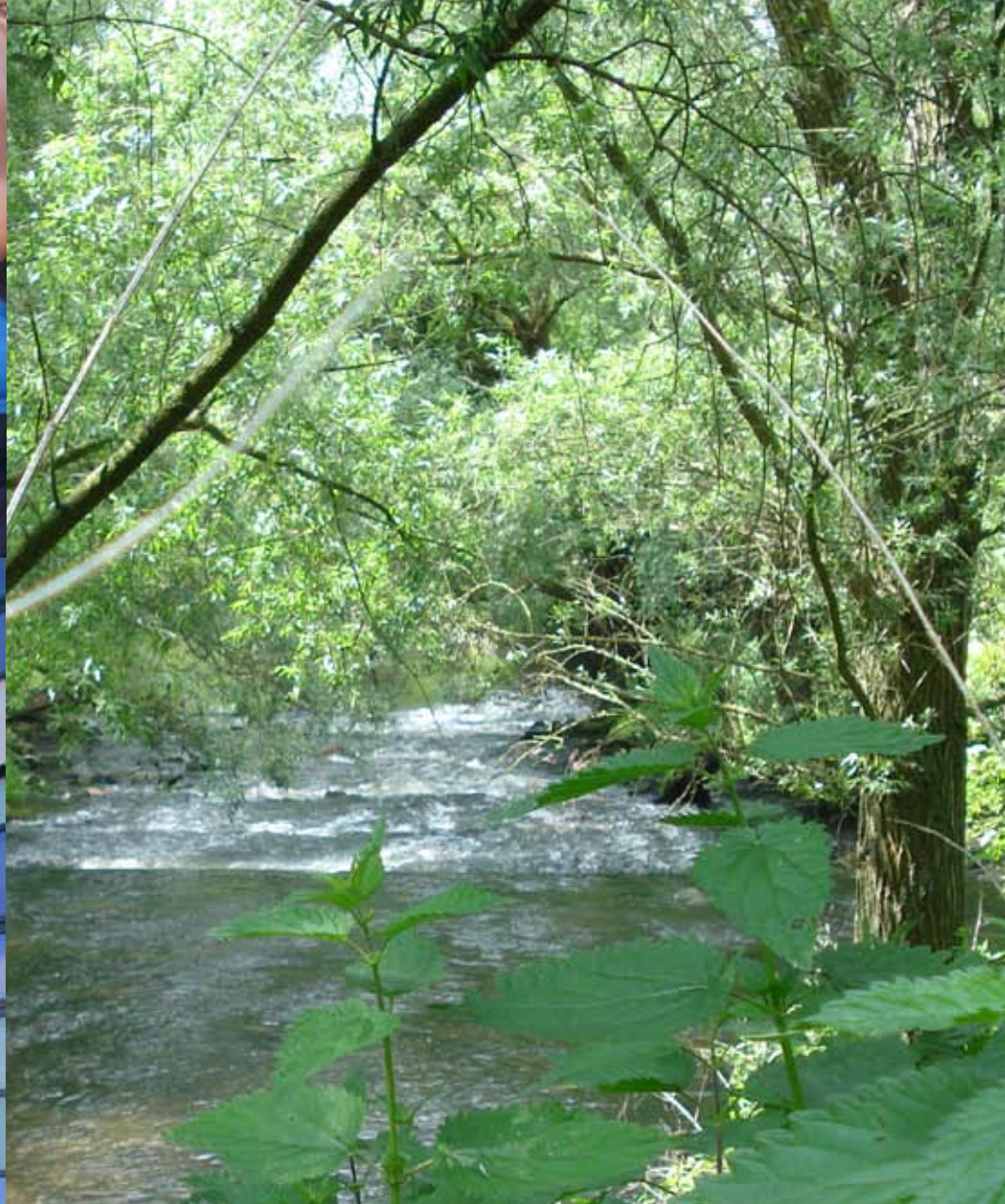


STRATEGIC STRUCTURE AGENDA



Kerkrade, European and Welcoming

2010 -2020



Gemeente Kerkrade



KERKRADE,  
European and



STRATEGIC STRUCTURE AGENDA

Welcoming

**Approved on  
30 March 2011**



*Gemeente Kerkrade*

## PUBLISHER'S DETAILS

Project name: Strategic Structure Agenda for Kerkrade

Project number: 80684

Date: final version 30 March 2011

Client: Municipality of Kerkrade

Project sponsor: P. J. B. C. Thomas

Client contact persons: Ms S. Ilbrink/Mr R. Loozen

Project team: Municipality of Kerkrade

Editorial board: Municipality of Kerkrade Project Team

Final editing and graphic design: SAB

Photography, etc.: Mr W. Pelzer, Mr H. de Vries and Municipality of Kerkrade

Translation: Balance Maastricht/Amsterdam

### Visiting address

Markt 33

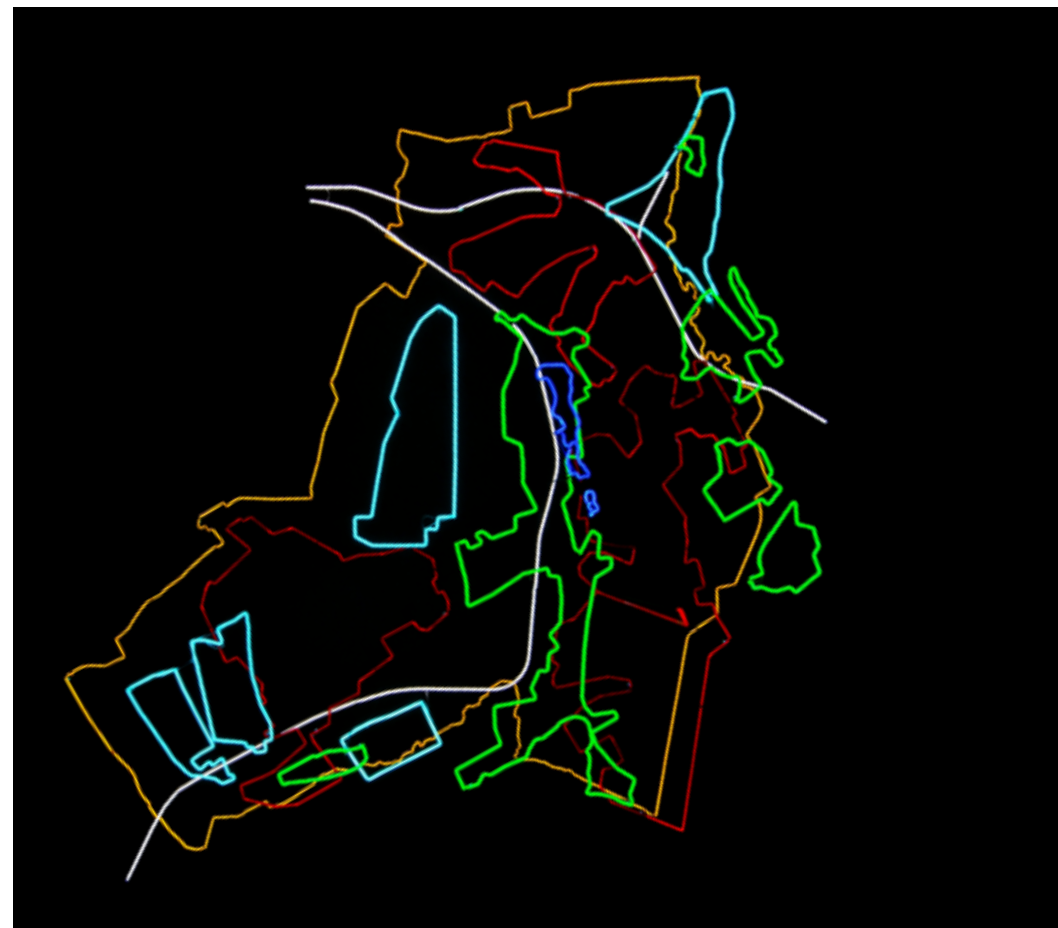
6461 EC Kerkrade

### Correspondence address

PO Box 600

6460 AP Kerkrade

[www.kerkrade.nl](http://www.kerkrade.nl)



Light sculpture by Har Hollands in Kerkrade town hall



# CONTENTS

# contents

<b>Foreword</b>	<b>9</b>
-----------------	----------

<b>Kerkrade's ambition: to be a European and Welcoming town</b>	<b>11</b>
---	-----------

<b>1. Introduction</b>	<b>15</b>
------------------------	-----------

1.1 Purpose and background	15
1.2 Relationship with other documents	17
1.3 Working method and process	17

<b>2. The socio-geographic context: Kerkrade then and now</b>	<b>19</b>
---	-----------

2.1 Foundations of spatial planning: the 3 layers	19
2.1.1 Substratum and cultural history: landscape, water and vegetation	20
2.1.2 Networks: infrastructure and mobility	24
2.1.3 Occupation: arrangement of the space	29
2.2 Kerkrade's position	30
2.2.1 Regional	30
2.2.2 Euroregional	31
2.2.3 South Limburg urban network	31
2.2.4 EGTS	32
2.2.5 Location	33
2.3 The socio-economic situation	34
2.3.1 Population	34
2.3.2 Housing	37
2.3.3 Education	39
2.3.4 Employment	41
2.3.5 Town centre facilities	44
2.3.6 Health and welfare	47
2.3.7 Sport and play	50

