

4 September 2009

Confrontation lecture

Notes by Mike Emmerik

Agenda

- 09:00 – 09:30 Irma Bijl (Area manager of Charlois)
- 09:30 – 10:00 Cees den Bakker (teamleader 'Sociaal pension')
- 10:00 – 10:30 Michiel van der Pols ('Stadmarinier Old Charlois')
- 10:30 – 11:00 A.B. Hulshof (local resident)

- 11:15 – 11:45 Ed Goverde (Head of the sub-municipality Charlois)
- 11:45 – 12:15 Steef voordien (local resident)
- 12:14 – 12:45 Jikke Verdrag (Social housing cooperation, 'woonstad Rotterdam')

Irma Bijl

"The solution for the neighbourhood is in the small initiatives"

The neighbourhood:

Old Charlois has 13.000 inhabitants. A lot of people pass by this area every day, but only few of them really know Old Charlois because right now there is no reason to go there.

What the area manager does:

The area manager mainly works proceeding from the neighbourhood. She stimulates the social housing cooperation's ands other social organisations who work around this area, to collaborate. One of these integrated projects is the 'kunst zone' (Art-zone)

The problems in the neighbourhood:

- There is a leak of participation from residents
- The houses are mainly private property (70%) and its hard to get the owners to renovate them.
- There is a distance between a lot of inhabitants and the labour marked.
- There is no connexion between the harbour and the neighbourhood.
- There is a lot of crime in the neighbourhood.

What does the structure of the neighbourhood looks like?

Charlois was founded around the church about 1450 as a small village. It started to expand when the harbour was created in the early 20th century. After the Second World War, the neighbourhood started to grow more orthogonal.

What does the future look like?

It is likely that the harbour would stay; and we have to come up with a solution to deal with it. The construction of houses near this area is impossible, because there is too much noise-pollution. For this reason it is also impossible to increase the population density. One of the possibilities is to build offices.

Cees den Bakker

He works for the CVD, an organisation comparable with the Salvation Army. Since some time every sub-municipality has to have a local crisis centre to take care of drug addicts in there area. Cees is team-leader of the division Charlois where he runs an reception centre for 30 persons. He admits this centre is a cause of inconvenience in the neighbourhood, but at the same time it is also an solution, when it is organised the right way. They try to be transparent to the neighbourhood, to make sure they don't cause to much problems (If they do, they will be relocated to an other centre), and they are not allowed to buy drugs in an particular area around the centre.

Michiel van der Pols

Michiel van de Pols is 'Stadsmarinier' (City marine). In this function he works directly for the mayor, and he can interfere with every public servant, no matter what ranking he has.

The told us Charlois has 4 big problems;

- The youth; specially a group of people from the Dutch Antilles.
- Noisy houses, so there is a lot of neighbour-noise.
- A concentration of healthcare institutions in the north of Charlois.
- The are a lot of middle- and east European people living with sometimes 12 of them in a normal family house.

He showed us a small movie about the first problem. He filmed this during one morning. In this movie we saw how a group of youngster came together at a square in front of his office. Around 11am they started drinking beer, were shouting on the street, they were dealing drugs and clothes, and were annoying against woman. In this group of people were young kids who had to be in school about than.

In this movie the 'stadsmarinier' tried to make clear how big the problem with this group of people is.

Another problem is that all the social healthcare institutions like drug addict crisis centres and special housing facilities are all located in one small area in the north of Charlois.

Some environmental problems in the neighbourhood were the small noisy streets, small and bed isolated houses and a lot of young people on the street causing problems.

A.B. Hulshof (Age: 80)

He lives there for over 17 year and he saw the neighborhood change. When he just moved to the area people had a contribution in what happened there.

'Nowadays the young people are rude, and the old ones are the only ones with some intellect.'

He would like it if there would be more to do for the elderly. To his opinion the government tells them a lot of nice words and plans about the neighborhood, but nothing really happens of changes.

Ed Goverde

He is the head of the sub-municipality Charlois, and lives in the south of Charlois in what he calls 'the golden-edge' (the nice part of Charlois).

The sub-municipality can make decisions about for example the welfare in the area and the building permissions, but they get involved with almost every subject.

They try to think about what they need now, but also what is necessary in the future. The main things they are working on right now is:

- Making Charlois strong in some points of the neighbourhood.
- Try to make the real-estate of better quality (renovation or re-using)
- Making the connexion to the surrounding stronger.

"Because I'm an resident in this neighbourhood, I sometimes get called on Saturday night with problems. This makes me really vulnerable, but it gives me a lot of respect as well."

"The stadsmarinier' was a really good initiative to get some problems to the surface. Now there are some negative things about his existence, because they sometimes gives different signs to the neighbourhood. We choose for a system of politics, and we should be careful that the 'marinier' does not become a second, parallel political system."

Steeff voordien

Lives here for 5 year with his wife and their daughter Roos, who is 3 years old. They choose to live in this neighbourhood because it has a lot of nationalities and old Charlois also has a lot of nice places like the 'Boergoensevliet'. Of course there are places he does not like to go, for example in the Verboomstraat there was a place where a lot of drug addicts and odd types of people walked around at night. Fortunately the building it is going to get demolished the now, and they are going to build a elderly house.

It is a good neighbourhood for Roos, she plays outside a lot and he does not see any problem for the future. Steeff thinks is only good that Roos will grow up with a lot of nationalities around here.

Jikke Verbragt

"A lot of people say, there is Rotterdam and there is Rotterdam-south. Everybody told me to go live in Rotterdam, but now I see Rotterdam-south is a missed opportunity. There are a lot of nice places in Rotterdam-south."

She did some research in possible changes for participation behind the front door. To do so, she had to ring on a lot of doorbells and asked if she could come in. In Charlois everybody invited her to come inside.

She found out that all the numbers and indexes give a biased view on the neighborhood, it is all not that negative. It is true that there are a lot of immigrants in this area and that there most of the people are low educated, but this does not have to be a problem.

A lot of houses need a renovation, but the problem is that most of the houses are private property. 'Woonstad Rotterdam' is busy buying some houses around

the area so they get more control in that street. Unfortunately there is not enough money to buy a lot o houses, so the select some strategic points in old Charlois.