelte but, the whole region becomes apparent when reading the corresponding newspaper ads and stories (quote 1). The Havelte easter fair still takes place today but not behind either of the two cafés anymore.

This easter it was very busy here. From far and wide visitors came flooding into our village to be entertained at the Easter fair at hotel Buter. [...] The big dancehall of mr. Buter drew the most attention on both easter days. The dance music was provided by the Tinelli's from Zwolle, who executed their task perfectly and entertained the dancers in a positive way.

*Citation 1 Opregte Steenwijker Courant, 28-03-1951
Translated by Author*

The building and its environment changed tremendously since the day it was opened (Figure 4.11). Around the time the café was opened the streets in front were lined with oak trees shading the entrance and the seating areas in front (Figure 4.12). In the years that followed more and more trees were removed until only the trees directly in front of the entrance remained. The seating in front was then provided with sunblinds creating a semi-covered outdoor space. Somewhere between 1935 and 1965 the last trees were removed and a sunroom was build, creating a second, semi-outdoor space (Figure 4.11 and Figure 4.13). The field in the back changed from a playground in 1918 into an open field later on but it is unclear when (Figure 4.14 and 4.15).

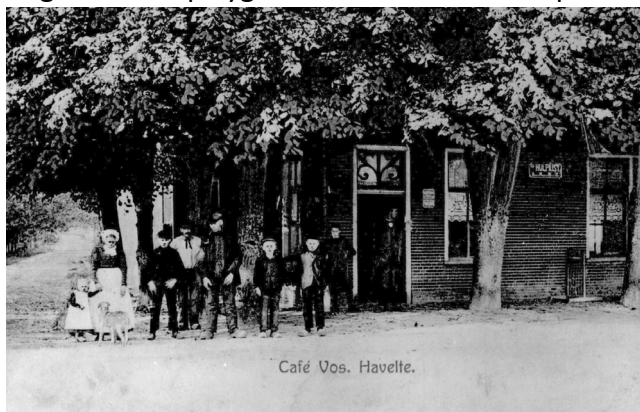


Fig. 4.12 Café Vos in 1910 with trees in front of the entrance (Drents Archie, 1910)



Fig. 4.13 Hotel Buter with sunroom and sunblinds (Drents Archief, 1966)

Just like at café Lubberink we can see a separation between spaces suitable for small groups of people, such as the semi (covered) outdoor spaces and the restaurant indoors, and the spaces suitable for bigger groups of people, such as the dance hall and the field in the back. Once again, providing shelter from the elements using trees, glass or sunblinds creates a safe and private feel for small groups. The areas for bigger groups share their openness and lack of limitations.



Fig. 4.14 Playground behind café Vos (Drents Archief, 1915)



Fig. 4.15 Easter fair behind Hotel Buter (Drents Archief, 1936)

Jongerenhuis de 'Overkant'

Jongerenhuis 'de Overkant' is the name given to one of the old German barracks on the Meeuwenveenweg. Built to house German troops during the second world war, the building lost its function after the liberation (Bunkerinfo, n.d.). The building was then used by the *Drentse Jongeren Gemeenschap* (Drents Youth Society). This society was erected on the 10th of may 1947 by the local youth. After the excitement of the liberation had worn off they felt the need to change the negative image of the youth. They aimed to proof that the youth of today took their responsibilities for the future of the country seriously. At the society conversation and discussion were the main activities. Recreation, however, was also of great importance. Acting, singing, performance, music and handicraft were all part of their daily business. This way the youth was kept off of the streets (Provinciale Drentsche en Asser courant, 1947).



Fig. 4.16 Approximation of the historical situation at De 'Overkant'



Fig. 4.17 Approach of Jongerenhuis de 'Overkant', ("[postcard]", 1963)

How 'de Overkant' was used specifically is unclear but old maps and images tell us something about its surroundings (Figure 4.16). The barrack itself could be reached by taking a long road through a densely planted area. At the end of this lane the barrack appeared from underneath the trees. Along the backside of the barrack the area was likely more open and resembled a heather type vegetation. How the interior of the building was used remains unclear.

Taking this limited knowledge into consideration it is difficult to draw a strong conclusion on the spatial qualities of 'de Overkant' in relation to its social history. The lane leading up to the barrack, limiting the visitors view of their destination, creates a certain amount of excitement and suspense (Figure 4.17). The barrack and the open space behind then give the visitor a chance to breathe while the border of vegetation creates a sense of privacy.

Clemenskerk

The location of the church of Havelte has been a significant meeting spot since long before the erection of the church. As far back as the year 800, a small chapel could be found in this place. Around 1200 the chapel was replaced by a new Romanesque chapel (Borsboom 2007; van der Torre, 2004). In the year 1309 permission for the erection of a formal church was granted by the bishop of Utrecht and in 1310 the Clemenskerk was opened. The monetary investment for the erection of this church was brought up by the local community. The tower of the church was added later on, in the year 1410. A mere 40 years later, in 1450, the church was given a new top and roof section in a Gothic style (Borsboom, 2007).

The sense of community within the church of Havelte had decreased greatly before the 1930s with only 7% of the inhabitants visiting the church in 1933. A new pastor was admitted to the church and the community came to life again. In the years that followed more and more people started visiting the church. Even the youth started spending their spare time in the churches devoted youth groups (van der Torre, 2004).

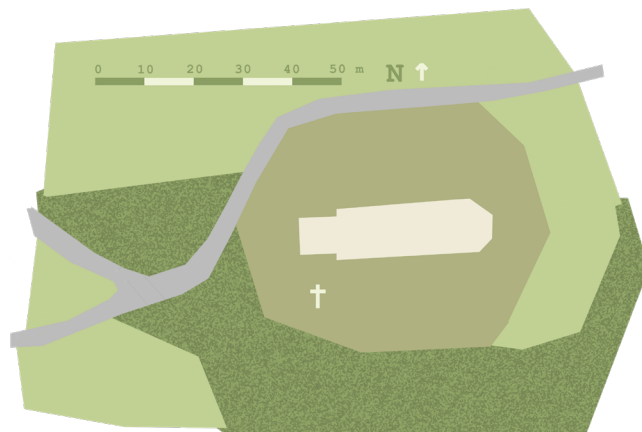


Fig. 4. 18 Approximation of the Clemenskerk historically

What the surrounding area of the church must have looked like at the time it was erected is difficult to say. Only from the year 1800 onwards information on the area around the church can be found (Figure 4.18). The church is located on the north eastern side of the Haveltse inner esch outside the boundaries of the village. The esch itself is lined with a border of trees preventing a full view of the church from the village (Figure 4.19). Only the tower reaches above the tree tops. The direct proximity of the church originally included a cemetery with little to no trees. The south of this cemetery was bordered by a small strip of trees. In the north of the church the area was used for agricultural purposes (Kadastrale Atlas van Drenthe, 1832). North west of the church a small forest remains to this day. In the 1920s the cemetery was moved further south and away from the church into the area that was once part of the esch. The old cemetery was cleared and turned into a lawn with the occasional tree scattered across (Topografisch bureau, 2020) (Figure 4.20).



