



Buurt Ede en Veldhuizen

Ede, 21st may 2019

Concerns: ISAC2017congres

Dear reader,

Our historical neighborhood, 'Buurt Ede en Veldhuizen', received a group of foreign academics in the summer of 2017. These were participants of the International Association of the Commons (IASC)-congress 'keeping the past, building the future, the commons lands of the Veluwe Area'.

We have tried to show the participants as much as possible of our neighborhood and make them see and experience how these types of communities originated, and were one of the earliest democracies. The management of our neighborhood was chosen out of a number of farmers, with the goal to make decisions together and ensure these were kept. Decisions about common property, particularly uncultivated land around the village, fire prevention, and road maintenance.

There was a yearly 'Buurtspraak', a moment when all the residents would meet and the accepted resolution would be put in special books ('Buurtboeken'). During their visit, the participants of the congress had discussions about different forms of commons, with us, and with others. This gave a certain deepening, and awareness of our unique history.

Particularly noteworthy is that Buurtspraak/Buurt Ede en Veldhuizen has been acknowledged to be registered as intangible cultural heritage in the Netherlands, part of the international UNESCO convention. It is the only private law organization to be registered as such.

Sincerely,
Geen M Broere

Buurtrichter
Buurt Ede en Veldhuizen

R. Dijkman

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