

Electionprogram 2022 - 2026 **ChristenUnie** De Bilt

The best for everyone!



Introduction

Elections are about people. About you, you and about me. It is about our parents, children, neighbours, teachers at school, employers, and employees. They are about us and the way of living together in the municipality of De Bilt.

In our search for answers to the challenges of our time, we as a Christian party are inspired by the Bible: "Geef geloof een stem" means "Give faith a voice". The Bible is about people, about living together and also about government. We, therefore, believe that Christian principles are relevant to politics. We want to take responsibility and work together for a better community, for everyone. Whether or not you believe in God makes no difference to us. We will represent the needs of everyone in our community, particularly people who are struggling.

Our core values are:

- Honest
- Fair
- Service

On behalf of the ChristenUnie De Bilt,
Connie Brouwer, party leader

www.debilt.christenunie.nl



*He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.*

Micah 6:8 -NIV

Our starting point for 2022 - 2026

THE BEST FOR EVERYONE - WE INVEST IN "US"!

Recovering from the corona crisis, building more to provide more housing for our residents, shaping sustainable energy, and providing good social services are important themes for the next four years. Themes with opposing views and interests. We are convinced that it is more than ever important to believe in and work towards a municipality that is no longer about 'me' but increasingly about 'we'. Working on a beautiful municipality for everyone who works and lives here.

A local authority is there for all its residents. What the council devises and implements we would like to be advantageous for everyone who comes into contact with the council. We talk to residents, listen and dare to ask (sometimes critical) questions. And yes, sometimes we must make difficult choices. We believe that extensive support is essential in making these choices. Our actions are based on a mutual connection. We strive for clarity on the municipality's vision, ambition, and the influence the residents have on them. We work for the common good (which sometimes differs from individual interests, but we always explain this thoroughly!). We dare to dream of a harmonious community in De Bilt. We put forward an election programme which clarifies that the ChristenUnie wants to work towards a community that has an eye for what really counts: investing in care for each other, in a government that is an ally of the inhabitants of De Bilt, in a sustainable economy and in choices which are beneficial to God's creation. We would like to be a turning point in this, together with you. We invest in 'us'.



Spearheads for ChristenUnie De Bilt

- 1. Proactive cooperation in the neighbourhood, the core, the municipality**
- 2. Focussing once again on our youth**
- 3. Care for the vulnerable resident**
- 4. Ageing with dignity**
- 5. Working to create a pleasant living environment**
- 6. Working together for the best climate solutions**
- 7. Stimulating sustainable development of our local economy**
- 8. The municipality: future-proof and service-oriented**



1. Proactive cooperation in the district, the towns, the municipality

[Collaboration](#)

In a future-proof community, people work closely together with their families, near their homes, in church and other religious associations, at school, at work and in their own spare time. All are equally valuable for the ChristenUnie. Where government support is needed, the ChristenUnie wants to do everything possible to ensure this support is provided, so that cooperation can be maintained and, where necessary, further developed.

[The importance of voluntary work](#)

The ChristenUnie is grateful for all the work done by volunteers. Volunteers are of inestimable value within our community. That is why the ChristenUnie wants to facilitate voluntary work as much as possible, for example, by allowing residents to do voluntary work in addition to receiving benefits. For instance, we also believe it is vital for volunteer carers to receive proper support so that they can combine care and work. Respite care is an integral part of this. The ChristenUnie believes that refugees should also be able to offer their services as a volunteer.

[Cooperation between residents and municipality](#)

There are significant challenges in housing, energy and heat transition, and the social domain, while the municipality's financial situation is uncertain. The ChristenUnie is committed to good, proactive cooperation between residents and the municipality. Mutual trust is crucial. Unfortunately, in recent years, the trust of our residents in the municipal authorities continues to decline. This is an undesirable development, especially now when much is expected of the municipality and its inhabitants in terms of cooperation.

Restoring trust in local government

To us, restoring trust in politics means primarily improving local authorities and politicians' trust in their citizens. The ChristenUnie believes that the municipality underestimates the expertise and commitment of residents far too often. The municipality should also have more confidence in professionals, each with their own expertise. In addition, discussions between residents, professionals and municipal employees will be less awkward if the municipality trusts residents more and offers a helping hand where necessary. This applies to the social domain, economic developments, and public space.