Fig. 4. 19 The Clemenskerk as seen from haveltes inner esch. Trees limiting the view of the church (Drents Archief, 1910-1920)



Fig. 4. 20 The old cemetery next to the Clemenskerk after being turned into a lawn (Drents Archief, 1963)

The secluded but clearly visible location of the church makes for an interesting contrast. The relatively great distance to be travelled to the church gives the visitor time to reflect. The row of trees limiting the view of the full church highlights the significance of the recognizable tower reaching above. This allows the church to become a landmark in the area. The open area in proximity to the church allows for a full view of the building and its interesting architecture inviting the visitor to come inside. The interior of the church contains the great hall where the Sunday service and potential other activities take place for large groups.

4.4 Historical spatial qualities

The five selected places all had a different function in the local community. Throughout the years these functions changed and the places responded. Looking at the spatial qualities of these places some general concepts can be found. From this point onwards these will be referred to as historical spatial qualities.

Semi outdoor spaces

Several types of semi-covered or semi-outdoor spaces can be distinguished throughout history. These include: a pergola or extended roof, sunblinds and a sunroom (Figure 4.21 - 4.23). These features are often found in front of a building and offer a form of protection. The places underneath are used by small groups of people and have a more intimate and private feel.

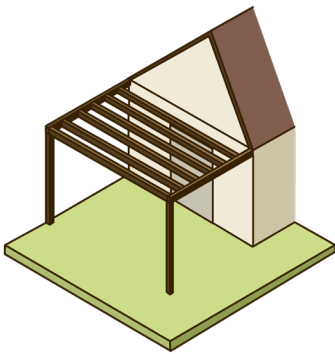


Fig. 4.21 Pergola or extended roof

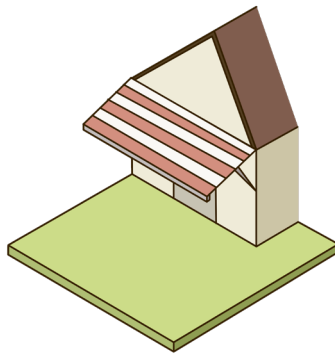


Fig. 4.22 Sunblinds

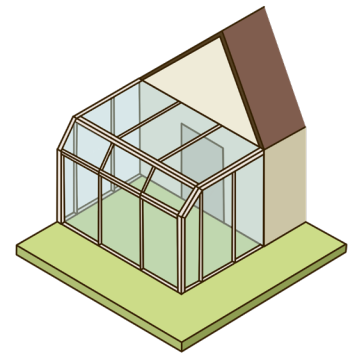


Fig. 4.23 Sunroom

Open areas

Most public places contain some form of open area. These can take the form of grass fields, dance halls or church halls (Figure 4.24 - 4.26). These features cater to the gathering of bigger groups of people and are often situated towards the back of the lot. Their quality lies in their ability to adjust to different events because of their few physical limitations.

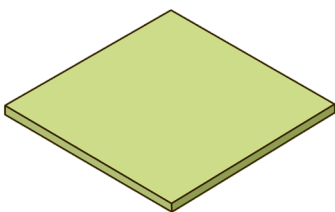


Fig. 4.24 Grass field

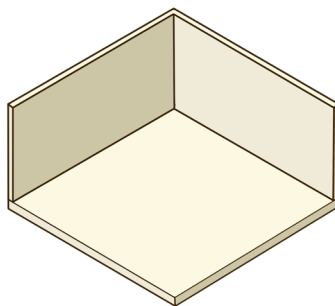


Fig. 4.25 Dance Hall

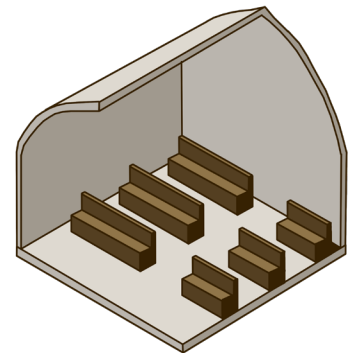


Fig. 4.26 Church Hall

High trees

High trees can be found in various places and vary greatly in layout and function. They can take the shape of a lane or a border, which was the case in front of café Vos and around the church (Figure 4.27). Next to this they can also occur planted in a linear or grid pattern, as is the case at the brink (Figure 4.28). Lastly, they can be found as a part of a denser forest area, such as the forest in front of 'de Overkant' (Figure 4.29).

Taking these various forms they are very diverse and respond to many different spatial request. Tall trees offer shade and protection from the elements. Their hight, however, allows the space underneath to retain

a sense of openness. As a general rule it can be said that high trees cater to varying group sizes. This quality becomes most apparent when looking at the brink. When planted in relation to a building high trees are most frequently found in its front.

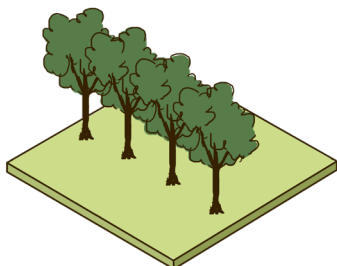


Fig. 4.27 Lane of high trees

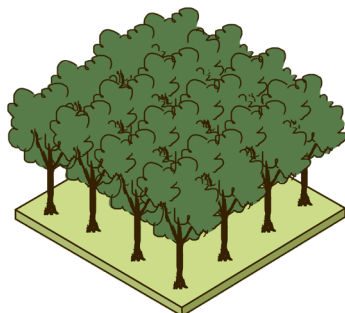


Fig. 4.28 High trees in linear or grid pattern

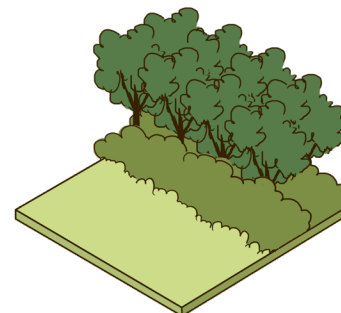


Fig. 4.29 High trees in denser forest area

Suspense

Often related to the planting of trees, traveling to either the church or 'de Overkant' creates a certain form of suspense. This is related to having limited or no visibility of the place you are visiting (Figure 4.30). This is not directly related to the use of the space but does impact the experience of the visitor. Limited visibility is created by showing a specific and recognizable section of the building. Or, in the case of 'de Overkant' the line of vision is blocked entirely by trees until the last moment.

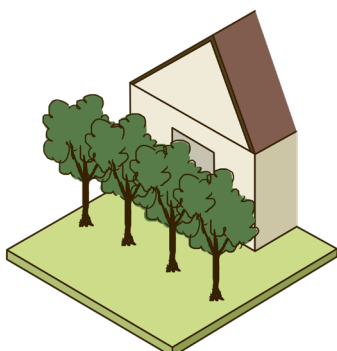


Fig. 4.30 Limited visibility of building caused by trees

5. Design proposals

Knowing the requests of the community and having learned from the historical community spaces of Havelte the next step is to translate these into a final design. Two proposal designs were made using different spatial concepts. The first design takes a *veldkei*, as an object, as a point of departure. Stone shapes being projected over top of the design area. The second design proposal relates to the topic of conversation and projects sound waves over the design area as they would depart from the entrances and exits of De Veldkei. Both designs were then tested on the spatial qualities, gathered from the historical research, and the spatial questions of the community. Using the results of these tests a final design is made.

