

Memorandum of the Citizens' Forum Helfent

Presented by Nadine Schares, Guy Weirich and Marc Rauchs,

Members of the Municipal Council (CSV Bartreng)

October 2025

1. Introduction

On 22 September 2025, CSV Bartreng met residents within the framework of the citizens' forum "Helfent" to give them the opportunity to share their ideas, concerns and expectations regarding the development of the district. The invitation had been distributed throughout Bertrange, so that several people from the centre of our locality were also present.

2. Objective and Background

The goal of our workshop was to collect and discuss, together with the residents, ideas for the future development of the district. This memorandum summarises the main elements of the discussion rounds and submits them to the Municipal Council as a basis for further political work and as an impetus to improve the quality of life in the "Helfent" district.

3. Context

The district "Helfent" is in a phase of dynamic development. Topics such as traffic, quality of life, sustainability and community life are at the centre of attention. The citizens' forum offered a valuable opportunity to make residents' perspectives visible and to discuss concrete courses of action.

4. Overview of the Method

The ideas and conclusions presented in this document come from the discussion groups and contributions made during this meeting, as well as from other oral and written feedback from individuals. There were groups in Luxembourgish, French and English. The results of this meeting were organised by theme.

5. Questionnaire for the Helfent Workshop

During the workshop, the various groups were given the following questions in their respective languages as discussion prompts.

Your Suggestions

- What ideas and wishes do you have for Helfent?
- How do you envision the future of Helfent?

General Well-Being

- Do you feel comfortable in your neighbourhood?
- What makes Helfent special for you?
- Is there anything you are missing here?
- How well do you know your neighbours?
- What does a high quality of life in Helfent mean to you?
- How strongly do you feel connected to Bertrange?
- What would help you feel even more "at home" in the district?

Environment & Green Spaces

- Are there enough places for recreation, such as parks or walking paths?
- How could we make better use of or enhance Helfent's green belt?
- Should there be more trees or wildflower meadows in the district?
- Should the green spaces remain quiet and relaxing or be used more actively for activities?
- What makes the pond or the park special for you – and how could it be further improved?

Mobility & Safety

- Can you move safely through the district on foot or by bike?
- What is the situation at pedestrian crossings? Is there enough lighting in the evening?
- Are there streets or areas where you feel unsafe?
- What are your experiences with public transport to and from Helfent?
- Are there streets or squares that should be made more traffic-calmed?

Facilities for Children, Youth & Seniors

- Are there enough playgrounds and safe areas for children?
- Where can young people meet without disturbing others?
- How good is accessibility for elderly people or those using wheelchairs?
- What leisure activities for young people are missing beyond the sports sector?
- What could make everyday life more pleasant or easier for seniors?

Community Life & Quality of Life

- Do you have opportunities to get to know other residents?
- Are there places or activities that bring neighbours together?
- What would an "active neighbourhood life" look like for you?
- How could we make the neighbourhood more inclusive so that everyone feels comfortable?
- Should there be more community events (e.g. neighbourhood festival, market, workshop)?

Development & Appearance of the District

- What should be created in Helfent in the coming years?
- How can we find a healthy balance between construction and green spaces?
- How can we avoid Helfent becoming merely a "dormitory district"?
- What do you think about the architecture in Helfent – should a particular style be maintained?
- How should new building areas be used (e.g. for businesses, services or housing)?

Citizen Participation & Co-Design

- How could you imagine better citizen participation?
- What would be an easy way to express your opinion regularly?
- Do you already have a concrete idea or initiative in mind?
- What would need to happen for more residents of the district to be willing to get involved?
- Should residents be able to participate more often in decisions about small changes in the district?

6. Main Part – Ideas and Proposals from the “Helfent” Workshop

Our workshop attracted great interest. Many residents participated that evening; some had sent apologies because they were unable to attend, while others sent us their questions and ideas. We would like to thank them all once again!