We would like to see the municipality accord our residents more space to take personal responsibility.

Give shape to residents good ideas by establishing clear frameworks and at the same time daring to think in creative solutions. This way, the municipality will stand side by side with the residents.

ChristenUnie wants the municipality to be guided in its proposals and decisions by actual knowledge of the specific situation. That means: not making policy from behind a desk but studying the situation in depth by meeting the people in the neighbourhoods and towns.

We want stakeholders to be able to express their opinions and provide input at an early stage when real influence can still be exerted on municipal proposals, for example, when creating a preliminary document or developing a draft zoning plan.

Proactive cooperation in the district, the core, the municipality. We wish to achieve this by (1):

- + Checking in all policy proposals on how proactive cooperation between residents, stakeholders, and the municipality is being or has been organised. If necessary, the ChristenUnie will make proposals to improve how we work together.
- + Stimulating and facilitating companies to assist in volunteer work based on the principle of Corporate Social Responsibility (possibly collaborating with Samen voor De Bilt).
- + Paying particular attention to informal carers within the voluntary sector. We are in favour of a permanent reintroduction of the volunteer aid appreciation. Furthermore, we believe that a policy on respite care (i.e. temporary replacement of the informal caregivers) should be introduced so that volunteer carers know they can solicit it, have enough courage to request it, and more (diverse) options for respite care are available. We want to do all this in close consultation with Steunpunt Mantelzorg.



Proactive cooperation in the district, the core, the municipality. We wish to achieve this by (2):

- ⊕ In particular, assess whether the Municipal Executive has arranged for timely input from residents and stakeholders on the major issues such as the energy and heat transition, the building tasks and the social domain.
- ⊕ For the ChristenUnie to connect with residents and other council fractions is to listen critically, positively and constructively. We call things by their name and use this transparency when weighing up the various interests involved in recognisable issues. The general welfare is more important than individual interests. We convey our considerations so that when something happens to someone, that person will understand why.
- ⊕ If necessary, to make it possible for volunteers to get a free Certificate of Good Conduct, (VOG), by offering them insurance for volunteers.
- ⊕ To be honest and not make empty promises.





2. Putting our youth back in the spotlight

[A solid foundation while growing up](#)

Every child has the right to grow up safely, healthy and with good opportunities. Young people should be able to fully develop within the safety of their own homes, at school, in their contacts with other youngsters, and with equal opportunities for every child, rich or poor. The development of young people should not just focus on final exam subjects and job opportunities, but also on their mental, emotional, creative, and social spheres. A network of individuals surrounding the family also plays an essential role.

[Education](#)

The ChristenUnie favours freedom of choice of type of education. Based on the responsibility for the upbringing of their children, parents must be able to choose a school that relates to their own values, identity and ideals. The municipality, therefore, respects the diversity of schools on philosophical and educational grounds. The ChristenUnie expects every school to be welcoming and accessible, based on the idea that every child should receive a good advantage within the community.

The ChristenUnie realises that various forms of education can no longer be made available in all our regions. However, we consider it of the utmost importance to preserve the good things we still have to be able to continue to offer a varied range of education and daycare as a municipality.

It is vital to limit the consequences of individual pupils after one and a half years of Corona as much as possible in the coming years. Apart from support for school subjects and opportunities to brush up on schoolwork, this also entails offering extra social activities (Mens De Bilt).

Enabling youth activities

Young people need places where they can meet each other. This is possible, for example, within (church) youth clubs, sports, art and music associations and during the holiday activities organised by neighbourhood associations. These pastimes are of exceptional importance to the ChristenUnie. However, for the development of young people, there must be sufficient space, opportunities and facilities to relax.

Youth work is currently limited to sports, school and intervention. We advocate events and club activities for all ages between 10 and 25. In the next four years, we will make a strong case for youth workers who have the ability to really reach the youth. We believe in the phenomenon of youth carers as a derivative of the carer. The youth activities should be mainly district and town oriented. Here, too, we are thinking of a municipality that prioritises its residents.

