

## Diemen, responsible progress.

Affordable housing, street safety, and a municipality that does what it is meant to do. VVD Diemen represents the middle-income group.

In recent years, the coalition has not paid enough attention to (the problems of) the middle-income group. These are mostly hard-working people who have often had a hard time in difficult times. Meanwhile, the coalition has significantly increased the property tax in recent years. It is the middle-income group who are most affected when it comes to finding suitable housing, with rising costs and higher taxes, such as property taxes. As far as the VVD Diemen is concerned, this can and must change.

Over the next four years, the Diemense VVD wants to focus on building affordable housing for the middle-income group. In recent years, the coalition's attention has mainly been focused on the construction of social housing. It is precisely the middle-income group who have had to spend a (too) large proportion of their income on housing. Families, first-time buyers and the elderly must be able to continue living in Diemen.

Liveliness in the new neighbourhoods is important. We achieve this by facilitating facilities such as restaurants, shops and sports. New neighbourhoods are not just bricks, but also places where people can meet. It is the home for people. Just like liveliness, green spaces in the neighbourhoods are also of great value to the VVD. Play areas, parks and public gardens will be preserved; we do not want to build there. We do see opportunities to increase the density of neighbourhoods in areas that are suitable for this, such as station areas.

Safety remains a priority, of course. The VVD believes that the approach to nuisance and crime must remain robust and be further strengthened in certain areas. In this way, we ensure that everyone feels safe on the streets, during the day and at night.

As far as the VVD is concerned, we will continue to focus on a neighbourhood-oriented approach to the energy transition. In consultation with residents, we will seek feasible and affordable solutions. The starting point is that sustainability is a step forward and not an additional financial burden.

In the above, the VVD stands for a municipality that pursues a financially stable policy. In Diemen, the VVD has chosen a course of action that does not unnecessarily increase the burden on residents. We are limiting increases to no more than inflation and focusing on core tasks: affordable housing, safety and protecting residents' wallets.

With this programme, the VVD is therefore choosing a clear path: a municipality that does what it is meant to do. One that provides affordable housing, safety and does not increase the burden more than necessary. Diemen moving forward responsibly!

It should not go unmentioned that 2026 is not only the year of the municipal elections, but also the year that Diemen celebrates its 800th anniversary. VVD Diemen wants to make this a wonderful celebration.

The priorities for Diemen.

1. Affordable housing
2. Safe streets
3. Your wallet

## Affordable housing.

VVD Diemen considers it important that more affordable housing is built quickly, particularly for the middle-income group. In recent years, there has been a lot of new build construction in Diemen, but the emphasis has mainly been on social housing. The shortage is still significant, and it is virtually impossible for the middle-income group to find affordable housing. This can and must be improved. Diemen cannot solve the housing shortage in the entire region, but we are choosing to focus as much as possible on housing for our own residents.

In detail:

- More homes for the middle-income group.
- Opportunities for young people and first-time buyers.
- Green spaces in the neighbourhood.
- Building in new locations.
- Encouraging movement through the housing market.
- Local priority.

## Safety on the streets.

Everyone should feel safe in Diemen – at home, on the streets, at school and in the neighbourhood. The police, fire brigade and other emergency services play a crucial role in this. Everyone, including women, should always be able to walk the streets safely, even during the night. More law enforcement and camera surveillance contribute to this.

In detail:

- More law enforcement.
- Camera surveillance.
- Against discrimination and hatred.
- Safety in the neighbourhood.
- Tackling nuisance head-on.
- Tackling subversion.
- AZC (Asylum seekers' centres) and safety.
- It should always be possible to file a report.

## Protecting your wallet.

In recent years, the burden on residents has increased significantly. This is certainly true for the middle-income group. At the same time, the council is not setting enough priorities and is missing opportunities to reduce its own expenditure. VVD Diemen believes that the municipality should manage its money prudently and wisely. We will keep taxes and levies as low as possible so that life remains affordable for our residents.

In detail:

- No additional increase in property tax.
- Affordable waste policy.
- Fair waste collection charges.
- Fees and permits that cover costs.
- Sound financial management.

## Space for entrepreneurs and a vibrant Diemen.

Businesses – from small to large – ensure growth, employment and vitality in Diemen. VVD Diemen gives entrepreneurs the space to do business. We are simplifying and speeding up the licensing process and combating vacancy by mixing functions and designing shops flexibly. In this way, we are continuing to build a vibrant Diemen.

In detail:

- Accessibility and parking.
- Combating vacancy rates.
- Good infrastructure.
- Fewer and simpler rules.
- Reliable municipality.
- We pay our bills on time.
- Recreation and tourism.

