

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

UPERNAVIK

Business development

Upernavik and its settlements alike are characterised by a strong focus on fishing. The town is a great starting point in terms of education programmes and innovation in fishing and related production. This calls for suitable areas with sufficient supplies, and the goal is to generate more permanent jobs. Also basic conditions for fishermen, e.g., berths, pontoons and storage, should be secured. Additionally, different land-based trades should be supported by means of areas in the town. This makes it urgent to improve the port facilities and the water supply.

Upernavik has been designated a main supply base for offshore activities, which is sought developed and strengthened through infrastructure and necessary zoning of areas. The physical framework for a number of derived trades should be developed further inside and outside of the existing town.

Many settlements also need better conditions for fishing, sealing, whaling and production, which may create a stable need for labour and trading. In several places, citizens as well as businessmen have expressed an interest in new production and trading facilities, and areas are to be secured for the fishermen's own boats and tools.

Education

Education is key to ensuring that every citizen has the possibilities he/she needs. Children in settlements are sent to Upernavik to finish elementary school. This calls for a strong receiving system as well as physical settings to make the children feel at home and, as a minimum – enough places in dormitories.

As to the schools and day-care facilities in the settlements, the settings are to be good, even though the number of pupils is decreasing, and decent teacher accommodation is to ensure that settlements benefit from trained teachers. The same can be said for outdoor areas, e.g. playgrounds, soccer fields and open spaces around schools, which are to be integrated in learning contexts. Especially in small, but stable settlements, functions may be integrated and multi-purpose houses can be used for numerous activities. Education is also about life-long learning, and distance teaching courses etc. are to be made available to the citizens in settlements, e.g. in low season.

Settlement and great housing

Many homes in Upernavik are in need of maintenance, and the housing stock should be modernised. New homes should be constructed to accommodate newcomers from the settlements or in connection with new trades, and to reduce the household size. Solutions such as self-builder's houses may be one way of replacing the housing stock.

In the settlements, severe efforts are needed to upgrade the housing standard in order to prevent people migrating due to poor housing quality and to maintain the culture of scattered settlements. Housing is to be secured for both the young and senior citizens, and for the disabled, wherever possible. In many places, there is a direct need for homes that are adapted to the settlements, e.g. Illorput houses and self-builder's houses. Many houses are abandoned and in such poor state that they should be demolished, as they embarrass their neighbours.

Cultural and leisure facilities

The municipal objective to secure physical settings for the cultural scene may be done by providing areas for recreational activities and great drop-in centres. Culture should be developed in cooperation with the school, children, youth and senior citizens, focusing on multi-functional solutions and gathering functions under fewer roofs. The cultural scene should be integrated in the business life and in terms of learning where traditional activities may be cultivated and passed on to younger generations.

Association activities in the settlements are also to be strengthened by means of facilities and lighting, and there is to be room for traditional leisure activities such as kayaking, sewing skins etc.

Safety and the good life

In Upernavik, the good life should be secured, providing room for both traditional activities and modern development. Drop-in centres and community centres (offering IT facilities) can breed solidarity and mutual responsibility, while modernising the town.

In many ways, life in settlements forms the framework for the good life where community is strong and people look after each other. Cleaning and rehabilitation are to contribute to creating value in each settlement, and citizens are to be actively involved. Children are to be given priority and good conditions by means of pre-school offers, drop-in centres and playgrounds. Among other things, service houses and settlement offices may incorporate social functions.

Health and prevention

The good family is key to ensuring that children and youth get a good start to life. There is to be sufficient place for social institutions (day-care and 24-hour), family houses etc. where you can go when needed. In general, areas should be reserved for community purposes, and any existing empty houses or facilities, indicated by locals, should be put to use. Outdoor facilities throughout the town are to encourage physical activity.

For health-care stations to be well-functioning and to retain staff, there is a need for buildings and homes in good, presentable condition. Activities and good settings that ensure social gathering also have a preventive effect. Improving the housing standards is equally important in order to avoid cramped quarters and worn-down homes.

Infrastructure and utilities

The municipal development of infrastructure should be coordinated with business development and improve conditions for the citizens. Port facilities and boat storages are to be improved, but especially the possibilities for water supply are to be expanded to prepare the town for new trades and larger facilities. However, this should be coordinated with sewerage plans, and the town infrastructure also needs improvement. The new town areas are to be realised to create sufficient space in town and to create cohesion within the town. A core challenge is to clear away the dump in the town centre and find a location for a new dump, as well as potentially establishing an incineration plant that can utilise residual heat.

There is room for considerable improvement of settlement infrastructure, especially in large settlements with factories. Transport is limited to private means of transport and aircrafts, but passenger boats and good calling places could be established to boost mobility and give the settlement citizens more possibilities. Water supply, bottling houses, power plants and refuse collection services should also be improved in settlement, e.g. by finding suitable locations for these functions and ensuring sufficient capacity.

Climate, environment and nature

In Upernavik and in several settlements, climate change is experienced first-hand. In some places, this results in poorer living conditions, and in other places, new opportunities. The municipality should support new opportunities caused by the climate, while supporting those who are severely struck by climate change. To many, nature makes up the basis for living, and for this to continue, nature has to be protected. New environmentally friendly and sustainable measures may help create awareness about the need for protecting nature.

Protecting nature, handling waste and health are interconnected. The citizens' close relationship to nature should be reflected in keeping settlements clean and tidy, and should be supported by better waste management, including minimisation of open burning.

Cultural heritage and preservation

A visible, high-priority heritage enables citizens to understand their own identity. The cultural heritage of sealing, whaling, kayaking and dog sledging should be preserved by actively using it and prioritising the establishment of facilities for it. The solidarity found in settlement communities and their closeness to nature are particularly important parts of the culture.

But the heritage areas featuring old houses may also form exciting settings for new common activities or service trades. This calls for maintenance and for integration of buildings into a context where areas are vitalised to the benefit of the citizens.

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. In Upernavik and the settlements, democracy is also about freedom and making room for everyone. Consequently, it is important that planning does not appear to limit, rather protects each citizen. At the same time, settlements have to participate actively in the debate.