

The results of six  
years' work by  
your Mayor  
Christos Doulkeridis  
and his deputy-mayors



# IXELLES POUMON VERT

ecolo 



**Christos  
Doulkeridis**

Mayor of Ixelles  
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**Nearly 6 years ago, a new progressive team was set up in Ixelles, with, for the first time, an ECOLO Mayor. The challenges were great, but we had the energy, the enthusiasm and also the responsibility to move Ixelles forward with you.**

We feel the catastrophic effects of climate change more and more every year, all over the world and in our own neighbourhoods, and we must adapt the city accordingly.

To better integrate those who most face difficulties. Because of their age, origin, social or psychological situation, gender, sexual orientation or religion. To better include people with disabilities, whether visible or not.

To improve and better balance public space everywhere, leaving more space for our children and the elderly. So that we can breathe easier and travel more safely, whatever our mode of transportation.

To reinforce what makes Ixelles what it is: a wonderful diversity of people of all ages and origins, an extremely dynamic cultural offer, economic activities that attract people from all over.

Of course, much remains to be done. Of course, not everything is perfect. Nevertheless, a considerable amount of work has been done during this legislature, despite the fact that we have had to deal with some unexpected or new phenomena: the COVID pandemic, which paralysed Belgium for over two years and for which we are still paying the price; the energy crisis; the explosion in drug trafficking throughout Belgium; the growing lack of civic-mindedness on the part of a section of the population whose behaviour shows contempt for the valuable work done by our cleaners; growing security problems with a police force that is not enough supported by the State.

As Mayor and with the support of my colleagues and our administration, I've tried to be present on all fronts to achieve this essential transition work.

I did it with the necessary determination, but also the useful openness to take account of realities and without backing down at the slightest obstacle. This document outlines some of the practical work that has been carried out collectively. We look forward to hearing from you.

➔ CHRISTOS DOULKERIDIS

**Ixelles** has launched its first independent participatory budgets, with funding of €100,000. A "citizen participation" unit has also been set up which, in addition to steering the 3 editions of the Participatory Budget, supports neighbourhood committees and instils a participatory approach for all major projects implemented over the past 6 years (renovation of public spaces, works, thematic advisory councils).



## LAUNCH THE ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION WITH THE COURAGE TO EVALUATE IT AT EACH STEP

All cities must do this. It was essential for Ixelles to move forward. On all fronts. More greenery in our squares and streets to absorb torrential rain and protect us during heatwaves. Making access to sustainable food a priority, starting with our school canteens, doing everything we can to improve air quality and preserve biodiversity in urban areas. But every change has its difficulties and, at the risk of being criticised, we must have the courage to review our copy when the hoped-for results are not forthcoming.

## DON'T LEAVE ANYONE BEHIND

Below the commune, there's nothing left. No-one left to help those who have lost their rights, their home, their work, their last social assistance. If all other levels of power can turn a blind eye to the reality that certain people experience, the municipality cannot do it. And the situation has gotten worse with successive crises (Covid, Ukraine, energy prices). Each time, we did everything to be alongside those who needed it most. With particular attention also to students, concentrated numerous in our city, with two universities and several colleges.



## BEING ON THE GROUND EVERY TIME THERE'S A PROBLEM

I have devoted myself 100% to my mandate as Mayor. Management of the COVID pandemic, emergency evacuations, riots, hunger strikes, sensitive or dangerous demonstrations, fires, violence... my choice is to always be on the ground and whenever possible to find the best solutions by giving priority to the general interest and dialogue.

We are also conducting this dialogue with the citizens, so that we can tackle the problems facing some of our neighbourhoods without taboos, at the many citizens' meetings organised in each neighbourhood.



## FIGHTING VAW AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR PREVENTION & SAFETY POLICY

As Mayor, I immediately requested these two phenomena integrated into the priorities of the police zone and the public prosecutor's office.

Our police has strengthened its centre for the prevention of sexual violence and we have planned training for all our police officers so that they can better welcome victims. Following the "Balance ton bar" movement, I commissioned a diagnosis of women's experiences of partying, which serves as the basis for our actions and has been sent to all the country's authorities. Meetings to raise awareness and develop measures to enable all women to party in a safe environment were organised with HoReCa and in collaboration with Universities. A victim support unit has been set up in the university district.