## A liveable Diemen.

For VVD Diemen, the liveability of public spaces is of great importance. Diemen must be clean, intact, safe and green.

In detail:

- Liveable and safe for everyone.
- Graffiti reporting point and approach.
- More greenery.
- Preservation of trees.

## A clean Diemen.

All too often, we see rubbish next to bins or litter in nature, and that has to change. The residents of Diemen deserve a clean living environment. Experiments with waste separation should not lead to unnecessary costs for residents.

In detail:

- More law enforcement officers for a clean Diemen.
- Longer opening hours for the recycling station.
- The polluter pays.
- Costs under control.

## An accessible Diemen.

Diemen has grown significantly in recent years. To keep our municipality accessible, good public transport is essential. In addition, road safety deserves more attention than it has received up to now.

In detail:

- Road safety reporting centre.
- Clear road safety agenda.
- Better public transport.
- Measures against fat bikes.
- Connection with Amsterdam.
- Improve stations.
- Affordable bicycle bridge.

## A sustainable Diemen.

VVD Diemen is committed to a liveable and sustainable future, but in a realistic manner. Everyone wants clean air, clean water and a green living environment. That is why we are committed to sustainability with achievable timelines, affordable for residents, businesses and the municipality, and with broad support. The burden of sustainability should not fall solely on the current generation.

In detail:

- Affordable energy transition.
- Neighbourhood heating with data centres.
- A broad energy mix.
- Smart management of grid congestion.
- Room for entrepreneurs.
- Involving residents in the energy transition.
- Lower fees for sustainability measures.

## Participating in our society.

Work not only provides income, but also an active and social life. We support residents who need it and, where possible, help as many people as possible find work. An important principle: work must always pay.

In detail:

- Work.
- Work pays.
- Opportunities for everyone.
- Tackling debt.
- Enabling children to participate.
- Participation for older people.

## Care.

Necessary care must be provided quickly, without unnecessary bureaucracy. This often involves care for the elderly, the chronically ill and youth care. Family, neighbours and friends can be a valuable addition to this, but the primary responsibility for providing care lies with the government and care institutions. Due to the increase in the number of elderly people and the ever-rising costs of youth care, we must make choices to keep care affordable.

In detail:

- Care for those who need it.
- Personal contribution based on ability to pay.
- Support informal help.
- Support informal carers.
- Control the costs of youth care.
- Challenges are part of life.
- Strengthen prevention.

## Education.

Education is an investment in our children's future. Good education creates knowledge, provides equal opportunities, teaches skills and offers children standards and values.

In detail:

- Growth and capacity.
- Equal opportunities and respect.
- Modern school buildings.
- Tackling bullying.
- School swimming lessons.
- Homework assistance.
- Early detection of problems.
- Broader use of school buildings.
- Safe journey to school.
- Secondary school in Diemen.

## Sport and a healthy society.

Sport is important for everyone. It connects people, provides enjoyment and relaxation, and contributes to a healthy and resilient society. VVD Diemen wants everyone to have the opportunity to play sports and games. This requires cooperation with schools, sports clubs and social organisations.

In detail:

- Accessibility and facilities.
- Sufficient places.
- Sport as a means.
- New swimming pool.
- Multiple use.
- Sporting events.
- Safe sporting environment.

## Recreation.

In addition to living and working, it is equally important that residents of Diemen can relax. This requires good recreational facilities in the neighbourhoods and in the green surroundings of our municipality. The Diemberbos plays an important role in this, but new initiatives such as swimming areas also deserve attention.

In detail:

- Preserving green spaces and recreation.
- An attractive Diemberbos.
- Outdoor swimming water in Diemen.

## Culture.

Art, heritage and culture give colour and meaning to Diemen. The few monuments that our municipality has are worthy of protection. In art and culture, we attach great importance to freedom of expression, which forms the basis of our democratic society.

In detail:

- Entrepreneurial cultural sector.
- Cultural institutions with added value.
- Knowledge of our history and norms.
- Fast permits.
- Freedom of expression.
- Co-financing as a condition for cultural subsidies.
- Preservation of heritage.

## Municipal services.

The VVD wants Diemen to remain an independent municipality. This will allow us to maintain short lines of communication between residents and the municipal council. A financially healthy municipality is essential in this regard. At the same time, the municipality must be service-oriented, accessible and reliable. We do not shy away from cooperation with other municipalities, as long as this benefits the quality and affordability of services.

In detail:

- Investment in our own organisation.
- Maintaining independence.
- Clear communication.
- Physical accessibility.
- Reliable ICT.
- Tackling digital crime.
- Collaborating where useful.
- Lower legal costs.