2.3.8 Social cohesion and public services	52
2.3.9 Tourism, recreation and culture	55

<b>3. Kerkrade in development: the future</b>	<b>61</b>
---	-----------

3.1 Spatial development	61
3.1.1 Substratum: developing landscape, water and vegetation	61
3.1.2 Networks: developing infrastructure and mobility	67
3.1.3 Occupation: spatial planning development	71
3.1.4 Sustainability	80
3.1.5 Safety	82
3.2 Socio-economic development	84
3.2.1 Population	84
3.2.2 Housing	85
3.2.3 Education	85
3.2.4 Employment	87
3.2.5 Town centre facilities	92
3.2.6 Health and welfare	96
3.2.7 Sport and play	100
3.2.8 Social cohesion and public services	104
3.2.9 Tourism, recreation and culture	107

<b>4. Implementation and completion</b>	<b>117</b>
---	------------

4.1 Implementation programme	117
4.2 Land Utilisation Act	119

## Sources consulted

## Appendix



# FOREWORD



# foreword

Our town of Kerkrade is facing a future in which major challenges lie ahead. Serious demands will be made on our capacity to meet these challenges together and make the right choices for Kerkrade. We will do this for and together with our residents and visitors. This strategic structure agenda paints a picture of our town, its origins and the way in which we intend to work together over the next 10 years.

We need to develop an approach based on districts and neighbourhoods, which constitute an important “environment” for our residents, not only in physical terms but also in social terms. In future, Kerkrade will have less housing and more – green – space. Space that we want to use. We will also continue to invest a lot of energy in improving the quality of facilities in terms of education, employment, sustainability and leisure. The first results have already become apparent in recent years.

Together, we are working in and on Kerkrade. We are doing this work in our districts, with our neighbouring municipalities in the region, with the Province and with the Dutch government. Increasingly, we are aiming our sights across the border, because we see opportunities in cooperating with Germany

and Belgium. These include opportunities arising from developments in Eurode, in the Meuse-Rhine Euroregion and in the Aachen region. We therefore choose to have Kerkrade as a **European** town with an open outlook.

In Kerkrade, we represent not only our own residents but our visitors as well. Hospitality is fitting for a welcoming European town. Tourism, recreation and culture can lead the way to a new future for us. Encapsulating the local history, tradition and landscape of Kerkrade, they could grow to become the new engine of our society. The increasing success of the attractions and events in and around Kerkrade indicates that there is more to come. We therefore choose to have Kerkrade as a **Welcoming** town with a capital **W**.

The Municipal Executive of Kerkrade



KERKRADE'S AMBITION:  
TO BE A EUROPEAN AND  
WELCOMING TOWN

# Kerkrade's ambition: to be a European and Welcoming town

**A large number of subjects and developments are reviewed in this strategic structure agenda. We set objectives in all these areas and give details of how we intend to achieve them.**

By 2020 we see a vibrant town, in which people feel at home. As predicted, the population has declined but this has not been at the expense of quality of life, housing or employment. On the contrary, the dynamic town centre meets the needs of residents and visitors alike, thanks to the reorganisation of Atriumplein and the completion of the town centre plan. The new features include an attractive and compact shopping centre and the town centre has combined its pleasant atmosphere with an urban setting. There's always something to do in Kerkrade's new living room.

The space in the town has changed. In places where housing has had to be removed, beautiful green areas have been created, resulting in a high-quality living, working and everyday environment. Safety and sustainability are familiar concepts and community centres are now an essential part of the districts. The qualities of the surrounding landscape can now be experienced in the town and in the districts. Kerkrade has become a real "Park town" [Parkstad].

Kerkrade has good connections with the surrounding region. Cooperation between Kerkrade and Herzogenrath in Eurode has become even closer and this cooperation takes the form of cross-border initiatives and projects. The two border towns have joined forces to develop Eurode Park into a Mecca for tourism and leisure. Kerkrade is the link that joins the



Market in Kerkrade town centre during the WMC in 2009



## Kerkrade's ambition: to be a European and Welcoming town

City Region of Parkstad Limburg in the Netherlands to the City Region of Aachen in Germany to form Eurode. Kerkrade cooperates with surrounding towns and cities and has a clear place in the South Limburg urban network and the Meuse-Rhine Euroregion. The town intends to stay on the regional, Euroregional, national and international map. Kerkrade's border location and good accessibility make it an increasingly European town.

Tourism and leisure are at an advanced stage of development. The town's attractions have been able to derive maximum benefit from its new green spaces and have good connections between them. Events and conferences are attracting an increasing number of visitors to Kerkrade to enjoy the town's hospitality.

Last but not least, in 2020 we also see an active and self-confident population who are proud of Kerkrade and who let people know it. Combined with our European orientation, hospitality has become our new trademark.

**That's Kerkrade's ambition: to be a European and Welcoming town**



# INTRODUCTION

# 1 | introduction

**This local strategic structure agenda paints a picture of Kerkrade's origins, its current situation and the developments planned or desired for the future. In addition to spatial planning aspects, social and economic issues are also discussed. The focus of the strategic structure agenda is on translating these into spatial planning terms.**

The basis chosen is the “layer approach” in which the spatial structure of the town is described in three layers in Section 2. In the same section, a picture of Kerkrade as it is today, in 2010, is then sketched out: the existing situation. Section 3 is entirely devoted to the future of Kerkrade: its development. The existing situation and the future development are graphically represented in the form of subject maps. The fourth and last section contains details of implementation and completion.