6.1. What Participants Are Concerned About

a. Questions

- How exactly will the bicycle path to the City Concorde be designed? If it is intended only for pedestrians and too narrow for bicycles, the question arises as to how useful it really is.
- Why does it take so long to have a continuous cycle path that leads directly from the City Concorde to the town centre?
- Why are users of the polo field in Merl still directed through the underpass in Helfent, even though the level crossing in Merl has been reopened?
- Why are there no indications of parking times or speed limits in “Rue Pletzer”?
- What do the development plans foresee for Helfent with regard to the water / flooding issue?
- To what extent will the “Route de Luxembourg” be affected by a future “Helfent” project or possibly integrated into it?
- For instance, is a roundabout planned to improve traffic flow, or is a more complex change being considered?
- If a comprehensive redesign of the central area of Helfent is being planned (Route de Longwy, traffic lights, shopping centres, motorway connections, junctions and bus links, access to future residential areas, possibly a school, and a desired connection to the tram / train station – all of which would increase traffic), what preliminary drafts are being proposed to improve the situation?
- Will there be a public presentation of the selected projects?

b. Uncertainties / Ambiguities

- Different parking regulations in neighbouring streets (e.g. “An Diert” and “Rue de la Forêt”) cause confusion. Do the signs at the top of “Rue de la Forêt” apply to the entire district or only to that street?
- There are uncertainties about the parking system, the permits, and the concept of a “quartier résidentiel”.

c. Dissatisfaction

- There is dissatisfaction with the management and maintenance of the Lentze Parc building, which is largely rented by the municipality to elderly people. Over the years, care and service offerings have declined, contributing to social isolation.
- Some residents feel that the administration does not always take them seriously and wish for more dialogue regarding their concerns and renovation needs.
- There is no longer a café or any events; the library is neglected although it used to be a lively meeting place. The green roof terraces are not maintained, the garage exit causes

problems, there is a general maintenance and renovation backlog, and tenants feel they are not always taken seriously.

- Accessibility: Both in Parc Helfent and in the district overall, many places remain difficult to access for people with limited mobility. There are still high kerbs, even at pedestrian crossings.
- Lack of “Ruffbus” service on Sundays makes it harder for elderly or less mobile people to reach the centre, increasing isolation.
- Buses: There is no direct connection from Helfent to the CHL hospital. Such a route would be beneficial for everyone, especially young people who deliberately choose not to own a car.
- Road safety concerns, particularly in “Route de Longwy”. The exit from “Rue de la Forêt” onto “Route de Longwy” is not ideal for cars; with more traffic, it becomes difficult to turn.
- Many residents travel by bicycle, but the paths are too narrow for cargo bikes, dogs, children, etc.
- Paths in Helfent are in need of renewal; for example, the asphalt is damaged.
- The condition of the pond and wooden footbridge in Parc Helfent is poor.
- The presence of homeless individuals in the park was partly perceived as disturbing.
- Lighting in Parc Helfent: during the winter months, lighting is insufficient; several participants demand improvement.
- Street lamps shine into apartments; now that flats have been built on the ground and lower floors, lighting could perhaps be adjusted.
- Cleanliness / hygiene: poor maintenance was criticised, especially at bus stops and parking areas. Mentioned were the Helfent bus stop and the parking area in the side street of “Rue de Luxembourg” (houses 267–291). One man even said that he sometimes sweeps the parking area himself over the weekend when no cars are there. At the bus stop opposite “Delhaize”, the rubbish bin is far too small, so there is often a lot of litter on the ground. Complaints were also made about dog waste in the park.
- The question was raised about how the municipality could support homeless people so they do not have to relieve themselves outdoors.
- It was noted that in the back part of the side street of “Rue de Luxembourg”, near some houses, a “dirty corner” has developed.
- Noise from the motorway is considered disturbing; the constant rattling of the plates wears on people’s nerves.
- Flooding: the issue of water in basements was raised, especially in Bell Isle and residences in “Rue Pletzer”. In some areas, the ground does not absorb the water.
- It is incomprehensible that, several years after the major storm, broken branches are still lying in the river valley. They were apparently just thrown there or down the slope.
- Old buildings: old villas are being demolished, which will change the village’s character.
- Distance between houses: sometimes very small – is this considered in the building plan?
- Community cohesion: due to the large number of expatriates, social cohesion is lacking. People tend to go to the city rather than staying in the village.

d. Remarks Going Beyond the Helfent District

- Along the path below the football field, there were fewer flowers this year, mostly thistles and other weeds.

