

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

## **ILULISSAT**

### **Business development**

As the biggest town in the municipality, Ilulissat should act as a catalyst for the business sector throughout North Greenland. Even though tourism is due to the impressive ice fiord and the UNESCO World Heritage Site, there is a need to maintain the status of Ilulissat as the leading tourist destination by improving infrastructure and urban open spaces – not least by establishing the ice fiord station. As fishing is still the lifeblood of Disko Bay, the trade should be supported through land zoning offering possibilities of expansion and proper conditions for fishermen.

To provide sufficient space for development in Ilulissat, it would be advisable to zone an area for heavy industry on the outskirts of the town, which would give room for new businesses and innovation in the central parts of town. A centre of innovation is an option to be considered in the town centre.

In settlements, the tourism potential may be developed by private actors in cooperation with the population. As fishing, processing and trading of fish are central to the development of settlements, planning and development should zone areas for tourism and fishing activities, depending on the potential of the individual settlement.

### **Education**

Many young people in Ilulissat are not adequately educated to meet the demands of the future labour market. It is important to provide for good learning environments in the town by zoning areas for new educational institutions (such as the GU gymnasium and higher education etc.), hostels, student housing and to ensure coherence with attractive recreational areas, institutions and other central functions. Learning is also necessary to strengthen the industries of the town. Competency development is to be an integral part of business development in the offshore, tourism and fishing trades.

Even though there are fewer pupils in the schools in the settlements, the physical settings are to be satisfactory. Possibly, school premises can be integrated with other functions or services in the settlement. Outdoor areas, such as playgrounds and soccer fields are to be integrated into a learning setting. Pupils in the settlements are to be offered proper conditions – both physically and socially – when they move to the town to finish school.

### **Settlement and great housing**

It is important that Ilulissat continues to grow, and this means new housing. Attractive urban open spaces are to ensure that the town keeps pace with the requirements of a modern town. Both social tenant

housing and private housing should be made possible through mixed housing and ownership targeting different groups and economies to create attractive areas and promote social cohesion in town.

Housing conditions in the settlements restrict business activities due to lack of housing and poor visual appearance. The wish of the population to become involved in the building of new houses in the settlements should be met insofar as possible, e.g. through redevelopment projects in Qeqertaq and Saqqaq. Demographic development requires that senior housing be provided to an increasing degree. Such housing would benefit from being integrated with the existing housing stock, e.g. in Ilimanaq.

### **Culture and identity**

An active cultural life will invigorate Ilulissat, strengthening its position as an attractive growth centre and improve social cohesion. The physical (indoor and outdoor) settings are to be able to support individual creativity and association activities in town and facilitate everyday activities and large events celebrating modern or traditional culture. Local culture can also manifest itself through art in the town.

Associations thrive in the settlements, but they need support and guidance to continue to be attractive to the population in the settlements. Spatially, the needs of associations can be met by providing adequate outdoor areas and suitable premises. This could be ensured through broadening the use of village halls and service houses.

### **Safety and the good life**

Ilulissat is to develop an attractive urban environment that can benefit the population, increase immigration and develop tourism even further. This puts requirements on the look of buildings, especially in centre areas. Urban open spaces should impart a feeling of security, and spaces and paths should be accommodating and safe places for the many children and young people in town. The location of major institutions and functions in and around the town is to be carefully considered to benefit as many citizens as possible and to bring life and cohesion to the urban open spaces.

In settlements, public meeting places allow people to socialise. Thus, by upgrading community facilities, life in the settlements would become more attractive. Combining various functions in the service houses, such as workshop facilities and common rooms, would offer the population a place to meet. At the same time, proper lighting, paths and bottling houses etc. would ease everyday life for everybody.

### **Health and prevention**

Ilulissat is home to the regional hospital of the Avannaar health region, and the establishment of the family centre has put focus on prevention. Efforts in this field should be supplemented by informal outdoor facilities in town, such as training grounds and playgrounds in residential areas and community facilities for the entire town. Planning for the proposed sports college, a multi-sports centre and citizens' wish for swimming facilities and an artificial soccer field are to be coordinated.

As there is a strong focus on health and exercise in settlements, sporting facilities should be improved, e.g. by using village halls. Areas are to be zoned for leisure activities, such as soccer fields and playgrounds in settlements. In Ilimanaq, e.g., citizens wish to use the lake for recreational purposes.

### **Infrastructure and utilities**

The town infrastructure is an obstacle to the further development, not only of the town but also of the region. Endeavours are made to ensure airport and port extensions that can solve existing and future problems of capacity and benefit existing and new businesses. Likewise, areas should be zoned for shipping of waste and the potential relocation of the incineration plant. This would ensure that major technical supply plants are located on the outskirts of town far from residential areas. The infrastructure (systems of roads and paths) should match the size of the town.

In several settlements, quay facilities and sea-wall breakwaters are important to fishing opportunities and in particular to the safety and working conditions of fishermen. Moreover, waste incineration and dumps and the tracks leading to them need to be upgraded in most settlements. It is vital to identify locations that are more suitable for dumps in settlements wishing to promote tourism.

### **Climate, environment and nature**

Efforts should be made to promote an international Ice fiord station that can put Ilulissat on the world map and be the focal point of citizens' interaction with nature. As the biggest town in the municipality, Ilulissat should lead the way on sustainability and environmental improvements, such as by improving wastewater discharge and sewerage, zoning areas for sustainable development, strengthening waste management and environmental clean-up to utilise the limited space in town in the best possible way. Climate change should also be addressed, and an overall recreational plan for the town's green and open spaces is to be formulated.

Nature, sealing, whaling and sailing are inherent elements of life in the settlements. These considerations are to be taken into account in the development of the tourism sector and cultural life, e.g. by marking hiking trails to protect nature as much as possible. Similarly, recreational huts are to be located following careful consideration of natural qualities in the surrounding areas.

### **Cultural heritage and preservation**

Active cultural heritage, such as fishing, sealing, whaling and domestic industries, is important to citizens of towns and settlements alike, and this can be used to promote tourism, improve everyday life and upgrade townscape. There is a need for additional maintenance of old preservation-worthy buildings. By enhancing cooperation between museums and schools in the town, pupils will get a better understanding of their own cultural background. The green wedges and dog areas remind us of our shared history and culture and add spaciousness to the town.

There are several preservation-worthy buildings in the settlements around Ilulissat. Locally, there is a wish to put them to active use, e.g. by establishing a museum in Saqqaq. Planning and development is to support such wishes, such as for the older buildings in Ilimanaq.

### **IT, democracy and dialogue**

The town plan and its objectives are to become an important tool in ensuring proper management of the town and settlements, guiding new initiatives in the local areas. To this end, it is important that information be disseminated to citizens and that people are continually allowed to voice their opinions in the planning and development processes. The town plan is to actively promote dialogue with citizens, in particular during processes where accelerated development is desirable out of concern for businesses and infrastructure.

IT will become a central tool of interaction. This requires support, especially in settlements, to teach citizens how to use IT. The educational institutions should be active in developing (local) democracy.