On its adoption, the strategic structure agenda will be an integral assessment framework for the future development of the town and its districts. It may be further developed in the form of strategic district agendas, development plans, zoning plans and other types of plans.

## 1.1 Purpose and background

The new Dutch Spatial Planning Act [Wet ruimtelijke ordening] (Wro) requires municipalities to draw up a strategic structure agenda as a framework for future development for their own territory. This statutory requirement has two secondary objectives, one policy-related and the other financial. In terms of policy, the municipality must create a planning framework against which spatial developments can be assessed. In terms of finance, developments for which the municipality requires a contribution from third parties in order to recover costs must be firmly rooted in a strategic structure agenda.

The establishment of this local strategic structure agenda replaces the – outdated – Integrated Area Strategies which were drawn up a number of years ago.

Following its adoption, the strategic structure agenda serves as the underlying structure on which performance contracts between the municipality and the housing corporations operating in Kerkrade are based. It has been agreed to make long-term integrated performance contracts. The parties have







made this agreement conditional on the establishment of an integrated strategic structure agenda.

### 1.2 Relationship with other documents

The local strategic structure agenda is not an end in itself. There are various documents which have a relationship with this strategic agenda. Both the “Intermunicipal Structure Agenda for Parkstad Limburg” (2009) and its development in the “Regional Programme” (2010) as the regional “Strategic Restructuring Agenda” (2009) are important frameworks which have been applied or copied, respectively, at local level. The Regional Programme includes an elaboration of the Strategic Parkstad Agenda and the project resulting from population shrinkage. It also includes regional ambitions concerning regional cooperation. The “Koersbrief Kerkrade” from 2007 and the “Droombrief Kerkrade, een droom van een stad” (2010) have been consulted in the preparation of this strategic structure agenda.

The local strategic structure agenda can be developed at district or neighbourhood cluster level. This is based on the restructuring task which is necessary as a result of population shrinkage. Things have already got off to a flying start in Kerkrade West, for which an

integrated district agenda was adopted on 23 February 2011 as part of the Limburg District Approach. District agendas for the East and North districts have been drawn up for the next few years. In conclusion, this strategic structure agenda is the leading document for establishing new zoning plans, implementation programmes and performance contracts.

### 1.3 Working method and process

The strategic structure agenda has been drawn up by a municipal project team with assistance from consultancy SAB in Eindhoven. On several occasions and in different ways, both external parties and the town’s own official and political organisation have made substantial contributions during this process. As much use as possible is made of existing consultative structures for the various policy areas and the districts in Kerkrade. The draft strategic structure agenda was open for inspection from 2 December 2010 until 19 January 2011. The strategic structure agenda was adopted by the municipal council on 30 March 2011.

2

THE SOCIO-GEOGRAPHIC  
CONTEXT: KERKRADE THEN  
AND NOW



## 2 | the socio-geographic context: Kerkrade then and now

**The world changes around us and we change with it. Some changes take place during our lifetime, while others take several generations to complete. Our unbuilt and built environment is the product of natural processes and human actions, a process that never ends. This section paints a picture of the origins of Kerkrade's current position, its population and its spatial and socio-economic characteristics. The underlying basis that we use to create this picture is the "layer approach" in which the structure of an urban area is described from three levels.**

### **2.1 Foundations of spatial planning: the "layer approach"**

Knowledge of the past makes it possible for us to sketch a picture of the future on the basis of the lasting qualities of our everyday environment. One of the main reasons for preparing this strategic structure agenda is to provide a sustainable vision of the future for Kerkrade based on the qualities of our town. The valuable spatial qualities of the urban area have been clearly set out to this end. Based on the quality analysis of the spatial patterns, recommendations will then be made to strengthen the structure and

whether or not to transform it. This is where socio-economic characteristics also come into play as spatial and socio-economic aspects affect each other.

The "layer approach" is used as a tool for performing the quality analysis and ranking the spatial patterns. This approach assumes that the space in which we live has been divided into three layers, one on top of the other, that determine the spatial planning system and appearance of an area. The three layers are: substratum, networks and occupation.

1. The substratum is the bottom layer and consists of the land, the water, the natural environment and the cultural and historic values. This layer is in fact irreplaceable.
2. The network layer is the middle layer and relates to man-made connections, such as roads, railways, canals and pipelines. This layer can also be a determining factor for spatial developments.
3. Finally, the occupation layer is the top layer, which shows how an area has been organised and is being used. This is the most dynamic layer.