Youth care

When our youth's safe and proper development is at risk, the municipality and civil community organisations should provide adequate support to young people (and their parents).

We believe it is essential that appropriate help is provided quickly within the youth sector. As ChristenUnie, we want to focus on providing assistance close to the families, partly to prevent guardianships and evictions. Only if it is absolutely necessary will appropriate help quickly be provided elsewhere in the region or elsewhere in the Netherlands. We, the ChristenUnie, want to do what lies within our power to improve youth care further.

Putting our young people back in the spotlight. We want to achieve this by (1):

- ⊕ Involving young people in issues affecting our municipality is good for innovative and sustainable ideas.
- ⊕ The ChristenUnie is committed to a municipality offering good pre-school care for every child.
- ⊕ To narrow the gap between rich and poor through targeted health projects, in cooperation with the leading councillor, the GGD and other interested parties.
- ⊕ To cooperate with CJG/Mens De Bilt to pursue a good prevention policy through educational support. This can be achieved by using young people with experience as experts. Of course, their parents and other people from their environment can also serve as experienced experts.
- ⊕ Collaborate with other municipalities and other networks and organise joint meetings with interested parties and experts in order to improve the quality of youth care and assistance.



Putting our young people back in the spotlight. We want to achieve this by (2):

- + Continue to ask questions when things do not seem to be going well in youth assistance and care.
- + Providing youth professionals with enough space based on freedom and trust if they connect to the needs of parents and youth, especially if they can offer relevant help in this way.
- + The city council, the executive committee, the civil service and social institutions should agree on concrete goals and evaluate them regularly.
- + Also, offer support to particular individuals when they hit a blank wall, for example, when effective small-scale help cannot be used due to bureaucracy.





3. Care for the vulnerable

Is the fundamental inequality in this country - in living, working, income, welfare, health - being addressed or not? Will our country always only benefit those who live without a care in the world and enjoy the fruits thereof? Or will it become a fair country in which we look out for each other and take better care of each other?' - Gert-Jan Segers

By vulnerable citizens, we mean those who need extra support, for example, people with a minimal income, physical and, or mental disabilities, whose lives were uprooted before they arrived in our country, and people who find themselves caught between a rock and a hard place.

[Starting from the living environment](#)

The bureaucratic and distrusting stance of our government towards its residents is the cause of much inequality: think about the child care benefit affair. What about those people who are punished by social services when a caring neighbour helps them out because they do not receive enough financial assistance to support themselves? The ChristenUnie will do its utmost to implement national regulations so that people are not crushed by bureaucracy

[An appropriate poverty policy](#)

We expect more people to have insufficient income if the governmental regulations disappear after Corona with rising inequality as a result. We wish to support them all. Our goal is to create an appropriate and decent poverty policy. In recent years, the municipality has made significant cuts in this area. Are we still able to meet the demand for support from our residents? The ChristenUnie will conduct the necessary research into this in the coming period.

[Lonely people](#)

43.5% of the residents in the municipality of De Bilt are lonely. It is a proven fact that loneliness harms our health. Lonely people tend to fall into the category of vulnerable residents. Mens De Bilt is already doing its utmost to reach out to these forgotten people and safeguard them from isolation. The ChristenUnie would like to see more intensive participation with, for example, churches, (bereavement) supporters, volunteers and young people.

[Reception of refugees and integration of refugees who are granted indefinite leave](#)

The reception of refugees and refugees granted indefinite leave will remain necessary, including in our municipality of De Bilt. Steunpunt Vluchtelingen De Bilt has an important role to play in this. The ChristenUnie would like to contribute to a humane asylum policy in our municipality and would also like to call on national politicians to do the same. Recent examples: the children in Moria, the Afghan refugees...

The new Civic Integration Act is a vast improvement from the previous one. The integrating individual and the municipality both bear their individual responsibility herein. Language lessons are provided from the very start, and the aim is to achieve financial independence as quickly as possible. Experts with the necessary experience are provided for this purpose.