## ENSURING THE INCLUSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES VIA THEIR OWN EXPERTISE

I re-launched and chaired the Disability Advisory Board, which is made up of people and associations specialising in disability issues. We met with all the departments of the municipality in order to work together to see how we can make it easier for everyone to participate in the life of the community and all its sectors. On a day-to-day basis, we worked to make Ixelles and its administration more accessible. We have also organised awareness-raising campaigns on the accessibility of shops and the particular situation of invisible disabilities.



## EVOLVE PUBLIC SPACE TO BETTER REFLECT OUR SOCIETY

We must maintain our links with history, but also dare to inscribe our values of equality and justice in the public arena. I have launched a toponymy commission made up of all the political groups and experts, which is examining the names of squares and roads in Ixelles. Women such as Maria Malibran, Agnès Varda, Monique Martin and Audrey Hepburn have been honoured in the public space. Rue Edmond Picard has been renamed rue Andrée Geulen, who was made an honorary citizen for her heroic role during the Second World War. The bust of General Storms has been removed from the Square de Meeus. A tree was planted in memory of the young Rosa Reichel, an Ixello victim of the floods of 2021, in connection with climate change, in the presence of her family and friends. The entire new university district will receive a woman's name in connection with our two universities, ULB and VUB..





**Audrey<sup>ecolo</sup>  
Lhoest**

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First deputy mayor in charge of Climate,  
Environment and Energy, Green Spaces and  
Plantations, Trade and Economic  
Development, Fairs and Markets, Social  
Affairs and Seniors, Intergenerational  
Relations, Tourism



**These are concrete actions  
in all areas that can help us deal with  
the negative consequences of climate  
change. With patience, listening and  
determination, Ixelles has taken the  
first steps in the interests of  
everyone. »**

### **A CLIMATE PLAN TAILORED TO IXELLES**

- ↳ To reduce our CO2 emissions by 55% by 2030
- ↳ With 215 concrete actions, over 100 of which are already underway, which affect all matters of the Commune



### **AWARENESS AIR QUALITY**

- ↳ Setting up an air quality week (exploratory walks, workshops, conferences, etc.)
- ↳ Awareness campaign and pollution measurement (home, hospital, school)
- ↳ Installation of air sensors



## A TREE PLAN FOR THE WHOLE MUNICIPALITY

- ↳ 30 measures and 100 actions to put trees back at the heart of the city, including :
  - Protection and enhancement of trees as part of every undergoing project
  - Reducing the amount of concrete in public spaces and planting trees wherever possible to help combat the effects of climate change (flooding, severe drought, heat islands, etc.).
  - Creation of large infiltrating tree pits (up to 10m ) to collect rainwater and combat flooding
  - Planting in **Place Flagey**, Place **Ste-Croix**, Place du **Châtelain**, Place Stock-Greyson, Rue du Viaduc and Rue Longue-Vie, Anoul, Bouré, J. Bouillon, Maes, Souveraine, chée de Boondaël, av. G. Gilbert, de l'Abbaye, G. Lorand, de Hennin, etc.
- ↳ Creation of 3 remarkable tree walks in 3 districts
- ↳ Setting up « Arbr'emotions » "tree festival to reconnect the people of Ixelles with nature and trees



## INCREASE BIODIVERSITY THROUGH PARTICIPATORY PLANTING

- ↳ Support and funding to green Ixelles, in co-construction with citizens (participative planting of fruit trees, annual seed exchange, Fleurir et végétaliser Ixelles competition, "Laisser Pousser" passport, etc.).
- ↳ Carrying out an inventory of Biodiversity thanks to bees and the analysis of their pollen (Beeomonitoring), then adapting plantations accordingly
- ↳ Extensive clean-up of the Etangs d'Ixelles by 40 divers, in partnership with the "Amis des Etangs".
- ↳ Flower meadows at the Ixelles ponds, at Akarova, in the Viaduc park, in the garden of the town hall...



25,000 melliferous,  
indigenous and perennial  
plants installed in all the  
municipality's green spaces  
(including 2,500 in the  
Etangs d'Ixelles alone).