### The three layers

Substratum	Network	Occupation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• land</li><li>• water</li><li>• natural environment</li><li>• cultural history</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• road links</li><li>• rail links</li><li>• pipelines</li><li>• water</li><li>• ribbon structure</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• spatial functions:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- housing</li><li>- employment</li><li>- etc.</li></ul></li><li>• pollution</li></ul>

Components of the layer approach

All the layers change over time but all three layers do not change at the same speed. Each layer has its own dynamics. In addition, each layer has its own qualities with their own consequences or issues. Because they are longer-lasting, the bottom layers determine the options available for the top layers. For example, the (long-lasting) substratum affects the options for the networks. The combination of networks and substratum determines the options for the occupation layer (urban development). The lower the layer, the more important that layer is as an ordering or guiding principle.

The added value of this approach is the way in which it takes the time factor into account. It is very important to take the effect of the time factor on the processes in the substratum into account in spatial planning and management. This makes it possible to avoid the detrimental consequences of short-term planning or planning in a “flat surface” and to better include the opportunities that the substratum provides for the various social issues when considering spatial planning options. This tool facilitates a sustainable consideration of alternatives by focusing on the effects of interventions in the short and long term.

#### 2.1.1 Substratum and cultural history: landscape, water and green spaces

The substratum relates to the land, the water, the natural environment (including the life forms it contains) and cultural history. This includes the earth’s crust, the relief, the landscape, the stream valleys, the country roads and the historical landscape, all of which contribute to the area’s spatial identity.









As a layer, the substratum is also referred to as the “spatial planning carrier” and is “low-dynamic”: it has a long development history and changes in this layer proceed extremely slowly. Major changes can easily







KEY TO SYMBOLS:

-  Landscape framework
-  Landscape framework outside the municipal boundary
-  Water
-  Stream/vaulting
-  Main Ecological Network (MEN)
-  Provincial Green Development Zone (POG)
-  Ecological corridor
-  Municipal boundary

30 March 2011

take over 100 years. The relief and the associated pedological and hydrological conditions are the permanent substratum of the landscape. Figure 1 shows the relief in the Parkstad Limburg City Region. Kerkrade's landscape does not have a typical Dutch appearance. The spatial pattern of the environment, consisting of high plateaus and low-lying valleys, was created during the Pleistocene by the erosive effect of rivers and streams. The most important of these is the river Worm (main system) and the side valleys of the Anselderbeek, Crombacherbeek and Bleijerheiderbeek streams. The Anselderbeek valley and the Strijthagerbeek valley (municipality of Landgraaf) together form the Gravenrode park, which has developed into a major international tourism and leisure attraction. Finally, Kerkrade's substratum contains an important pedological phenomenon: the Feldbiss fault system. These qualities, which are characteristic of Kerkrade's landscape, have also resulted in the situation where urbanisation (occupation) is still mainly concentrated on the higher plateaus.

The existing green structure is shown on the map opposite. The stream valleys are clearly visible, as is the landscape framework outside the municipal

boundary which is illustrative of the green structure that crosses municipal boundaries. The Main Ecological Network (MEN) drawn on the map is important to Kerkrade. It arises from the ambition of the national and provincial government to preserve the existing diversity of plant and animal species by strengthening their habitats. The MEN in Limburg forms part of the European Ecological Network. Because of its location, variety of geology and landscape features, Limburg is a suitable place for facilitating a wide diversity of species and ecosystems. However, these qualities are under pressure as a result of pollution, expansion of the built environment, fragmentation by infrastructure and climate change. In order to further strengthen the MEN, the Province of Limburg has designated the Provincial Green Development Zone (POG). This zone is also indicated on the map. An important starting point for Kerkrade is the ecological north-south corridor formed by the Anselderbeek and Worm valleys. These are both stream valleys with a special ecological function (SEF). This makes the Kerkrade part of the MEN a link in the European Ecological Network. The catchment areas of the two stream valleys are formed by Green Long, Carisborg, Berenbos and the area around Rolduc.

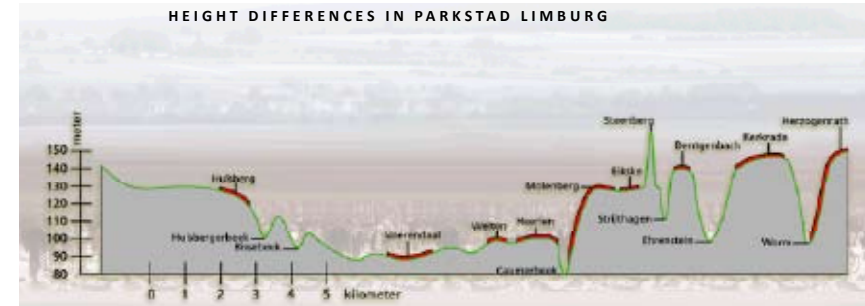


Figure 1. Relief in the Parkstad Limburg City Region



The origins of the town have also been affected by the cultural and historical characteristics of the substratum. Kerkrade's current landscape was created by a confrontation between nature and civilisation. The real, unadulterated natural landscape existed until the period in which humankind's ability to influence nature increased. From the late Bronze Age, humans expanded the area under cultivation and forced the forest back.