5.1 Design proposal 1 - Veldkei

This first proposed design focusses on a *velkdei* (fieldstone) as an object. Stone shapes are scattered across the outdoor space carrying various functions. Stones also return in the materialization and more (Figure 5.1).



Fig. 5.1 Design proposal 1 - Veldkei

The design can be split up into four sections. Each of these sections has a different functionality. The area east of De Veldkei, near the main entrance, offers a play forest. Wood chip substrate, trees, stones and balance beams create a natural appearance. The space encourages children to discover nature in an interactive way. On this side of the building we also find a terrace, parking lots with flagstones and flower planters. The flagstone paving allows water to penetrate into the ground and grass to grow freely in between.

The area south of De Veldkei is a more open area with parking lots. The area is lined with high trees. In order to make the space more accessible the gaps between the pavers are grouted in key spots. This allows for a smoother walk surface.

The area west of De Veldkei, on the side of the other entrance, offers public gardening facilities. The raised planters enable people with limited mobility to garden a little easier (TuinKeur, 2019). The planters are also

provided with fruit and nut trees offering a range of growing possibilities. The entrance is covered with a pergola offering shade and a place to grow grapes.

The area north of De Veldkei needs to be accessible to cars in the case of theatre performances on stage. In order to maximize green surface across the design a variety modular planters are implemented in this place. These planters on wheels can be moved out of the way whenever necessary creating an open space once again. The design offers a total of 47 parking lots.

Testing the design

Accessible	Youth	Green surface	Parking facilities	Conversation	Gardening	Movement	Natural appearance

Table 5.1 Testing design proposal 1 on the spatial questions from the community

In table 5.1 the results of testing design proposal 1 on the spatial requests from the community are visible. Green suggesting that the design responds well to the request, yellow indicating a mediocre response and orange meaning the design does not respond to the request. This first proposal design is greatly accessible taking into account people with limited mobility, a wheelchair or a rollator. The youth is also offered a diverse range of activities ranging from a play forest or gardening facilities to a seating area. With a total of 47 parking lots, this design finds a great middle ground between the requests from the community and the need for a larger green surface area. Conversation is a point of attention in this design. With only one seating area the space lacks diversity and options for multiple groups to meet at the same time. Gardening is greatly represented in the design. All beds are raised and can be modified and taken care of by the local community or schools. Movement in this design is stimulated in the play forest but lacks options for adults. The materialization is almost entirely natural with wood and stone being the main accents.

Semi outdoor spaces	Open areas	High trees	Suspense

Table 5.2 Testing proposal design 1 on the historical spatial qualities.

As visible in table 5.2 the design does not respond well to the historical spatial qualities. In most cases the idea is there but it is not executed properly and thus does not function in the way it did historically. Starting off with the semi outdoor spaces. The design has two areas that can be considered semi outdoor. This is the area underneath the pergola north of De Veldkei and the entrance on the west side of the design. The real quality of a semi outdoor space is its ability to offer a sense of privacy or intimacy to the people residing underneath. The way the pergolas are set up currently does not allow for people to gather underneath them but solely to move through. The placement of the one on the north is also not representative for the historical implementation of these elements.

There are several more open areas in this design but the area that fits the criterium most is the space north of De Veldkei. The area is open and its modular planters allow the space to be used in many different ways. When a larger outdoor event takes place at De Veldkei the area can be opened up even more by moving the planters out of the way.

High trees occur mainly in the south-eastern corner of the design. The trees are planted in a randomized

pattern across the area. This way they function in the same way the trees at the brink used to: they offer shade and a semi-covered feel while also allowing an open view of the surrounding area. Suspense is not created in this design. Not only are all elements of the outdoor space visible from a distance, De Veldkei is also not hinted at or hidden from view in any type of way.

5.2 Design proposal 2 – Conversation

This second design takes the topic of conversation as a point of departure. Sound waves are visually emitting from all doors of De Veldkei and determine the layout of the outdoor space. But the space also physically aims to stimulate conversation (Figure 5.2).



Fig. 5.2 Design proposal 2 - Conversation

In order to facilitate this description the design is, once again, divided into four sections. On the east side of De Veldkei the entrance path is lined with two raised borders. These curve and open up towards De Veldkei creating an open feel. These borders are accented with a lane of high trees. The edges of these borders are wide enough for people to sit and converse. The area north of these borders offers parking lots and the area south a play forest. This forest, offers natural materials like stone and wood to encourage children to discover the outdoors. The terrace and the front entrance are provided with a pergola.

South of De Veldkei is an open area. The pavement consists of various types of grey concrete and visualizes the soundwaves on site. In-between these grey lines grass is allowed to grow to various heights giving the space a natural feel despite its artificial materials. The area can be used as parking space or event space whenever necessary.

The area west of De Veldkei offers more high trees and curved seating areas. The entrance is provided with a pergola and there is a bicycle parking lot. A little further north are more parking spaces.

The area north of De Veldkei is also a more open area offering seating and place for outdoor events to take place. All planters in the design are available to the community for gardening purposes. There is a total of 23 parking lots.

Testing the design

Accessible	Youth	Green surface	Parking facilities	Conversation	Gardening	Movement	Natural appearance

Table 5.3 Testing design proposal 2 on the spatial questions from the community

The results of testing this second design proposal on the spatial requests from the community are visible in table 5.3. Green suggesting that the design responds well to the request, yellow indicating a mediocre response and orange meaning the design does not respond to the request. The design is greatly accessible to people with limited mobility, a wheelchair or a rollator. The wide pathways and elevated planters are ideal (TuinKeur, 2019). The youth is invited to visit De Veldkei, the design offers not only a playground but also a grass field, borders to run and climb on, gardening facilities and more. The amount of green surface area in the design has improved greatly in comparison to the current situation. With regards to the parking facilities, however, the design raises some concerns. Offering only 23 parking lots the design falls short in fulfilling the request from the community. Conversation, on the other hand, is facilitated greatly in the design. All across the outdoor space are places for people to sit down, meet and talk. Gardening is still possible in this new design although the available space is a lot smaller. The wide concrete borders, grass field and play forest all encourage movement and discovery in children and even adults can use the grass field in the south for the occasional game. The natural appearance of this design results from the varying upkeep of the grass and vegetation growing in between the pavement.

Semi outdoor spaces	Open areas	High trees	Suspense

Table 5.4 Testing proposal design 2 on the historical spatial qualities.

Design proposal 2 responds to the historical spatial qualities in different ways (Table 5.4). Semi-outdoor spaces can be found at both entrances to the building in the form of a circular pergola. On top of this we find a pergola above the terrace, creating a more private and safe space for the visitor to reside. Open areas in this design can be found both north and south of the building. The areas have few limitations and thus can respond to different uses. High trees can be found at both entrances. The fact that these are planted in elevated borders contrasts with the historical experience where the area underneath the trees is often empty or flat. Suspense is not created in this design. Not only are all elements of the outdoor space visible from a distance, De Veldkei is also not hinted at or hidden from view in any type of way.

