

## UUMMANNAQ

### - **Business development**

In the Uummannaq area, fishing for the Greenland halibut is especially vital to business, and fishing, production and processing are to be further strengthened and developed. This means providing sufficient areas for fishermen and for extending existing and establishing new facilities. The entire town would benefit from a more stable manpower need. Uummannaq also has a vast tourism potential, e.g., thanks to the Qilakitsoq mummies, Santa's house, the heritage area and nature, which should be realised by means of opportunities and activities in town, improvements and better access possibilities.

Each settlement plays an important role in tourism and should be integrated in a general tourism strategy, which could involve actively using outdated buildings (e.g., in Illorsuit, Saattut and Niaqornat) instead of seeing them falling into decay. At the same time, the key basis for the settlements – fishing – is to be strengthened by providing, e.g., better quays that protect the fishermen's equipment, appropriate extension of existing facilities as well as new, related functions (skin, other species etc.). Small businesses such as dressmaking, domestic industry and small entrepreneurs also affect the basis for existence of the settlements.

### - **Education**

Uummannaq's school has a central location in the townscape, and education should likewise be a high-priority area. Day-care institutions, the school, hostels and student housing should be of high standard and offer great, physical settings (including outdoor areas) to ensure a great school for the children in the area. Consequently, different institutions should cooperate, and short-cycle educations should be given priority. The local wishes to establish a folk high school focusing on the Inuit culture should be examined.

Despite fewer pupils in the settlement schools, the physical settings are to be good and may be integrated actively with other functions, depending on the size of the settlement. Pre-school and recreational schemes alike should be based on an educational basis and have ample space. Outdoor areas, e.g., playgrounds, soccer fields as well as open spaces around the school buildings, also matter in terms of learning, as do the housing conditions of trained staff. Settlement pupils and students are to experience proper conditions (physical and social) when they move to town to finish school, and using the former hotel as a boarding school is an important step in this direction.

### - **Settlement and great housing**

Uummannaq is characterised by detached single-family houses, harmoniously located around the foot of the Uummannaq mountain. New buildings are to follow the topography and the existing buildings, and any urban development is to take place to the west. Several worn-down houses should be renovated, and uninhabited houses in poor condition should be demolished. Do-it-yourself houses may be one way to replace the building stock and secure buildings for newcomers, young families and senior citizens.

In the settlements, it is important that housing standards are also improved, to prevent poor housing standards from being a reason for migration, and to maintain a culture of scattered settlements. In several places, there is a distinct need for homes adapted to settlements, e.g.,

Illorput buildings. Many houses are abandoned and in such poor state that they should be demolished because they embarrass the inhabitants (e.g. in Ukkusissat). Lack of accommodation for visitors and builders regularly places obstacles in the way of new initiatives in the settlements.

#### - **Culture and identity**

Several cultural institutions are in need of improvement and a more distinct role in the townscape. The wish to have an actual community house is to be supported by setting aside area for this. Increasing the number of activities will also have a preventive effect on children and youth, who can obtain tools to better understand themselves. The children's home is a great example of how to improve life in harmony with culture.

In the settlements, recreational clubs offering activities to children and youth may help strengthen the cultural scene and association activities – and these activities could utilise existing buildings. Several places have a sound and active community, which should be supported by great physical settings for the cultural scene (e.g. in Qaarsut). Cooperation between the settlements could also be strengthened by arranging social and cultural events across settlements.

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

To many, Uummanaq's beautiful surroundings are the core of the good life, but it is to be supported by contemporary opportunities in daily life, e.g., by means of good roads, common facilities etc. Developing business and great institutions could create a more stable and safe environment for its citizens. The wish to establish a cultural/community house should be looked into, and it may also function as a drop-in centre for children and youth.

In the settlements, improving aspects such as lighting, paths, bottling houses, cemeteries etc. as well as ensuring great recreational facilities and better clearance help create the settings for a good life and stress the qualities of settlement life where people have time for each other. The same goes for the settlement's factories and shops, which often take up unnecessary space. Providing staff, e.g., in schools, with better skills is also necessary to improve the conditions of the youth.

#### - **Health and prevention**

A community house, rehabilitation of the hall and mini-hall, and fitness offers will be able to boost public health, association opportunities and ensure activities in daily life. The citizens' wishes regarding different outdoor activities should be backed by spatial planning. It should be possible to cover the need for drop-in centres and a crisis centre in a town the size of Uummanaq.

Several settlements want to see physical premises extend by adding a mini-hall, improving the soccer field etc. In Ukkusissat and Qaarsut, the soccer fields do not encourage activities whatsoever. Good activities for children and youth also serve a preventive purpose and should be given high priority.

#### - **Infrastructure and utilities**

Uummanaq's development possibilities are limited due to poor infrastructure. Better traffic service between the settlements should be established to improve mobility. Upgrading the connection to the airport in Qaarsut should be looked into in order to also strengthen the tourism potential and the links to the rest of the municipality. Better port facilities that withstand the weather conditions (larger port, jetties and small pontoon ports) can improve conditions for fishing, and urban

development in the north-western areas of town is also vital to the town's development. The water catchment area should be reassessed to open up new possibilities in town.

Several settlements suffer from insufficient roads to dumps, night-soil facilities and incineration plants, and dumps are often inappropriately located and should be relocated, as is the case in, e.g., Nuugaatsiaq, Illorsuit and Qaarsut. Better lighting and more bottling houses may also help create safety and a better daily life for the citizens.

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

Given the size of Uummannaq, waste management should be improved considerably. Areas for waste management are to be assigned to remote locations, rather than next to cemeteries and homes. At the same time, better solutions are needed, e.g., involving sorting and shipping. The natural qualities of the fiord are grand and versatile, and these potentials such be utilised (both recreationally, and for energy and industrial purposes), while keeping nature safe for future generations.

In the settlements, waste management is also to be improved, and the interest in sustainable energy (solar and wind) should be supported by areas and utilisation options (e.g., in Qaarsut and Niaqornat).

#### - **Cultural heritage and preservation**

Uummannaq's old town core holds a number of preservation-worthy buildings, a stone church and peat huts, which altogether create a beautiful urban environment and a welcoming entry point to the town. But the area could be used much more actively and recreationally (by citizens and visitors alike), and old traditions could be brought to life in this area.

Many of the settlements have empty, out-dated buildings of preservation value that could be used for a number of cultural activities to the benefit of the citizens. A number of peat huts should also be preserved and play an active role in passing on our cultural heritage. By carrying out traditional activities in the right settings, where young and old learn from each other, we make sure that culture is passed on to the next generation.

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

The town plan is to become an important tool in ensuring proper management of the town and settlements, guiding new initiatives in the local areas. Uummannaq is a well-functioning town just like the other towns in the municipality, and citizens should feel that they are heard. This means having places – physical as well as facilitated by IT – where you can actively discuss problems.

In the settlements, it is to be easier to share information, e.g. via IT solutions, clarifying the work of the settlement councils. Settlements' and towns' wishes regarding development should be respected, and citizens should be heard on various occasions. The cooperation between settlements could be boosted and ensure local democracy.