The oldest remains of buildings in Kerkrade date from Roman times. A few are known to be Roman villas (Villa rustica), which are characteristic of an agricultural use of the space. These villas were at the heart of the farms that existed then and indicate to us that the area was used for agricultural purposes at that time. The Roman influence declined from the middle of the third century. This resulted in a decrease in both agricultural activities and the population. The plateaus were abandoned and the forest landscape was able to recover. This situation continued unchanged until the Middle Ages.

The development of the landscape that we know today began in the early Middle Ages, around the 10th century.

The landscape was created partly as a result of reclamations encouraged by the Church. Around 1500, the entire territory of Kerkrade was reclaimed for agricultural use. The Mediaeval settlement pattern (an agricultural settlement pattern) can still be seen in our town's landscape, even today.

In the 19th century, the coal mining industry at Rolduc, which had been a small-scale operation since the Middle Ages, expanded to become an economic foundation for the further development of the region. The inflow of workers resulted in the creation of mining communities. They are still recognisable in the town's buildings by the way they are arranged and their special architecture. The greatest amount of urban development in Kerkrade's history took place during the mining period. The mines closed at the end of the 1960s. The low price of coal on the world

market, gas extraction in the northern Netherlands and the newly emerging nuclear energy meant that mining was no longer profitable in the region.

After the mining period, the town and the landscape was as we know it today. Moving "from black to green" changed Kerkrade's economic foundations. This resulted in the large-scale disappearance of what was left over from the mining period. In addition, another important factor came into play: the shrinking population.

### 2.1.2 Networks

The network layer consists of visible and invisible infrastructure, i.e. roads, railways and canals as well as pipes and cables. In the municipality of Kerkrade, water is not used as a network for shipping. Neither are there any pipeline connections that determine the structure. The existing roads and railways are shown on the map entitled "Infrastructure – existing". The network layer is "medium-dynamic": major changes take about 20 to 80 years.



Together with other centres such as Heerlen, Landgraaf and Brunssum, Kerkrade is part of a region that for centuries had an agricultural function. As a result of this function, a Mediaeval network of villages with a web-like pattern of roads was created. The advent of mining also brought with it the construction of a railway network. During this period, the size of the built-up area increased dramatically, with mining communities being built alongside the railways and the new infrastructure. The infrastructure had a major effect on this pattern of urbanisation. Because the region was divided up into different large and small communities, urbanisation was fragmented. This created a region that exhibits features of a conurbation.

After the mines closed, attempts were made with the aid of government subsidies to redevelop the region economically by building industrial estates and roads. Most of what was left of the mining industry was removed. The roads, the high-rise buildings and the industry dating from this period are still

easily identifiable. Most of the roads were built on the remaining man-made landscape between the residential areas. Strips of woodland were planted alongside the roads, separating the infrastructural spaces from the town. This produced a sort of back-to-back situation between the town and the landscape. At the same time, there was a need for better links between the town and the national motorway network.

“Ribbon development” has played an important part in the creation of Kerkrade as a town. It still characterises today’s urban planning structure. Most of the ribbons still exist and are easy to see in today’s building pattern. The growth of the town from the ribbon structure is clearly visible on (historical) maps of Kerkrade (1907 – 2010). Specifically because the ribbons have long been associated with the town, they also deserve special attention in future.