6. Final design

The final design aims to combine the qualities of the two design proposals while also solving their main issues (Figure 6.1). The design has several key elements that relate to either the historical spatial qualities or the questions from the community. These elements are visualized and explained in the following sections.



- | | |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| Vegetation | Woodchips |
| Tall grass | Stone |
| Short grass | Concrete / De Veldkei |
| Grouting | Flagstones |
| Tall trees | Wood |
| Small trees | Pergola |
| Doors | Parking |

Fig. 6.1 The final design for the Veldkei



6.1 The entrances

De Veldkei has two main entrances. One on the east and one on the west side of the building. In this new design both of these entrances are covered with a pergola (Figures 6.2 - 6.3). On these pergolas different types of climbing plants can be grown. Examples include: grapes, wisterias or others. This design element responds to the historical spatial quality of semi outdoor spaces. It also responds to several spatial questions from the community. The wooden pergolas offer a natural appearance while also allowing for more vegetation to grow.



Fig. 6.2 Main entrance on the east side



Fig. 6.3 Back entrance on the west side

6.2 The high trees

In the final design high trees can be found on both entrance sides (Figures 6.4 - 6.5). These trees create a canopy of leaves. Underneath these trees is a more open area. This way the area slightly resembles the brink and its spatial qualities. The area underneath can be used in a variety of ways. In the case of a market at De Veldkei the area can house market stalls. Other days of the year it can be used by children to play or for people to hang out.



Fig. 6.4 High trees near the main entrance on the east side



Fig. 6.5 High trees near the main entrance on the west side

6.3 The play forest

In the south eastern corner of the outdoor space we find the play forest (Figures 6.6 - 6.7). This elevated and planted area invites children to discover and interact with nature. The play area offers a diverse arrangement of tree trunks and field stones for people to interact with. Around the area are several planters with wide borders. These offer a place to sit for the carers or a place to run around for the children while also preventing the children from running into the road. In the centre of the area is a conversation pit with logs to sit on, potentially an interesting hangout for teens. The play forest responds to several questions from the community. Specifically: movement and exercise for kids, conversation areas, a natural appearance and an increased green surface.



Fig. 6.6 Tree trunks as balance beams in the play forest, borders of elevated planters



Fig. 6.7 Fieldstones and planters to interact with in the play forest

6.4 The terrace

West of the play forest and near the indoor kitchen we find the terrace (Figure 6.8). This terrace is covered with a planted pergola which offers shade and greenery while also providing a more private experience. The place is suitable for smaller groups and families. The terrace responds to the request for more places to sit and meet new people and the pergola relates to the historical spatial quality of semi outdoor spaces.



Fig. 6.8 The terrace

6.5 The planters

Throughout the design are multiple elevated planters at different heights. These heights allow people with limited mobility or in wheelchairs to access the planters more easily (TuinKeur, 2019). All planters in the design can be used by the community. In these planters the neighbours or the local children can grow their own fruits, vegetables or other plants. This creates a diverse and personable outdoor space that truly belongs to the community. Public gardening facilities, interaction for youth and children and accessibility are all questions from the community answered with these spatial elements. The planters also create a perforated outer edge for the design allowing people to access the space from all angles. This improves the relation between De Veldkei and its direct surroundings considerably.



Fig. 6.9 Various elevated planters in a stone pattern

6.6 The flagstones

The main type of paver used in the design is flag stone. These diverse stones resemble fieldstones (veldkeien) and are a nod to the name of the building. They also serve a specific purpose. Because of their irregular shapes, flagstones are spaced apart considerably. This allows for grass and other types of vegetation to grow between the tiles (Figure 6.10). Not only offers this a more green appearance it also aids in the transportation of water into the subsoil which prevents the formation of puddles or the transportation of the water into the sewage system. The rough texture of the stones also creates a grippy surface for wheelchair users, allowing them to access the space more easily (TuinKeur, 2019). By grouting the gaps between the tiles in specific areas the area becomes suitable for people who have trouble walking (Figure 6.11). The flagstones thereby create an accessible but green space while also maintaining a natural appearance.



Fig. 6.10 Flagstones with grass (Svensson, 2003) CC-BY-SA-3.0



Fig. 6.11 Grouted Flagstones (Andrade, 2009) CC-BY-2.0

6.7 Parking

The community had a clear request for a sufficient number of parking lots but also for places to park bikes. Both of these request are answered in the new design. In multiple places, varying in distance to the entrance, we find car parking (Figure 6.12 - 6.13). In total approximately 45 cars can be parked on the lot. Next to this there are two bicycle parking areas, one near each entrance. The one near the western entrance is covered with a pergola creating a separate space for the bikes visually (Figure 6.3).



Fig. 6.12 Parkinglot on the north-eastern side



Fig. 6.13 Parking lot on the southern side

6.8 Open spaces

As discovered in the historical analysis most public spaces offered a more open area (chapter 4 - Community spaces, p. 23). This area would be used for events and other big group activities. De Veldkei has two larger indoor spaces, the theatre on the northern side and the billiard hall on the southern side. In the new design these places are pulled through to the outdoor space. As such we find a more open area in the northern and the southern part of the design. Historically these places resemble the large grass fields. Because of their openness these spaces can be used in a variety of ways: markets, group games or other activities can take place here. The area in the north is still accessible by car as requested by the community (Figure 6.14).



Fig. 6.14 Open meeting area north of De Veldkei

6.9 Suspense

Two of the historical places, the church and 'de Overkant' were partly hidden from view by the surrounding vegetation. In order to create a similar effect at De Veldkei the southern corner is planted with a row of higher vegetation and a high tree. From the road this creates a sense of mystery and suspense. The border of the elevated area hints at a designed element but De Veldkei is temporarily hidden from view.



7. Discussion

This thesis aims to answer the spatial questions for the outdoor space of De Veldkei by analysing the spatial qualities of the historical community spaces of Havelte. This was done and a final design was created. It is important to discuss the reliability of the results, as well as make suggestions for further research. This is done in this chapter.

In the community chapter (p. 9) the interactions with the community and the corresponding results are presented. Although effort was made to gather sufficient information on the communities opinions and questions for the future outdoor space of De Veldkei only a limited number of opinions was heard. This could have created a bias in the results. Involving more stakeholders in the process would have led to a more complete understanding of the communities spatial questions.

In the community spaces chapter of this thesis a more in depth look was taken at public places and how they differ from community spaces (p. 12). In the selection of these places, criteria were set in place. Choosing different criteria to select these public places could result in a different list of places and thus a different end result. Next to this, historical information and imaging relating to the social history of Havelte is limited. The lack of further information might have created a bias in the results. This could be the case at Jongerenhuis 'de Overkant'. Apart from the images shown, and the newspaper article referred to in this thesis no further information on the use or function of the space could be found. As a result some spatial qualities could have been missed.