- It is not good when, during village centre festivals, music is played so loudly that it hinders conversations at the tables. The event should not only cater to young people who might like it that way.
- It is not understood why the municipality invites people to the fair (Kirmes), yet at the same time – when the parking behind the pharmacy is occupied by stands – blocks the remaining parking spaces along the street with red ribbons. This is perceived as contradictory.
- People asked why they must drive to Kehlen even with small waste, and whether our own recycling park could not accept more.
- Some residents would like a better connection between Helfent and the village centre, particularly for elderly people.

6.2. What Participants Suggested

a. For Helfent

- **Parc Helfent** should definitely be enlarged.
- Improved lighting in the park is desired, especially important in the darker months.
- To better serve visitors, a kiosk or small café should be added to make the park livelier.
- During heavy rain, the park floods – proper drainage systems should therefore be installed.
- The park is large, but cannot be fully used in bad weather. Covered seating areas would make it more usable year-round.
- As there is no reading area or library, it would be nice to have a small place in the park for reading books.
- A barbecue area with nearby shaded spots would be ideal to attract families for picnics.
- More benches and covered spaces should be added to make the park usable throughout the year.
- Sports facilities in the park (e.g. football for children, table tennis, badminton, or a skating area) should be provided.
- The pond and the footbridge in Parc Helfent should be renovated, and possibly a fountain installed to make the place more attractive.
- It was also suggested to make the shore and footbridge by the small pond a more inviting place to stay – for example with a small water feature or new seating.
- Slightly increased supervision by security staff or police could be useful, among other reasons because homeless people sleep in the park. A fire had previously been reported in an abandoned building.
- Overall, **safety in Helfent** should be improved, including through better lighting.
- Creation of a **dog park** (“Hondswiss”) in the district as a meeting place for pet owners.
- A **wildflower meadow** should also be created in Helfent, as in other parts of the municipality.
- **Traffic light** at the pedestrian crossing near the bus stop “Richterwee” (reason: danger zone – “I was almost hit by a car three times there”, drivers coming from Helfent have poor visibility).
- At the “Fleuri” bus stop, there is only a shelter on one side. A shelter should also be built on the opposite side, quay 2.
- At the “Helfent” bus stop (opposite Delhaize), there should be two bins or one larger one. In general, more should be done against littering in Helfent.

- The **residents' parking system** should be extended to the side street of "Rue de Luxembourg" (houses 267–291). (We already submitted this issue to the Board of Aldermen on 26 September 2025 during the Municipal Council meeting. A site visit was promised.) The issue of resident permits was raised in several working groups, and improvements were requested.
- More information is desired regarding the "quartier résidentiel" concept and parking permits.
- **Organisation of intergenerational events**, festivals, or activities in the park to promote exchange and neighbourhood life.
- **A meeting point** for families and neighbours should be created.
- In general, **community life** in Helfent should be promoted, notably through improved neighbourly relations (see also the proposals regarding Parc Helfent).
- Extension of the "**Ruffbus**" service to Sundays, particularly for elderly or mobility-impaired persons. The Ruffbus Berti should be allowed to go as far as the Eich Clinic.
- For **accessibility** and people with mobility impairments, obstacles (e.g. high kerbs at pedestrian crossings) should be removed and overall access improved.
- Given the many residential buildings where young people and families also live, it was suggested that Helfent could host part of a **school**, such as a "précoce" or possibly Cycle 1.1 class. Some even advocated building a full primary school.
- It would be desirable to have a **medical centre** in Helfent.
- Better **communication** and information sharing from the municipality about projects and offers in Helfent.

b. For the Whole Municipality

- Our own **recycling park** should accept a wider range of small waste.
- More **flowers** should be planted along the path below the football field.
- Regular **trimming of hedges** that protrude onto sidewalks – which pose an additional danger for pedestrians given the narrowness of certain paths – should be considered a matter of course.
- Better **communication** and more activities for senior citizens were requested.
- In the spirit of *Vivre ensemble*, courses in Luxembourgish and also meet-ups in other languages were suggested.
- To improve **connections between residential and commercial areas and the various districts** of Bartreng (Helfent, Bartreng-Centre, or others), a broader and more diverse access could be considered, for example:
 - A pedestrian / bicycle bridge linking "Route de Luxembourg" with the Bourmicht industrial area;
 - A cycle path between Helfent and Bartreng Centre (the number of rental cyclists on this route continues to rise, which would also help reduce driving speed on the whole stretch);
 - Bringing bus stops closer together to promote public transport.