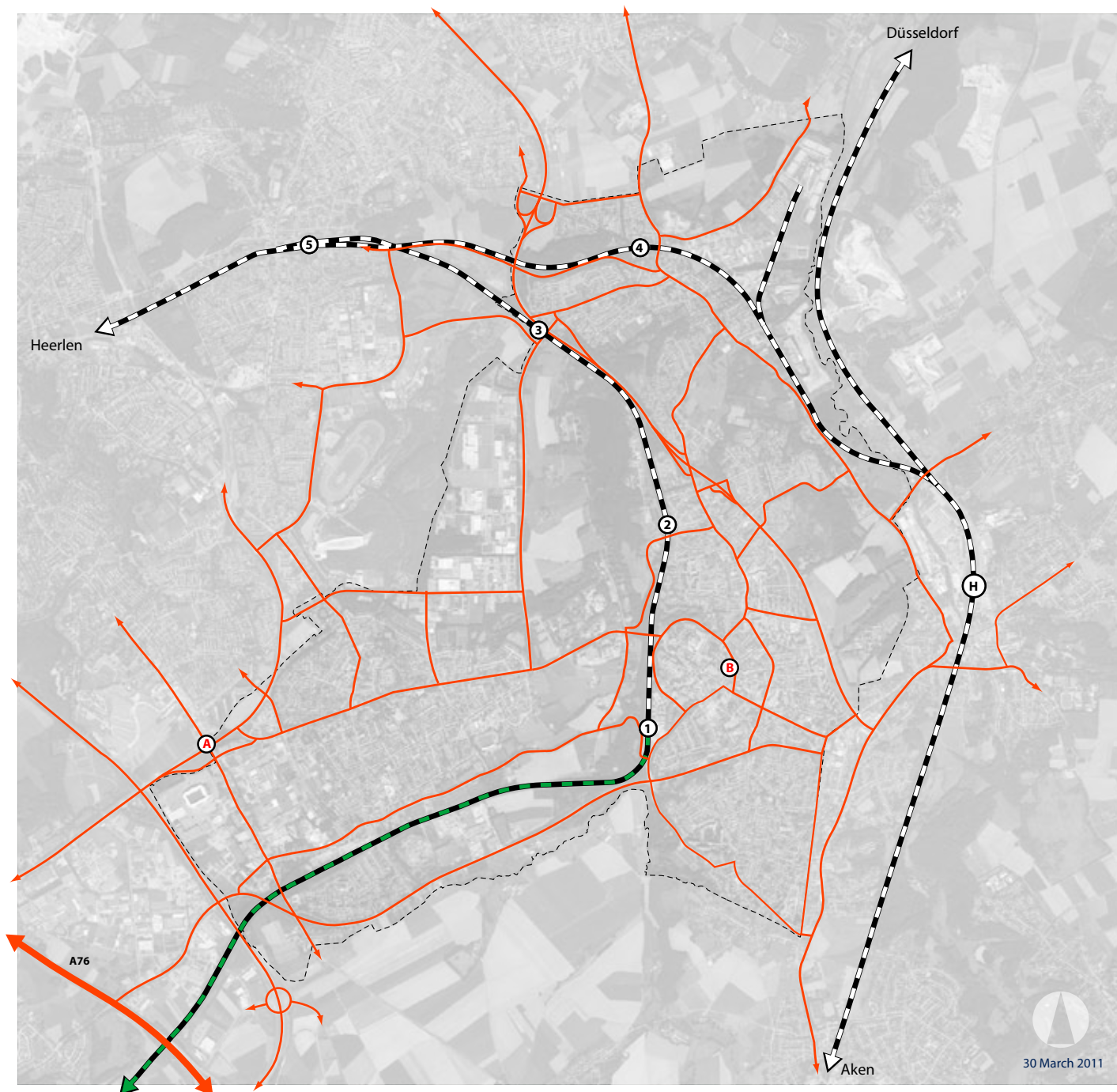
The ribbons have had different functions throughout history. Initially, of course, they had a transport















Roman past, reconstruction of Holzkuil area (K. Petersen pansa bv)



Mining heritage: the “Witte Kolonie” (Hopel)



KEY TO SYMBOLS:

-  District access roads
-  Rail (passenger and goods)
-  Rail (tourist)/"Miljoenlijntje"
-  ① Kerkrade station
-  ② Chevremont station
-  ③ Eygelshoven station
-  ④ Eygelshoven-Markt station
-  ⑤ Landgraaf station
-  ⑧ Herzogenrath station
-  ⑨ Stadium bus station (Rodaboulevard)
-  ⑩ Kerkrade bus station (Oranjeplein)
-  Municipal boundary

Infrastructure - existing

function. People moved between the different centres via the ribbons and also lived, worked and shopped there. Various facilities also appeared next to the ribbons, sometimes in clusters and sometimes not. In this way, the ribbons became the foundations of the current urban planning structure and identity of the region.

The functions of the ribbons have continued to decline in recent decades as a result of expansion and the clustering of retail and other facilities. However, the pressure of traffic and parking on the ribbons increased during this period because of the lack of an adequate trunk road network and the increase in mobility.