The gathered spatial qualities that resulted from analysing the historical public places of Havelte are subject to personal interpretation. It is important to acknowledge that the way they are applied in the final design is not the only way they can be used. A different designer presented with the same spatial qualities and questions would likely propose a different design.

The final design offers an answer to the spatial questions and includes the historical spatial qualities. One of the key questions from the community was accessibility. In the final design this question is answered within the boundaries of the outdoor space of De Veldkei. In order to fully improve accessibility to De Veldkei a design should be made on a larger scale. This could include improved sidewalks or bicycle paths. This could be considered as a subject for further research.

Another issue with the final design might be the financial limitations. At the first meeting, the stakeholders mentioned looking for an affordable new design. For the purpose of this thesis it was decided not to take this request into account. This way the final design shows all possibilities without financial limitations. It is then left to the community to decide what interventions they want to implement or consider.

The last remark on the final design is the number of parking lots. Although the current number of parking lots (80+) was determined to be too much it was not defined what number of parking lots would be sufficient for the future. In order to determine an exact number of necessary parking spaces more specific research should be done. For the final design keeping 50% of the currently available parking lots (~40) was considered to be sufficient.

8. Conclusion

The outdoor space of De Veldkei is in need of improvement. The aim of this thesis was to create a new outdoor space that not only brings new life to De Veldkei but also allows the community to meet and have their ideas come to life. This was done by taking an in-depth look at the spatial qualities of five historical community spaces in Havelte.

This led to the following research question:

What can we learn from the Community spaces in the history of Havelte? And, how do we apply this knowledge in the re-development of the outdoor space of community centre De Veldkei?

From the community spaces in the history of Havelte we learned that one place can fulfil many different functions. The spatial configuration can aid in fulfilling these functions. It was possible to distinguish four different spatial qualities: semi outdoor spaces, open areas, high trees and suspense. These qualities all respond to the spatial questions in a different way. In the final design a selection of the spatial qualities was applied to aid in answering the spatial questions from the community. The final design shows how the historical spatial qualities can be applied in a modern way without creating a historicizing design.

Next to this the final design aimed to improve three current issues: an excess of parking lots, urban runoff, caused by an impermeable layer, and a bad connection to the direct surroundings. The parking availability dropped by approximately 50%. The impermeable pavement layer has been replaced with flagstones which allow the rainwater to penetrate into the subsoil. The bad connection to the surroundings was fixed by creating a perforated outer edge of the design. This way the outdoor space can be accessed from all the surrounding areas.

9. Reflection

The past eight weeks can be described as a journey. Both in the literal and figurative sense of the word. Not only did I travel to and from Havelte multiple times, the subject of the thesis also took me on a journey through time. Through the reading of books and newspapers I was transported back as far as 1309. Learning about the communities efforts to erect the Clemenskerk all these years ago and discovering the significance of this church for the community today was remarkable. We also learned about the communities passion for dancing and acting around the 1940s and the importance of the easter fair for the village. On this journey I discovered my passion for local history and the impact it can have on life in a village today. It also confirmed my choice to continue into the MA landscape history at Rijksuniversiteit Groningen.

The completion of this thesis itself was also a journey. The nature of social historical research can be difficult to combine with environmental science. My first struggles in these past eight weeks emerged when I started the design process. I felt unable to start the design process before finishing the necessary research. As a result the first design proposal does not meet many of the criteria for the historical spatial qualities. The process of adjusting the design multiple times while researching took a lot of time. If I had to write this thesis again I would first gather more background knowledge before entering the design phase. This could have possibly prevented having to change the final design in the last week.

Another thing I struggled with was high expectations. In the past three years I have come to expect high quality end products from myself. Most of the time I have succeeded, causing myself to expect even more at the next assignment. I know what I can and cannot do and I find it difficult to deliver something that is not up to my own standard. This was the case in the process writing this thesis. I know I could produce a better end result because I know exactly what can be improved. During this thesis I had to accept that I cannot always produce my best work and that it is okay not to be the best.

The journey is more important than the destination.

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Fig 1.1

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Appendix 1 - Questionnaire results

ID	Wat is uw leeftijd?	Bent u opgegroeid in Havelte?	Hoe vaak bezoekt u de Veldkei gemiddeld?	Is de Veldkei een plek waar u graag komt?
	2 30-60 jaar	Nee	Nooit	Nee
	3 > 60 jaar	Nee	Meerdere keren per week	Ja
	4 > 60 jaar	Nee	Meerdere keren per week	Ja
	5 30-60 jaar	Nee	Een aantal keer per jaar	Nee
	6 30-60 jaar	Nee	Meerdere keren per week	Ja
	7 30-60 jaar	Ja	1 keer per week	Ja
	8 30-60 jaar	Nee	Een aantal keer per jaar	Ja
	9 > 60 jaar	Nee	1 keer per week	Ja
	10 > 60 jaar	Nee	Een aantal keer per jaar	Ja
	11 30-60 jaar	Nee	Meerdere keren per week	Ja
	12 > 60 jaar	Nee	Een aantal keer per jaar	Ja
	13 > 60 jaar	Nee	Meerdere keren per week	Ja
	14 > 60 jaar	Nee	Meerdere keren per week	Ja
	15 > 60 jaar	Ja	Een aantal keer per jaar	Ja
	16 > 60 jaar	Nee	Meerdere keren per week	Ja

Wat is uw postcode?	Hoe reist u over het algemeen naar de Veldkei?	Wat is voor u een rede om met de auto naar de Veldkei te komen?	Wat kan er voor u verbeterd worden om bezoek te voet, te fiets of met het openbaar vervoer mogelijk te maken?	Wat is uw reden voor bezoek aan de Veldkei?
7971cd	Fiets			Ik maak geen gebruik van de Veldkei;
7971 RB	Auto	ruime parkeergelegenheid en combinatie met boodschappen doen.	Openbaar vervoer in Drenthe is een ramp. De fiets wordt wel regelmatig gebruikt.	Tandarts, Fysiotherapeut, Drukkerij etc. ;Club of vereniging;Gezelligheid en contact;
7971AA	Fiets	Slecht weer	Goed toegankelijk dus geen verbeterpunten Hopelijk blijven er voldoende plekken om fiets te parkeren	Werk-gerelateerd;Ik huur een ruimte in de Veldkei;
7971DA	Fiets			Bibliotheek;
7971BW	Te voet		Betere stoep	Bibliotheek;Tandarts, Fysiotherapeut, Drukkerij etc. ;Gezelligheid en contact;
7971	Te voet			Bibliotheek;Club of vereniging;Vrijmarkt, voorstelling;
7971 AD	Fiets	Als er veel spullen mee moeten of extreem slecht weer	Niets	Bibliotheek;Club of vereniging;Stemlocatie, festiviteiten bv basisschool ;
7971 BL	Te voet	Nvt	Is prima zo!	Tandarts, Fysiotherapeut, Drukkerij etc. ;Werk-gerelateerd;
8381CX	Auto	Vergadering	Mooi weer	Werk-gerelateerd;
7971 dn	Auto	Omdat ik fysiek niet zo mobiel ben		Tandarts, Fysiotherapeut, Drukkerij etc. ;Club of vereniging;
7971 BW	Te voet	nvt	nvt	Bibliotheek;
7971 DS	Fiets	Slecht weer of bagage	Niets nodig te veranderen	Tandarts, Fysiotherapeut, Drukkerij etc. ;Club of vereniging;
7991 AJ	Fiets	Voor werkzaamheden, vrijwilligerswerk. Meenemen materialen of slecht weer	niet minder parkeerplaatsen	Ik maak geen gebruik van de Veldkei;Bibliotheek;Tandarts, Fysiotherapeut, Drukkerij etc. ;Gezelligheid en contact;Club of vereniging;vrijwilligerswerk;
7971 BW	Te voet	-	-	Tandarts, Fysiotherapeut, Drukkerij etc. ;
7971 BJ	Te voet	nvt	-	Bibliotheek;Tandarts, Fysiotherapeut, Drukkerij etc. ;Club of vereniging;Vrouwen van Nu, Klaverjassen, gym, filmhuis en toneel;