Refugees must receive decent opportunities to do voluntary work according to their abilities and interests. In this way, we can promote a positive reciprocal effect: the community benefits from this, and the refugee has a valued and meaningful way to occupy their time, thereby laying the foundations for a speedier and better integration into the Dutch community.

[Informal care](#)

Informal caregiving is indispensable for vulnerable people. Thankfully we have managed to retain the appreciation of informal caregiving.

There is room for improvement to give informal caregivers some much-needed rest; for example, more lodging facilities are needed.

Care for the vulnerable resident. We want to achieve this by:

- + Conducting a survey to determine whether the poverty policy in our municipality meets the needs.
- + To put forward critical and constructive questions if and when we feel that one or more of our residents are in danger of being compromised by stringent regulations applied in our municipality.
- + By being a binding factor in the fight against loneliness where necessary.
- + As a town council, college, civil service and social organisations, to agree on concrete goals and evaluate them regularly.
- + To also help individuals who encounter a problem.

ChristenUnie

+ Geef geloof een stem





4. Aging with dignity

[The value of the elderly for the community](#)

The elderly have contributed much to the present day functionality of our community. Elderly people are deserving of attention and support, especially nowadays. Many older adults function well, are independent and know how to find their way around, with or without the help of self-organised help or networks. But physical or mental complaints often result in reduced mobility. Loneliness is thus becoming an ever greater risk. The ChristenUnie recognises this and is committed to combating loneliness.

Partly due to the national and local campaign Waardig Ouder Worden (Dignified Ageing), of which the ChristenUnie is one of the associates, the elderly are once more put in the spotlight. It is a proclamation for the respectful treatment of the elderly. ChristenUnie De Bilt supports this manifesto wholeheartedly.

[Social support law \(SSL\)](#)

By adopting a proactive approach, we want to ensure that the SSL provides rapid, appropriate and effective social aid to the elderly - and others! - who need it. People need to know that independent client assistance can be provided to offer more appropriate help.

And yes, providing care costs money, and cost control is essential. Many additional costs can be saved by intervening early and with limited resources by being close to the people. However, the ChristenUnie does not consider the low subscription rate for domestic help for the wealthy elderly appropriate.

Innovative forms of housing for the elderly

Research has proven that elderly people who live at home live longer than those who go to nursing homes or retirement homes. Let's start by making this possible for the elderly in our municipality. Informal care and suitable housing are of great importance. We can realise this by building cohousing communities for the elderly, providing mutual contact, companionship and neighbourly help. Providing sufficient accommodation for the elderly also promotes more circulation in the housing market.

De Bilt is building sustainable homes, thus enabling people to live there for the remainder of their lives. This is impossible without a sound infrastructure (sociocultural activities and care assistance). We also need to remove all obstacles in the regulations. In addition, we wish to encourage housing corporations to make their homes more long-lasting and sustainably friendly when renovating.

Currently, there are plans to build a Knarrenhof. As of this moment, 350 people from within our district are on the list for accommodation in the Knarrenhof, but we are still in the process of searching for a location to build it. As ChristenUnie, we are actively working on getting this initiative off the ground in the municipality of De Bilt.

Dignified ageing. We want to achieve this by (1):

- + Actively promote the manifesto 'Waardig Ouder Worden' and ensure that more associates within De Bilt join in.
- + Promoting the idea that De Bilt has room for residential care projects, including life-long sustainable housing, inclusive neighbourhoods and courtyards. There should be no obstacles to collective housing for seniors ('krasse knarrenhofjes') and mixed living. The ChristenUnie wants to actively encourage the realisation of at least one 'Knarrenhof' in our municipality in the coming council term.
- + Allowing the elderly to remain living in their homes by providing good basic facilities, as available through Mens De Bilt, and preventing loneliness as much as possible.



Dignified ageing. We want to achieve this by (2):

- + Residents who are not financially dependent on the SSL must be reminded of their responsibility towards those who are because they have insufficient means to support themselves.
- + Encourage more frequent use of a client aid when arranging SSL support.
- + To agree on concrete objectives and evaluate them regularly as a local council, the executive committee, the civil service, and social organisations.