## THE TRANSITION TO LOCAL & ORGANIC FOOD ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

- ↳ Creation of the 1st municipal sustainable food advisory council in Brussels
- ↳ Development of seven pilot projects on healthy and accessible food for citizens and HoReCa.
- ↳ Quality meals at low prices in local restaurants for senior citizens, social welfare recipients and pensioners, and a dish for €2.50 for students!
- ↳ Home delivery of quality meals for senior citizens
- ↳ Distribution of over 1,000 meals a week on the streets

## AT SCHOOL, FOR OUR CHILDREN

- ↳ Increasing the proportion of organic produce in our school canteens from 20% to 50%.
- ↳ Free meals for schools with differentiated teaching and for any family facing financial difficulties
- ↳ Free soup for all children



## REDUCE WASTE AND THE COST OF ENERGY

- ↳ Creation of a 1st Energy Community, enabling local residents to share and buy cheaper electricity produced by photovoltaic panels (zero pollution).
- ↳ Major investment plan for all public buildings to save energy and reduce the overall bill paid by taxpayers (1,700 photovoltaic panels)
- ↳ Information sessions to help households reduce their energy bills
- ↳ 600,000 euros allocated to people in precarious situations (energy allowances, water, taxis for PRMs, etc.).
- ↳ Amendment to the municipal granting regulations energy allowances, which are now granted on the basis of income





## SUPPORTING THE ECONOMY AND QUALITY LOCAL JOBS

- Provision of premises/incubators for women entrepreneurs to test their projects in real-life conditions (W83 Local Test Shop)
- 1,250,000 in bonuses granted to businesses and HoReCa during the COVID crisis
- Setting up an annual Women Entrepreneurs Week
- Enhancing the value of empty commercial premises through the "Shops in the making" campaign by exhibiting works of art
- 100% funding for PRM access ramps for businesses that request them
- Award of the Fleurir et végétaliser Ixelles prize for residents and shopkeepers in Brussels Zinne currency, to encourage local purchasing

## BUT ALSO

- Increasing the CPAS budget to meet the explosion in social needs
- Setting up an annual Intergenerational Day to honour senior citizens and an intergenerational flashmob
- Support for the creation of a digital newspaper by/for senior citizens
- Support for the production of a map of art galleries in Brussels (including the smallest of them)
  - Addition of children's play equipment in green spaces (Place Marie-Jose, Audrey Hepburn garden, Parc du Viaduc, etc.);
  - The bust of actress Audrey Hepburn has been placed in the new small garden, which now bears her name (at the junction of Keyenveld and Arbre Bénit).





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Deputy mayor for Mobility and Town  
Planning, Heritage and Animal  
welfare

Organizing a transition towards a less polluting mobility is not easy. In Ixelles, we have worked to develop alternatives : allow public transport to circulate better ; encourage the development of shared cars ; support the development and use of bicycles ; install terminals for electric vehicles, etc.  
In addition to the impact on health, these measures also allow a better sharing of public space."





## IMPROVE ROAD SAFETY AS A PRIORITY

- ↳ Ixelles, the first municipality to implement a Strategic Road Safety Plan
- ↳ Protecting pedestrian walkways, particularly around schools
- ↳ Creation of school streets av. du Bois de la Cambre and rue Cans
- ↳ Widening and systematic renovation of pavements
- ↳ Protection of pedestrian crossings, lowering of kerbs
- ↳ Decision to convert 99% of Ixelles roads into 30 km/h zones (including major arteries such as chée de Waterloo and Vleurgat),
- ↳ Creation of meeting zones (Schoolgat, av. Général de Gaulle, etc.) or pedestrian zones (rue du Levant, rue Saint-Boniface, etc.)
- ↳ Making dangerous junctions safer (rue Jean Paquot, bd G. Jacques, Bascule, chée de Waterloo, square du Souvenir, av. Defacqz, etc.).
- ↳ Systematic redesign of roundabouts (e.g. av. Huysmans)
- ↳ More speed cameras and speed bumps



## INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY OF BUS ROUTES

- ↳ Creation of dedicated sites (Porte de Namur, chée d'Ixelles, av. de l'Hippodrome, rue des Cygnes, chée de Vleurgat, av. Fraiteur, rue Gray, etc.)
- ↳ Thanks to a number of improvements, the 71 bus has gained 7 minutes on its entire route in 5 years
- ↳ Increased frequency, including evenings and weekends (1 bus 71 every 4 minutes during rush hour)
- ↳ Adapting STIB stops to make them accessible to people with reduced mobility



## ENCOURAGE CAR-SHARING

65% of households in Brussels do not own a car (IBSA)

- ↳ 32 car-sharing stations (114 spaces)
- ↳ Installation of 162 charging points for electric cars



And then, at some point around 2019, e-scooters are popping up all over Brussels, with no rules whatsoever.."