Welke activiteiten mist u nog bij de Veldkei?	In de huidige situatie (Covid-19) vinden er steeds meer activiteiten buiten plaats. Welk van de volgende activiteiten heeft u in de afgelopen maanden buiten ondernomen?	Ziet u mogelijkheid voor de Veldkei om betrokken te zijn bij de organisatie van bovenstaande activiteiten?	Hoe maakt u gebruik van de buitenruimte van de Veldkei?	kan de buitenruimte van de Veldkei volgens u aangepast worden om de bovenstaande activiteiten tegemoet te komen?
	Niet;	Nee;	Ik maak geen gebruik van de buitenruimte van de Veldkei;	
Op dit moment geen.	Wandelen;Fietsen;Buitensport;	De renovatie van de Veldkei aan de binnenzijde is op dit moment het belangrijkste. Dat is wat de Havelters is toegezegd. Die belofte is nog steeds niet nagekomen.;	Parkeergelegenheid ;	Nee
	Wandelen;Fietsen;Tuinieren;	Ja, namelijk;;Vanaf de Veldkei fiets tochten , speurtochten organiserende take Away of iets dergelijks;	Parkeergelegenheid ;	Open blik Welkom Groen Voldoende parkeergelegenheid Ludieke aanwijzing wat er in Veldkei te doen is
Creatieve cursussen	Wandelen;Fietsen;Picknicken;	Nee;	Ik maak geen gebruik van de buitenruimte van de Veldkei;	
Activiteiten voor kinderen en jongeren Bv schaken, kook-bakclub Niet alleen activiteiten voor 60+, ook jongvolwassene en kinderen aantrekken, bijvoorbeeld kookworkshops, duidelijk aangeven welke activiteiten er zich afspelen in het gebouw	Wandelen;Fietsen;Tuinieren;Buitensport;	Ja, namelijk;;Organiseren wandeltochten/fietstochten;	Parkeergelegenheid ;	Logische parkeervakken niet waar je niet uit kunt als iemand anders gewoon parkeert in het vak. Naast de oude locatie tandtechnicus
-	Wandelen;	Ja, namelijk;;	Evenementen (markten, feesten, etc.);	Ja er was 2 keer per jaar een markt met kraampjes die lieten zien wat het aanbod was van de Veldkei maar verder is het alleen een parkeerplaats
-	Wandelen;Fietsen;Tuinieren;	Ja, namelijk;;Organisatie wandel-fietstochten;	Parkeergelegenheid ;	Ja
?	Wandelen;Fietsen;Tuinieren;Buitensport;	Nee;	Parkeergelegenheid ;	Misschien een terras.
	Wandelen;Fietsen;Tuinieren;	Nee;	Ik maak geen gebruik van de buitenruimte van de Veldkei;	
Computercursus	Wandelen;Tuinieren;	Ja, namelijk;;Gebeurt nu via Diabetes Challenge;	Parkeergelegenheid ;Sport en spel;	
Voldoende	Fietsen;Vissen;Buitensport;	Nee;	Ik maak geen gebruik van de buitenruimte van de Veldkei;	nvt
Resterende verbouw	Wandelen;Fietsen;Tuinieren;	Nee;	Parkeergelegenheid ;	Behoeft geen veranderingen
activiteiten bv gezellig even een kopje koffie drinken. Speelplek voor de jeugd kan ook buiten.	Wandelen;Fietsen;Tuinieren;Picknicken;Vissen;Buitensport;	Ja, namelijk;;	Evenementen (markten, feesten, etc.);Parkeergelegenheid ;vergaderingen;	Leuke terrassen ook aan de zonkant en aan voor- en achterkant
-		Nee;		
-	Wandelen;Fietsen;Tuinieren;	Is al betrokken bij Diabetes Challenge;	Ik maak geen gebruik van de buitenruimte van de Veldkei;	-

Welke activiteiten zou u graag kunnen ondernemen in de buitenruimte van de Veldkei?	Wat zou u graag terug willen zien in de buitenruimte van de Veldkei?	Wat zou u liever niet terug zien komen in de buitenruimte van de Veldkei?	Op welke plekken brengt u uw vrije tijd door binnen Havelte?	Op welke plekken brengt u uw vrije tijd door in de omgeving van Havelte?
	Geen idee	Geen idee	Bos natuur Knooppunt Eigen tuin Zwembad	Centrum meppel
Geen	Wat meer groen zonder aantasting van de parkeercapaciteit.	Eigenlijk niets	Boswandelingen, fietstochten, de Havelter Tennisclub, biljartvereniging de Veldkei.	Alle omliggende dorpen en de stad Meppel.
Holtingerveld				
	Groen en parkeerplaats			
Een knutselmiddag bijvoorbeeld (misschien met overdekking tegen de regen)	De mooie omgeving van Havelte, mooie aankleding		De natuur, de winkels	
Persoonlijk geen	Iets meer van deze tijd. Zitjes verwerkt in elementen	X	Vrienden, burens, straat, bos, Holtingerveld	Bos, Holtingerveld In de omliggende bossen, bij de Holtinger schaapskooi en daarbij het Holtinger Veld.
Ontmoeten.	Terras	?	Zwembad. Terras van Hartenlust.	
			Pizzeria	Natuur
Meer buiten zitplaatsen	Invaliden parkeerplaats voorzien van plantenpakken. Zijkant verwijderen van de bomen.		Thuis, Holtingerveld	Holtingerveld
nvt		zie 16	Bos	Heide en bos
geen	Voldoende parkeerruimte	nvt	Thuis, bos/heide, horeca	zie 18
koffie automaat binnen en dan ook evt buiten op kunnen drinken. Ontmoetingsplaats.	waterpartij, speelgelegenheid, plantenbakken, leuke beplanting, zitjes met banken	goede fietsenstalling	overall	door de hele omgeving van Havelte wandelen of fietsen
-	Parkeerplaatsen en plantenbakken etc.	-	de Veldkei, de Clemenskerk	alle fietspaden etc.