5. Working to create a pleasant living environment

Social structure in one's own living environment

Our residents should feel comfortable in their own living environment. It is of great value to us that Westbroek, Maartensdijk, Hollandsche Rading, Groenekan, De Bilt and Bilthoven retain their individuality as much as possible; we prefer not to make any largescale changes. However, we do wish to do everything we can to keep our towns vibrant by maintaining excellent shopping, school, sports, and welfare facilities as much as possible. We want to see people greet each other in the street (again), have good social interaction in the neighbourhood, and have a safe living environment where children can safely play outside. If a request has been submitted for a playground in a neighbourhood, the municipality will offer a helping hand (without necessarily having to pay for the whole playground).

Housing

A good and affordable home in a pleasant neighbourhood is of great importance to us. Unfortunately, the availability of suitable homes is no longer the norm. There are long waiting lists for social housing, a significant call for affordable rental homes in the private sector, and real estate has become practically unaffordable. That is why the ChristenUnie De Bilt wants to dedicate itself to creating opportunities for first-time homeowners, refugees with indefinite leave, singles and young families, dignified living circumstances for the elderly, affordable and sustainable living for everyone, and, whenever possible, specifically for our own residents when searching for a place to live. For this reason, we wish to actively contribute to establishing more homes within our municipality to counter the effects of the acute housing shortage. The Schapenweide is now a prominent and essential housing location for the ChristenUnie De Bilt. The ChristenUnie would rather have more houses in the Schapenweide than see more new offices built for Life Science companies.

We wish to build more homes in the small towns to maintain a high activity level. However, we do not see this as another option for large-scale housing locations.

Suppose the owners of large residential plots wish to expand or divide their home plots within a suburban area. In that case, the ChristenUnie is willing to take a positive approach, but only if the owners have sufficient support from the neighbourhood. The ChristenUnie is also sympathetic to converting office or retail premises into homes. The ChristenUnie also supports the creative conversion of farm buildings into homes.

All housing plans should be designed in collaboration with local residents and according to the principles of nature-inclusive design. Traffic management and green areas should be a standard part of the housing plans. The ChristenUnie does not favour building outside the red boundaries; it is vital to protect our scenery and countryside; both must be prominently preserved.

Mobility

We recognise that it is inevitable that we shall have to take some crucial decisions concerning the large scale of vehicles in our community. We would like to reduce the number of cars and encourage our residents to use buses, trains, and (electric) bicycles. We intend to commission research into the feasibility and effects of lowering the maximum speed limit in suburban areas to 30 kilometres per hour. This could positively affect road safety, CO2 emissions, and noise pollution. We also expect it to reduce transit traffic through our suburban areas, which is necessary. Traffic should preferably travel via the existing provincial and regional roads. We, therefore, don't see the necessity in building a western bypass through the woods between Groenekan and De Leijen.

We also want to ensure that the town centres are and will remain easily accessible to everyone. However, this is not a foregone conclusion when we review the current future plans in our region. Public transport (OV) should not just be scaled down. All the rural areas and towns in the municipality of De Bilt must remain accessible, also for public transport!

[The daily work of the municipality: public space](#)

How we experience our immediate living environment is determined by various municipal facilities: working street lights, clean and tidy streets, decent facilities for waste collection and enough bushes, parks and lawns. The ChristenUnie believes these things should be par for the course. However, we must also prepare ourselves for the inevitable climate change. We will be experiencing more heavy rains and heatwaves. Choices will have to be made on establishing and implementing public spaces and private land. More space is required for drainage and landscaping; at the same time, this will provide more opportunities for biodiversity in our living environment.

[Nature and recreation](#)

De Bilt is a municipality with a precious natural ecosystem, and we would like to keep it that way. Not just for the sake of the environment itself but also because of our health, climate adaptation, and the continued existence of the agricultural sector. We live in a beautiful area between the Utrechtse Heuvelrug, the Kromme Rijn and the Vechtplassen, an ideal recreational area for many people. Sadly, there isn't much space. By this, we mean that we need to find area's to build homes, space to install solar panels, agriculture is essential, and sites for recreational purposes are necessary in our countryside. Unfortunately, this is unattainable because we don't have enough room. Yet, the ChristenUnie wishes to preserve the main ecological structure. We must maintain the existing eco structure within the municipality to create a living eco structure because that is an integral part of a pleasant living environment. We wholeheartedly support projects and campaigns that help achieve this.