## WE HAD TO...



### REFRAME THE USE OF E-SCOOTERS

- ↳ Creation of 143 dropzones to clear pavements
- ↳ Limiting the number of operators and the number of machines
- ↳ Technological restrictions on scooters to prevent them from travelling at more than 10 km/h in pedestrian areas such as the chaussée d'Ixelles

### BREATHING LIFE TO NEIGHBOURHOODS

Thanks to new traffic plans, public spaces have been redesigned in a number of neighbourhoods to make them calmer and allow new uses (parvis St-Boniface, Fernand Cocq, along the Ixelles ponds, rue de Hennin, chée de Boondael, Cimetière d'Ixelles, av. de la Folle Chanson, rue du Champs de Mars, place Marie-José, rue Guillaume Stocq, etc.) and soon place du Châtelain



### SUPPORTING AND ENCOURAGING THE USE OF BICYCLES

- ↳ Drawing up a participatory, practical cycling plan to identify priority routes and propose improvements at 50 problematic locations.
- ↳ Installation of 89 bike boxes, more than 2,000 cycle racks and creation of 5 underground public parkings
- ↳ Installation of cycle lanes and paths (av. Maurice, rue du Prince Albert, bd Général Jacques, etc.) and creation of the Maelbeek valley route (along the ponds, rue Gray, etc.).
- ↳ Creation of a bike library ("Fietsbib") to hire bikes for children and a second-hand bike exchange.
- ↳ Courses to learn how to ride a bike in town (Brevet du cycliste for schoolchildren, Bike Experience for adults)



## TOWN PLANNING: FASTER PROCEDURES FOR RESIDENTS AND STRONGER RESISTANCE IN THE FACE OF CERTAIN PROMOTERS

- ↳ Shorter delivery times for planning information and permits
- ↳ Combating property speculation and excessive densification and subdivision of housing
- ↳ Safeguarding, restoring and promoting heritage (festivals, guided tours, classification, books, etc.)
- ↳ Guidelines for coliving to protect neighbourhoods
- ↳ Creation of more than 1,000 student quality housing units, outside inhabited streets
- ↳ Restauration of housinf units above shops (16 buildings in 5 years on the chaussée d'Ixelles alone)
- ↳ Constant vigilance to adapt buildings for people with disabilities
- ↳ Reducing advertising in public spaces



## A COMMUNE « ANIMAL-FRIENDLY »

- ↳ Ixelles, the first municipality to be awarded the "animal-friendly municipality" Gold Label in 2021
- ↳ Incentives to sterilise cats, adopt an animal from a shelter, help finance veterinary care
- ↳ Contraceptive seeds to control pigeon populations while respecting animal welfare
- ↳ Animal art exhibitions
- ↳ Donations collected for helping animals in shelters
- ↳ Project for a new wildlife care centre at the Campus de la Plaine (land found, planning permission granted, opening in the next few years)
- ↳ Support for a sparrow conservation group
- ↳ Installation of dozens of nesting boxes (made by children from the EPEP technical school)
- ↳ Close partnerships with the Ligue des Oiseaux and the Croix Bleue to help injured, abandoned or seized animals







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Deputy Mayor for Childcare,  
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When it comes to accessible housing, Ixelles has come a long way. We have had to work on all fronts at the same time. More than 500 new public housing units for social purposes are being created and a fifty or so already cater for particularly vulnerable groups".

### **MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY MUNICIPAL VEHICLES**

- Gradual replacement of the fleet with more environmentally-friendly cars and lorries; sharing of vehicles between departments. Result: 50% less fuel consumption
- Introduction of a pool of bicycles including cargo bikes



- Modification of the methods used for vehicle maintenance (including the use of steam). Result: 50,000 litres of water saved per year and fewer chemicals released into the air.





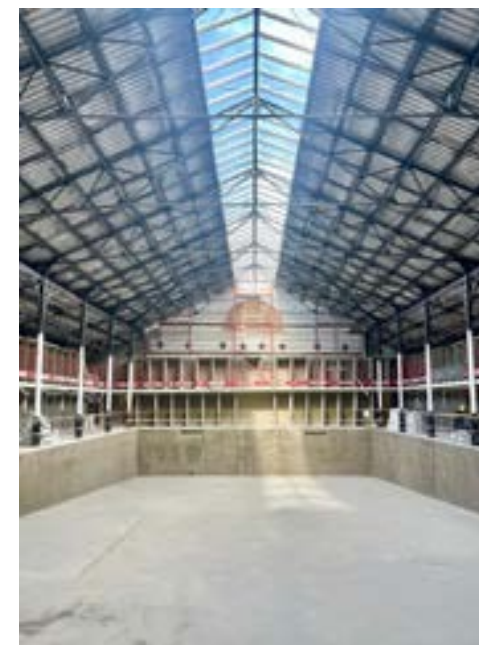
## INCREASED AND IMPROVED ACCESSIBILITY PUBLIC HOUSING