Beschrijf wat Havelte voor u betekent in drie woorden	Wat vindt u het mooiste plekje binnen het dorp Havelte?	Wat vindt u het mooiste plekje in de omgeving van Havelte?	Havelte	Gemeente Westerveld
Gemoedelijk Thuis Rust	Bos	Heide	Ik voel mij verbonden	Ik voel mij matig verbonden
Rust, gezelligheid en omgeving.	Mijn eigen huis.	Het Holtinger bos.	Ik voel mij sterk verbonden	Ik voel mij niet verbonden
Gemoedelijk Open minder Natuur		Heide	Ik voel mij sterk verbonden	Ik voel mij matig verbonden
Rust, natuur, ruimte	Holtingerveld, schaapskooi		Ik voel mij sterk verbonden	Ik voel mij verbonden
Heerlijk wonen op het platteland	Mijn eigen tuin	De natuur, heide	Ik voel mij sterk verbonden	Ik voel mij verbonden
	Alles	Het holtingerveld	Ik voel mij verbonden	Ik voel mij matig verbonden
Mijn thuis	Piet Soerplein	Holtingerveld	Ik voel mij sterk verbonden	Ik voel mij verbonden
Oergrond, natuur, noaberschap.	Waterbolk plantsoen	Holtinger Veld.	Ik voel mij zeer sterk verbonden	Ik voel mij verbonden
Goede voorzieningen	Rondom de kerk	Holtingerveld	Ik voel mij verbonden	Ik voel mij sterk verbonden
Thuis, fijne bevolking	Brink	Holtingerveld	Ik voel mij verbonden	Ik voel mij matig verbonden
Natuurlijk, rustig	Holtingerveld	Heide en bos	Ik voel mij matig verbonden	Ik voel mij matig verbonden
fijn wonen recreëren	Brink	Toegangspoort Holtingerveld	Ik voel mij sterk verbonden	Ik voel mij verbonden
Vakantie gevoel, ruimte en rust	Piet Soerplein, brinken, wandelpaden, verlengde langs Beukenlaan, plantsoen nieuw!	alle kanten op	Ik voel mij zeer sterk verbonden	Ik voel mij niet verbonden
heel fijn wonen	de Brink	Holtingerveld	Ik voel mij zeer sterk verbonden	Ik voel mij verbonden

De hunebedden	Dorpshuis de Veldkei	Hoofdvaart	Heeft u verdere op- of aanmerkingen over deze enquête?	Laat hier uw emailadres en/of telefoonnummer achter als u op de hoogte wilt blijven van ons onderzoek en (indien nodig) bereid bent om toelichting te geven op uw antwoorden.
Ik voel mij matig verbonden	Ik voel mij niet verbonden	Ik voel mij niet verbonden		
Ik voel mij verbonden	Ik voel mij sterk verbonden	Ik voel mij verbonden	Nee	secretaris@biljartverenigingde veldkei.nl
Ik voel mij verbonden	Ik voel mij verbonden	Ik voel mij niet verbonden		annet@gterbraake.nl
Ik voel mij verbonden	Ik voel mij niet verbonden	Ik voel mij niet verbonden		
Ik voel mij verbonden	Ik voel mij verbonden	Ik voel mij matig verbonden		
Ik voel mij verbonden	Ik voel mij verbonden	Ik voel mij matig verbonden	X	Jeanine.vandebelt@gmail.com
Ik voel mij sterk verbonden	Ik voel mij sterk verbonden	Ik voel mij matig verbonden	Geen.	semimam.oc@gmail.com
Ik voel mij sterk verbonden	Ik voel mij matig verbonden	Ik voel mij sterk verbonden		
Ik voel mij verbonden	Ik voel mij verbonden	Ik voel mij verbonden		
Ik voel mij matig verbonden	Ik voel mij matig verbonden	Ik voel mij matig verbonden	Nee	huizelutke@huizelutke.nl
Ik voel mij verbonden	Ik voel mij zeer sterk verbonden	Ik voel mij niet verbonden	geen	jos@vanderborgh.nl
Ik voel mij verbonden	Ik voel mij sterk verbonden	Ik voel mij matig verbonden	Niet in te vullen met mijn computer. Het zou ook prettig zijn als er bij de sociale huurwoningen regels zijn voor onderhoud tuin en troep in en achter het huis. Onderhoud perken door het hele dorp.	ansdevink@gmail.com
				per brief
Ik voel mij sterk verbonden	Ik voel mij sterk verbonden	Ik voel mij matig verbonden	-	gerdadommerholt@ziggo.nl

Appendix 2 – Results from meeting the community

Sterre

General feedback:

- *Water features were greatly appreciated; however, adults pressed the need for supervision*
- *Kids asked for water to play and interact with, life sized chess boards, swings and smooth pavement for skating.*
- *Kids approved of the bonfire area, the vegetable garden area and a place to watch outdoor movies.*
- *One person disapproved of the bonfire, since they had asthma and couldn't stand fires.*
- *Building on the roof might not be possible. People were concerned with the building's construction. They did like that we took it into account in our plans, since it increased the amount of available space.*
- *People liked that we took the rest of the village into account and focused on creating a flow*
- *There was a need for pavements towards the Veldkei. One person said that even though they live a 5 minute walk away from the Veldkei, they still take the car when it rains, just to pick up some books from the library*
- *The Piet Soerplein was mentioned, they liked that plan and it felt like it made people open up to our modern plans. They approved of the way the Piet Soerplein turned out so are less hesitant to new things. It acted as a precedent that showed them what redesign can bring about.*
- *Kids liked the Piet Soerplein because it is the only place at this moment where you can skate properly. It has smooth surface and covers a large area. It also has speedbumps that are fun to skate on.*
- *There was a question about the mailbox and the textile collection bin. The mailbox is one of three remaining in the village but is now situated awkwardly in the whole plan. It is unclear whether the textile bin is even being used. One person called it ugly and was not sure whether it should come back in the new design.*
- *Multiple people asked about parking spots. The need for every parking spot to remain was again addressed. There are moments when it is so busy, people are parking in neighbours front yards.*

Specific feedback:

- *The climbing structure to the roof raised some safety concerns.*
- *One person who saw the online presentation did not agree with my plan to work on the roof. When seeing visualizations, they began to appreciate the plan and changed their mind about working on the roof.*

Raidun

General feedback:

- *The children like playing with and around water elements*
- *The children like natural materials and natural playing objects*
- *The children like to play at the elementary school at this moment*
- *Look at how the plan will be financed and how there will be money to maintain it*
- *Is it even possible to go onto the roof?*
- *A lot of elderly people that come here, come by car because they are not mobile enough to come otherwise. The streets are very hard to walk on if you are not that mobile.*
- *There are diner nights where around 30 people come to eat, most of them elderly people who want to come by car*
- *Color and flowers are appreciated*

Specific feedback:

- *Some said that my parking spots will not be enough, others said I still have quite some parking spots which will be enough (people can also park at Piet Soerplein and walk 5 minutes)*
- *Nice to have the terrace on the sunny side of the building*
- *Smart to divide the four dimensions in cluster and the division in playgrounds for smaller children and bigger children*
- *For the physical part I would recommend outdoor fitness objects so people can do morning gymnastics and the physiotherapist can use them*
- *People liked the 'eye-catcher', walking bridge to the roof, because it would attract people and because there is thought about elderly people and young people at the same time*
- *Maybe some more seating spots close to the small children playground*

Merel

Generic feedback

- Tubes and water for the children to play with are a nice idea
- The open area has to be a good rival against backyards and the Holtingerveld
- The new entrance looks like a crematorium
- You need parkingspots for the old people who are dependent on cars for transport to the Veldkei
- People need to see the Veldkei better
- More greenery

Specific feedback

- Physio would be more fitted next to the big room
- Painting is activity that happens inside of the Veldkei that also can be practiced in the open air
- The main entrance has shifted because of the movement of the library inside the building

Heleen

General feedback:

- *Parking space was sometimes seen as most important and for others this was not that important.*
- *Round shapes make a nice contrast with the rectangular building.*
- *Brining in color is important.*
- *Benches are important for accessibility.*
- *A terrace would be good for the commercial aspect.*
- *More plants should be added.*
- *The view from the large hall is not attractive.*
- *A vegetable and fruit garden can make people more aware of healthy food.*
- *A connection with the Holtingerveld is a good idea.*
- *Large trees can cause to much shadow.*

Ruben

General feedback:

- *Most people where positive about the extensive greenification of the area.*
- *Two older women were very negative about this, however. Trees would only cause a mess that no one would clean up, and the shade would cause mold in the old houses.*
- *Be aware of road markings. The current road markings and parking situation is confusing to some people with regards to right of way.*
- *Connecting the Veldkei to the nearby appartements and the school could attract more visitors to the building.*
- *Water elements are great, but perhaps unsafe. Children can drown in a few centimeters.*
- *Add outside fitness facilities at the physiotherapist's office.*
- *Green parking spaces are a great idea.*
- *Conserving parking space was deemed important, but not every spot had to be saved.*

Specific feedback:

- *The green network of village centers was well received by everyone. Only the two older ladies who had concerns about shade and leaves had concerns.*
- *The modern brink idea was well received as well, no real concerns from people.*
- *A path between de Veldkei and the apartments and school was suggested.*
- *What is currently planned as a spot for employees to take a break might be considered for a playground.*
- *The terraces were also well received, specifically the management of the Veldkei liked the financial aspect of it.*
- *Solar panels on the roof "should have already been there" according to management. Maybe a collective could be started with the citizens.*

Loeka

General feedback:

- *Natural materials were greatly appreciated.*

- Multiple areas for meeting, sitting and or eating were welcome
- A varying environment with diverse identities was preferred
- Any green structures were requested to be of low maintenance because (supposedly) they would not be taken care of appropriately otherwise
- One person remarked that public gardening facilities were not welcome because they thought nobody would be interested, Others pointed these functionalities out as specifically great
- One person remarked on the value of informational plates scattered across the outdoor space. (These, for example, could describe different parts of the history of Havelte)
- All people seemed to be drawn to the idea of pergolas in the outdoor space
- Trees, such as oak trees, were not welcome because of their leaves in autumn.
- It is important that the area is greatly accessible for people who have trouble walking long distances or on difficult surfaces
- Porous paving or grass paving was considered to be a good option to greenify parking spots.
- One person remarked on the low number of parking spots available in the proposed designs (around 20). After a short conversation she concluded that: 1. after covid the demand for parking spots at the Veldkei would likely drop. And 2. a nice outdoor space including pleasant spaces to sit and converse would be of higher value the Veldkei.
- The sight from the great hall was described as “horrendous” by several people.

Specific feedback:

- Drawing a connection between the Veldkei and the history of Havelte seemed to be of great interest to people.
- People agreed with the selected public places and confirmed the stories surrounding them.
- Café Vos/Hotel Buter was frequently used as a stage for local school productions before the Veldkei was build

Sophie

General feedback:

- The goal to make people move in the entire outdoor area of the Veldkei, instead of from parking spots towards the entrance, was appreciated.
- The outside area of the Veldkei doesn't have any atmosphere. It is very gray and 'boring'.
- The outside area of the Veldkei shouldn't only be appealing (aesthetically), but also functional. For example, the green shouldn't only be there for aesthetic reasons, but also contain a functional element like climbing for children.
- Feedback on how multiple age-groups should be able to use the outdoor space.
- The participant mentioned the missing connection to the smaller grass field north-east of the Veldkei. Recommendation: The outside area of the Veldkei should be connected by a cycling/walking path to this grass field and subsequently the rest of the village.
- The cycling or pedestrian paths to and from the Veldkei should be separate from the roads for cars. Currently, even elderly in wheelchairs, are strolling on the same road as where cars drive. This is unsafe and not attractive.
- The outside area of the Veldkei should take the emergency exits and routes of the building.
- The addition of green spaces and trees were appreciated positively.
- The addition of playgrounds was appreciated positively.
- The availability of parking spaces and the proximity of them to the entrances were appreciated positively.
- The outdoor space of the Veldkei should be an area that is attractive for youth, because the direct neighborhood and overall population of Havelte are ageing.
- Keeping the design simple and understandable was important

Specific feedback:

- Compliments were given that this project points out these problems of physical accessibility and movement throughout the entirety of the outdoor space of the Veldkei
- Positive feedback on the fact that multiple age-groups are involved and were thought of in both of the design proposals.

- The design proposals both missed this 'direct' connection of inside and outside in regard to the doors of the Veldkei.

<i>Design proposal 1</i>	<i>Design proposal 2</i>
<p><i>-The terraces and seating benches were an element of high interest. This detail was appreciated positively.</i></p> <p><i>-This design looked expensive and not feasible, which may be because of the intricate shapes and abundance of details/elements.</i></p> <p><i>-The communal garden is not a good idea. It requires too much maintenance and attention. Also, the outdoor space is public domain, so a risk of vandalization or theft can arise.</i></p> <p><i>-The water elements were perceived with mixed feelings. It adds to the attractiveness for children for example, but the danger of small children drowning was mentioned which is a serious issue to take into consideration. Seating nearby can ensure that parents can keep an eye out for their children.</i></p>	<p><i>-involve building with routes that cross directly through the building</i></p> <p><i>-In this proposal, the abundance of green was mentioned multiple times in a positive manner.</i></p> <p><i>-The dynamic shapes of the walking routes were described as 'fun and cozy'. Even if the routes are short, the fact that people can stand up and take a brief stroll was appreciated.</i></p> <p><i>-The open spaces in the design could aid from more elements like terraces or seating.</i></p> <p><i>-The elephant paths are a fun element for children. The participants agreed and said that children like to 'explore' and go off the beaten path.</i></p> <p><i>-The walking route of the outside area of the Veldkei can consider to cross directly through the building. This way, the direct connection of the building and the outdoors can be amplified.</i></p>