Working in a pleasant living environment. We want to achieve this by (1):

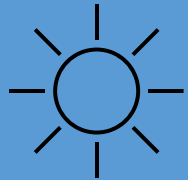
- + Having a positive attitude towards new housing plans, provided that:
 - + Ecological values are respected by preserving the ecosystem within our municipal boundaries.
 - + Designing and building are eco inclusive.
 - + A project will not negatively impact the health of residents, climate adaptation measures, and agriculture.
 - + It does not entail large-scale building projects in the smaller regions of our municipality.
- + Concerning the Schapenweide, we are committed to:
 - + Improving the level of involvement of our residents in all decision-making processes.
 - + Building more houses and fewer office buildings.
 - + An eco-inclusive neighbourhood with enough accommodation for new homeowners and courtyards for the elderly.



Having a positive attitude towards new housing plans, provided thatv(2):

- + To allow residents to plant a facade garden by removing one row of paving stones when the pavement is sufficiently wide.
- + To continue to protest against the construction of a western bypass through the wooded area between Groenekan and De Leijen.
- + To make Bilthoven Centre and the Hessenweg low-traffic areas.
- + Restructuring Hessenweg and allowing supplies to be delivered exclusively via fixed loading and unloading bays.
- + To strongly urge that all Bilthovens regions have proper access to public transport when making decisions at a regional level.
- + To adopt a positive attitude towards residents' initiatives concerning their own neighbourhoods.





6. Working together for the best climate solutions

A rapid and complete energy and heat transition

We recognise the urgency to contribute to climate solutions. Air pollution, traffic noise, waste of materials, and depletion of resources are significant threats to our living environment's liveability, safety, and health. This was re-emphasised in the 2021 report by the IPCC, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change of the United Nations. Even though the Netherlands is a small country and our municipality is only one of more than 300 municipalities, we are committed to a rapid and complete energy transition. We owe this to our (grand)children. The ChristenUnie advocates an approach in which residents, the business community, and the municipality work together to determine the best climate solutions for our municipality, region and neighbourhood. The ChristenUnie applies the following step-by-step plan for the energy transition:

1. Consume less, be aware of your own energy consumption and how you can effectively reduce it. You don't need to use what you don't have to generate.
2. Insulate your home.
3. Installing heat pumps and solar panels on roofs to create energy and warmth regardless of whether you are a company or a homeowner.
4. Installing solar panels in car parks, bike paths and other innovative solutions.
5. Installing solar panels near infrastructures, such as motorways, when in the vicinity of homes, only after consultation with the residents.
6. Only if the installation of windmills meets various weighty conditions may they be installed on our municipal land for general energy generation. Windmills must not be installed in the direct vicinity of houses and preferably only along motorways.

Installing wind turbines and constructing solar fields within our municipality require careful consideration compared to finding site areas for housing, agriculture, nature, and recreation. Therefore, possible locations for windmills and solar fields must be included in an integral environmental vision for the municipality of De Bilt.

The ChristenUnie feels it is essential that, before decisions on locations for wind turbines and solar fields are made, investigations are made to demonstrate that the high-voltage network's infrastructure is sufficient to transport the generated energy. If the level is insufficient, the consequences must be adequately communicated to the parties involved during the participation process.

Collective forms, such as a heat network, are essential for heat transition. Good communication with residents is also necessary. The municipality can only do this with the consent of the residents and a subsidy from the national government.

We like to stimulate and support innovative forms of energy generation. For us, an excellent example of an innovative approach is the solar panel cycle path near Maartensdijk, constructed in mid-2021.