- ↳ Expansion and renovation of the publicly owned accommodations :
  - 500 new social housing units created or being created since 2018

- Increased financial and human resources devoted to renovating existing communal properties
- Creation of a communal housing allocation committee: to improve the speed of attribution and reduce the waiting list by 30%.
- ↳ Accommodation to meet specific needs:
  - Creation of the first transit and emergency accommodation in Ixelles
  - Accommodation for unaccompanied minors (MENA)
  - Temporary accommodation for women victims of domestic violence
- ↳ Optimising all accommodation options:
  - Support for a number of temporary occupancies in empty buildings to provide shelter for people in precarious situations or for socio-cultural projects when the building is unsuitable for housing.
  - Ixelles was also the first municipality to sign the Housing Contract with the region to combat unoccupied housing.
  - Setting up a housing platform to combat substandard housing and slum landlords
  - Activation of public management rights to encourage owners to put their vacant property back on the market
  - Creation of a housing service within the administration to provide citizens with the best possible support on this issue

## AND ALSO

- ↳ Protecting the Varda vegetable gardens and the Plaine aux Corneilles and developing an innovative social housing project.
- ↳ Refurbishment of the Madeleine Clément community centre in Basse Wavre to accommodate not only children from the schools and plains, but also all Ixells citizens.
- ↳ Upkeep and renovation of the town's facilities to make you feel more welcome (the swimming pool, community centre, schools and school grounds)



## INCREASING THE NUMBER OF PLACES AND IMPROVING THE WELCOMING CONDITIONS OF NURSERIES

- ↳ 23% increase in nursery places (134 new places since 2018)  
Two new crèches (Dutch-speaking)
- ↳ Improved environmental practices in crèches: purchase of wooden toys, use of reusable bags, 50% organic food, introduction of washable nappies, etc.
- ↳ Creation of the "Concertation ixelloise de la Petite enfance", which brings together all the professionals of Ixelles every year.



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Schepen voor  
Nederlandse cultuur  
en onderwijs,  
Europese zaken en  
IT



With its many artists, art colleges, academies, theatres, cinemas, cultural centres, museums, festivals, libraries, bookshops, art galleries, etc. and its enthusiastic multicultural public, Ixelles is undoubtedly one of Belgium's most dynamic cultural communities. »

Ken

« An inspiring cross-pollination of public and culture for everyone, everywhere. We were working on one network of local cultural partners, new Ixelles festivals, opening of artist studios, launch of project calls and much more.

The past five years, Ken and I have joined forces to support culture in the broadest sense of the word. »

Els





- 1 Despite the difficult economic climate, we have doubled the amount of **aid** to operators and **artists**, because it's not enough to say that culture is fundamental.
- 2 Because working together means reaching more people, we have merged the French and Dutch cultural services.
- 3 The modernisation and expansion (in progress) of the Musée communal have been confirmed and supported in order to welcome even more visitors and maintain the beautiful soul of our **Musée d'Ixelles**.
- 4 Although the Museum is closed for renovation, some of its works have been brought to you. Thanks to the dynamism of its team, the original "**Museum as home**" initiative (presentation of works in private homes) has been developed.
- 5 The town has resumed its tradition of supporting artists by creating **new artists' studios** (rue Wiertz, rue du Trône, rue de l'automne).
- 6 We have relaunched several **Artists' Trails** (150 artists, 15,000 visitors)



- 7 The Chapelle de Boondael has been transformed into a cultural centre for the south of the Commune.
- 8 A programme for young audiences has been put in place, reaching thousands of children.
- 9 A "**Voix plurielles**" festival (songs by women) was supported
- 10 A "**Look at Matonge**" (a new look at the neighbourhood through a fashion show, music, stalls, etc.). up, etc.) was launched to show our pride in Ixelles' special link with Africa.
- 11 With the aim of bringing culture out into the public arena, we have launched "**XL danse**", participatory artistic activities in public space in several neighbourhoods
- 12 Every summer, the **Staycation** festival is aimed at those who take their holidays at home.
- 13 Ixelles is a commune with a huge number of **art galleries** of impressive quality, so we wanted to showcase them and support emerging visual artists.

**IXELLES will finally have its own Dutch-language municipal school (2026), in the Graystraat, along the impasse des Moineaux! »**





NL



Alle tekst  
in het Nederlands



EN



All text  
in English

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**GROEN**