



## **Purpose and objectives**

The purpose of the project is to improve relations between the town authorities and its residents, to give residents more responsibility and to engage them in the decision making process in relation to the town's development. The purpose is also to improve residents' sense of well-being and their experience of their local community, to make their neighbourhoods more pleasant and enjoyable.

The objective of the town authorities is to:

- distribute power with participatory budgeting,
- engage all social and age groups,
- encourage the community to work together towards making better neighbourhoods.

The objective of the project is to:

- encourage all residents to take an interest in their local community and to have an opinion about it,
- encourage residents to present their ideas,
- encourage residents to take part in allocating the town's funds.

Through consultation, the municipality is working towards reaching a diverse group of residents in order to strengthen democratic processes in the municipality and to encourage residents to be active participants in the community.

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## **Division into neighbourhoods**

Anyone can submit ideas for projects, but only residents with legal domicile in Kópavogur can vote on a project.

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## **Community meetings**

Five community meetings will be held during the period 4.-18. September. The meetings will be held in the municipality's five primary schools.

- At Lindaskóli for the residents in Fífuhammur (Lindir- and Salir neighbourhoods) 4 September.
- At Hörðuvaskóli for the residents of Vatnsendi (Kórar, Þing and Hvörf) 5 September.
- At Smáraskóli for the residents of the Smári neighbourhood 11 September.
- At Kópavogsskóli, for the residents of Digranes (residents that belong to the school districts of Kópavogsskóli, Álfhólsskóli and Snælandsskóli) 14 September.
- At Kársnesskóli, Vallargerði, for the residents of Kársnes 18 September.

The meetings will start at 17:00

At the meetings residents will be seated at tables to discuss their ideas for projects they would like to see realized in their neighbourhoods. Up to 10 ideas from each community meeting will go through to a vote. Computers will be accessible during the meetings for residents to submit more ideas for projects.

The ideas submitted must be in Kópavogur public land and within urban areas. The ideas can involve play areas, residents' recreational areas, environmentally friendly transportation, improved public health or the environment in general.



The projects must meet the following criteria to be submitted for a public vote:

- An investment, not an operation.
- Concern the environment in Kópavogur public land.
- The cost of individual projects may not be lower than 1 million ISK or exceed 25 million ISK.
- The lifetime of the investment shall be for five years minimum.
- Tie in with the zoning plans and policies of the municipality of Kópavogur.
- Be under the full control of the municipality of Kópavogur.

The ideas can be focused on the following:

- The residents' play and recreational areas such as new or renewed play areas and training equipment.
- Environmentally friendly transportation such as renewing pathway connections, parking for bicycles, lighting.
- The general environment and outdoor areas; benches, growth, plants and projects aimed at making the general environment more beautiful.
- Other ideas.

The idea must be realizable, clear and descriptive so that others can easily grasp what the project involves. The project must be described clearly as well as the exact location. A clear description facilitates assessment and helps grab the attention of other residents if it goes through to the election. Employees can request further explanations about each idea.

The idea must be in line with the municipality's policy and cannot depend on consultation or negotiations with other institutions or municipalities.

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## The Process

The role of residents and other guests is to take part in community meetings and discuss the future of the neighbourhood. They shall submit ideas for projects that they would like to see implemented in the neighbourhood, the municipality's public land in order to make it more beautiful and improve it. They shall also to vote on the projects that they would like to see implemented in the next two years.

Residents can submit ideas at community meetings and through the internet on the projects website. A simple webpage will be set up where residents can register their name, email address and idea for a project. The network will be open for ideas from residents during the period 1 - 18 September.

When residents intend to submit an idea on the consultation web, residents must register, give the idea a name and describe it clearly.

Residents are encouraged to familiarise themselves with other ideas that have been submitted and discuss them. Support for other ideas and discussions do not affect the final choice. The final choice takes place during the election period.