Working together for the best climate solutions. We want to achieve this by:

- + Rejecting ad hoc decisions that do not benefit our descendants or may even harm them.
- + To actively support and help model how our residents are consulted on the Environment Act for energy and heat transition.
- + Work according to our step-by-step plan and focus on raising awareness of our energy consumption, insulating homes and installing solar panels on roofs. If there are insufficient financial arrangements on a national level, the municipality will offer a financial scheme; of course, this must be within the municipality's financial possibilities.
- + Considering Installing windmills and solar fields in our municipality if and when:
 - + An efficient integrated assessment has been made of the use of the limited space.
 - + It has been demonstrated that the high-voltage network is sufficient.
 - + It has been demonstrated that the health of local residents and any ecological values are not affected.
 - + An adequate participation process has taken place.





7. Stimulate sustainable development of local economy

[Sustainable economy](#)

A sustainable economy is about growth, consumption, and quality of life for now and long term. A strong local and regional economy is essential to achieve this. Large companies, small and medium-sized businesses, the self-employed, and the agricultural sector in our municipality play a crucial role in this.

[Working towards a circular economy](#)

A sustainable economy is also a circular economy. We wish to keep waste to a minimum by amplifying the sharing, renting, reusing, repairing, and refurbishing of existing materials and products for as long as possible. For example, thrift shops and the Repair Café in the WVT have been demonstrating how well this can work for years. This can also offer new opportunities to other entrepreneurs. The ChristenUnie wishes to change this circular economy with producers, distributors, Samen voor de Bilt and our residents.

[Partnering entrepreneurs](#)

The municipality sees itself as a partner for entrepreneurs. The policy in the municipality of De Bilt aims to attract sustainable employment and an innovative climate. In this regard, good cooperation between the municipality and the province and surrounding municipalities is essential. The ChristenUnie endorses entrepreneurs, particularly MKB and the self-employed. At times, they hardly earn enough to support themselves. The ChristenUnie believes that the municipality should actively make use of the legal possibilities to help them if and when necessary. However, running a home-based business, on the other hand, should not be made unnecessarily difficult for the self-employed.

ChristenUnie

+ Geef geloof een stem

The ChristenUnie is proud of our agricultural sector and is passionate about the future of its farmers and market gardeners. A stable future needs a sound economic base, is innovative, carefully uses raw materials and energy, and produces in balance with animals, the living environment, and the land.

[Sustainable development goals](#)

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are 17 worldwide goals agreed upon in climate, poverty and education. The ChristenUnie wants our municipality to integrate these SDGs into all municipal policies. We feel this is very important because these 17 sustainability goals from the global sustainability agenda are strongly intertwined with the major challenges we face in De Bilt. Here too, our municipality is indispensable in achieving the goals.

Stimulating sustainable development of the local economy.
We want to achieve this by (1):

- ⊕ Developing a municipal vision and policy on the circular economy and the 17 sustainability targets together with the Board and the other members of the Council. Other partners in this are Samen voor De Bilt, producers, distributors and inhabitants.
- ⊕ Applying a circular economy by purchasing circularly as a municipality, offering solutions to entrepreneurs in the case of restrictive local regulations, working together with companies in a Circular Crafts Centre, and increasing residents' awareness and knowledge.
- ⊕ Encouraging our council to act as a partner for entrepreneurs. The policy in the municipality of De Bilt should be to attract sustainable employment and an innovative climate. Good cooperation between the municipality and the province and surrounding municipalities is essential in this regard.
- ⊕ Where necessary, point out the legal provisions for supporting the self-employed and MKB to the council.



Stimulating sustainable development of the local economy. We want to achieve this by (2):

- ⊕ When drawing up the vision for the outlying area, focus on a future-proof agricultural sector combined with organic livestock farming and agriculture.
- ⊕ As ChristenUnie to encourage agricultural businesses to focus primarily on the farming sector and the preservation of the agricultural area. Subordinate to this, agricultural enterprises are given a free hand to carry out secondary activities such as landscape maintenance, tourism, education at primary schools, etc.
- ⊕ As a ChristenUnie, to actively support the adequate compensation of farmers for the ecosystem, landscape and management of meadow birds.





8. The municipality: future-proof and service-oriented

To jointly tackle the major and minor tasks facing our community of De Bilt, we must be well equipped in various areas.