6.3. What Participants Appreciate

- Helfent is described as a wonderful "triangle of nature" – quiet, green, and close to life.
- Despite many criticisms, some participants said they actually enjoy living in Helfent.

- The City Concorde, easily reachable by public transport, provides a wide range of shopping opportunities nearby.
- The path to City Concorde was welcomed, as it allows residents to reach the centre more directly!
- One person said they are glad not to live in the centre because they avoid the noise and inconveniences associated with the “Absolut Bartreng” event.
- Some say the public transport connection to the centre is very good, although they still expressed wishes for improvement (see above!).
- The proximity to City Concorde and to the forest is highly appreciated.
- Overall, a high level of satisfaction is apparent. In Helfent, this particularly relates to the good shopping options, doctors’ offices, the valued recreational forest area, and the good connection to public transport. Many residents emphasise the high quality of life and friendly atmosphere in the district.

6.4. Additional Remark

Many of the points mentioned here overlap with concerns already expressed earlier – particularly regarding traffic, accessibility, park design, and social cohesion. However, some important new impulses have been added, expanding the previous report:

- stronger emphasis on the needs of elderly residents (e.g. Lentze Parc, Sunday Ruffbus service);
- specific comments on lighting and accessibility;
- new proposals to enliven the park socially (events, meeting points, dog park, flower meadow).

These additions deepen the existing picture of Helfent as a pleasant but still developing residential area, and underline the residents’ wish for more closeness, exchange, and inclusion in everyday life.

Let us recall that the CSV presented its own programme for the Helfent district during the last municipal elections, which is included in the appendix of this document.

7. Conclusion

The results of the citizens’ forum clearly show that the residents of the Helfent district wish for a lively, safe, and sustainable living environment. This memorandum aims to contribute to bringing these concerns into the political discussion and to initiate concrete measures.

All citizens are warmly invited to continue sending us their information, suggestions, or questions:

CSV Bartringen: bertrange@csv.lu

Marc Rauchs, President: marc.rauchs@bertrange.lu

Guy Weirich, Secretary: guy.weirich@bertrange.lu

Nadine Schares, Spokesperson of the Group: nadine.schares@bertrange.lu

We will inform you in due time about the further progress of our initiative through the following information channels:

CSV Bartringen: <https://bartreng.csv.lu/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bartreng.csv.lu>

OP DE PUNKT

Nos idées pour le quartier Helfent



Notre programme électoral de 2017 avait déjà retenu pour le quartier Helfent e.a. :

- salle de réunions et de rencontre à Helfent;
- revoir la gestion du stationnement à Helfent

Nos conseillers ont à plusieurs reprises suggéré de construire une école à Helfent (surtout pour les enfants les plus jeunes).

Veillez trouver maintenant ici ce que le CSV propose, dans le nouveau programme électoral, pour le quartier Helfent.

Urbanisme en général

établir un plan de développement local de notre localité (en collaboration avec les citoyens dans l'esprit d'une politique participative)

Quartier Helfent

- redéfinir le concept global pour le soi-disant « triangle Helfent » ;
- réaliser une structure communale à Helfent pour les réunions, les rencontres et les activités de loisirs ;
- agrandir le parc Helfent et augmenter son attractivité;
- créer un kiosque à boissons/restauration rapide dans le parc d'Helfent, ouvert à certaines heures pendant les bonnes saisons ;
- aménager un terrain multisports au parc Helfent ;
- optimiser les infrastructures du terrain de sport de plage du parc Helfent ;
- installer des « bancs de l'amitié » au Parc Central et au Parc Helfent ;
- réaliser une structure communale à Helfent pour les réunions, les rencontres et les activités de loisirs ;
- étendre l'initiative des colonnes de livres publiques au quartier Helfent.