[Restoring trust](#)

During the past council term, various situations occurred within De Bilt politics, which have not helped bolster the mutual trust within the council. In addition to rebuilding the trust between residents and the municipality, this trust must also be repaired. This is achievable by changing from the current administrative culture to a transparent, innovative and modern organisational culture. We also feel that this is essential. In politics, the Board and the council must focus much more on the joint realisation of tasks that our community stands for. Implementing policy and politics along the outermost edge between coalition and opposition is no longer appropriate. At the start of the new council term, the ChristenUnie will endeavour to promote the broadest possible support for the main objectives of a council programme instead of a well-crafted coalition agreement that leaves the opposition out in the cold.

[Corona recovery plan](#)

In 2020 and 2021, the corona measures were mainly aimed at controlling health risks and limiting negative economic effects. In the new council period, investments must focus on recovering the most affected policy sectors and vulnerable groups. To this end, in 2021, a recovery plan was adopted and launched. In the coming council term, the recovery plan should be vigorously implemented.

A service-oriented organisation

The municipality must position itself as a service-oriented organisation. Therefore, it is essential to strengthen the municipality's digital communication and accessibility so that the handling of requests, reports, complaints, and notices of objection can be simplified and accelerated. At the same time, the municipality must remain accessible to those residents who do not or have insufficient access to digital communication.

A financially sustainable municipality

The big tasks for the municipality in the coming years will involve spending a large amount of money. The tax revenue or reserves of the municipality are not substantial enough to provide this. The government will have to make more money available to our municipality in the coming years. So the question is if and when this extra money will come into effect. If it is not forthcoming, it will be impossible to meet the national and municipal ambitions. That is why our municipal policy concerning the broader tasks must be financially feasible and, if necessary, implemented step by step.

The ChristenUnie believes that a realistic, multi-year balanced budget is required for a financially sustainable municipality. It, therefore, remains necessary to pursue a sound financial policy consisting of a balanced expenditure and income pattern.

Should budget cuts be necessary for the coming years, the ChristenUnie will spare those items related to the needs of individual residents, care, safety, and the management and maintenance of existing facilities, as much as possible. Naturally, tailored solutions must be possible for people with limited financial resources.

As far as income is concerned, we see opportunities in actively seeking more provincial, national or European subsidies. However, the costs incurred by the municipality can also be charged to initiators, such as large project developers.

Furthermore, the ChristenUnie strives to ensure that the municipality's services (including fees) are cost-effective. Moreover, we see increasing property taxes (OZB) above the rate of inflation only as a very last resort. Where the financial income policy results in an unacceptably low standard of living for individual citizens, the ChristenUnie is committed to pursuing a generous remission policy.

An independent municipality of De Bilt

ChristenUnie's approach is to do things independently whenever possible and work together where necessary. The municipality must be well-equipped in ICT, personnel, and finances to carry out the many and often complex tasks. If the municipality cannot or is not able to carry this out sufficiently for specific municipal tasks, then we are in favour of working together with other municipalities, for example, for energy transition, housing needs, the social domain, environmental law and business management matters such as ICT and archival law. We believe that by approaching issues thus our municipality can remain robust enough to retain its independence; a merger with one or more neighbouring municipalities is not on the agenda for us.

The municipality: future-proof and service-oriented. We want to achieve this by:

- + Concluding a council agreement at the start of the new council term and ensuring that the service provided by the official organisation meets the needs of residents. This also means that we ensure that less digitally literate residents are provided with good information.
- + We will continue to monitor the municipality's financial policy while ensuring that the less well-off residents do not have to bear the brunt of budget cuts.
- + Keeping our eyes and ears open for opportunities for subsidies.
- + Covering the costs incurred by the municipality as much as possible, such as in the case of fees. This requires the municipality to work efficiently.
- + The municipality of De Bilt should remain independent but should cooperate with other municipalities on several fronts: do this yourself where possible, cooperate where necessary.



We thank you for your interest in our election program. If you would like to learn more about the ChristenUnie, or if you would like to discuss our party's viewpoints, feel free to write to Connie Brouwer at c.brouwer@debilt.nl. She is excited to hear from you!



**Let us not become weary in doing good.
(Galatians 6:9, NIV)**