Rolduc Abbey hotel and conference centre

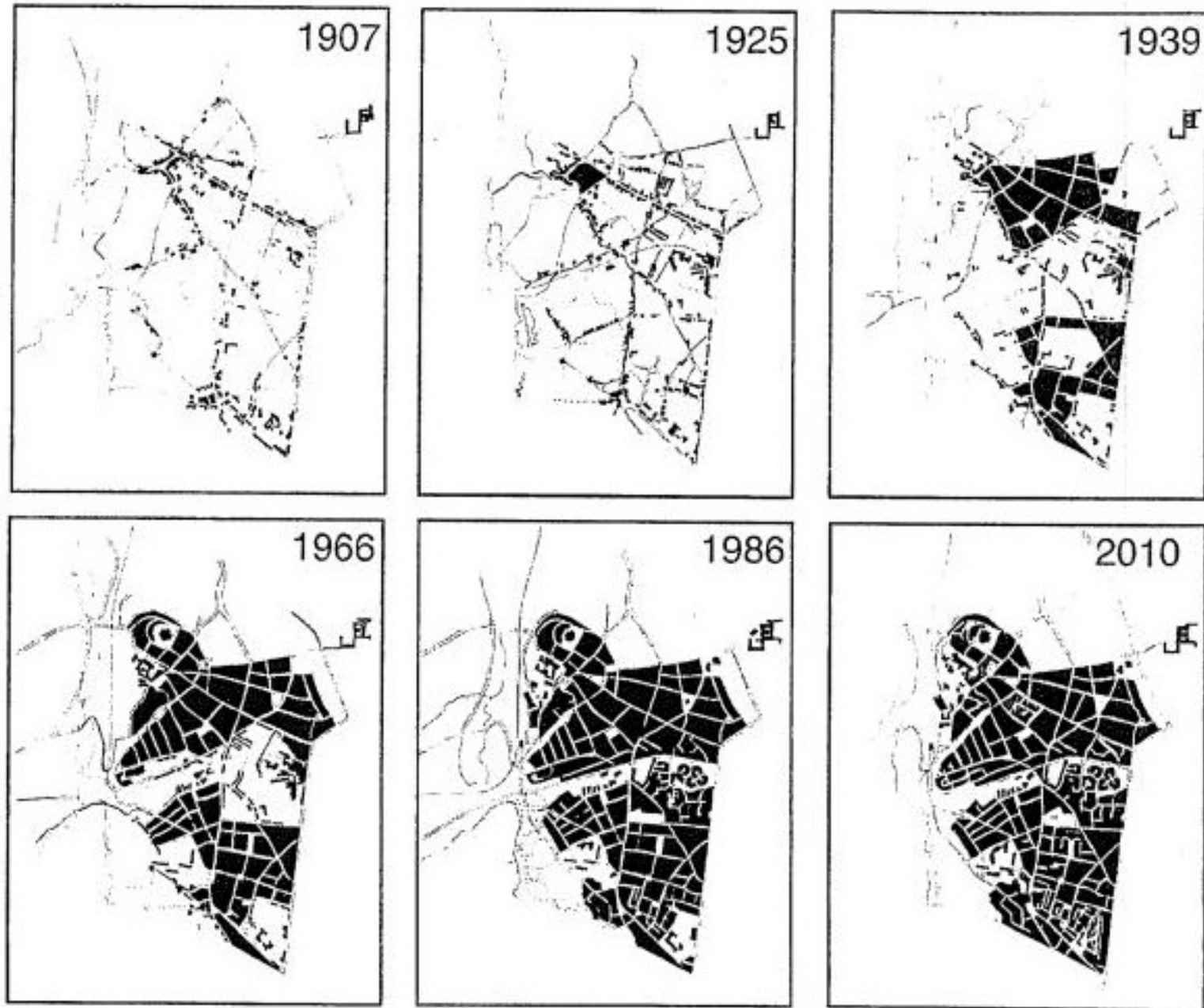


Figure 2. Example of urban growth between 1907 and 2010: Kerkrade town centre and Bleijerheide  
(Source: Municipality of Kerkrade)

### 2.1.3 Occupation: spatial planning system

The occupation layer relates to the spatial patterns resulting from human use, i.e. land management. An area can be managed as a residential area or industrial estate, but also as a park or square. The pollution associated with current and future functions is also included in this layer. When functions change, the types of pollution also change. Changes in this layer are usually completed within a single generation (10–40 years). This layer is therefore “high-dynamic”.

The geological layers in particular have been a determining factor for spatial planning systems – and therefore for the face – of Kerkrade. The mining industry has played a very important part in our town and region. It has created large networks of mining villages and parishes, as well as extensive mining sites. These villages have increasingly grown together, eventually forming the urban region, which we now know as Parkstad Limburg – the fifth largest city in the Netherlands in terms of size.

As stated, most of the urban settlements were built on the higher plateaus. Settlements were also created in places where coal was mined. This produced a dispersed pattern of alternating urban building and

green space. What is striking is that, against the backdrop of the heavy industrial use of the area, habitats are extremely urbanised in certain places: highly built up with little green space.

Unlike many other European towns, Kerkrade does not have a concentric shape. Most of the residential areas in our town have grown from the ribbon structures on the high sections between the stream valleys and on the basis of the coal mines which Kerkrade had in abundance. In urban planning terms, this is known as an “amorphous” (shapeless) spatial structure. Compared with other towns, Kerkrade therefore has more peripheral areas, which give the town its unique and special character. Kerkrade has a total of 17 neighbourhoods, whose borders usually coincide with church parishes. Almost every neighbourhood contains a parish church. Because of their construction and height, many church buildings are landmarks that determine Kerkrade’s skyline. As a result of declining church attendances, some churches have already been demolished or deconsecrated.

In recent decades, the transitional areas – between the town and outer suburbs – have come under severe pressure. People prefer to live in less built-up

areas with more – scenic – space. For this reason, the urban peripheries form an important part of the spatial planning system. Figure 2 shows the growth of the centre and Bleijerheide between 1907 and 2010 as an example. The ribbons are clearly visible.

Kerkrade has several areas which have a clear relationship with the town’s cultural history. Besides part of the town centre, these include the historical village centre of Eyselshoven around the “Oude Kerkje” church and the part of Terwinselen around the Botanic Garden. This area is characterised by an attractive boulevard-like structure.



St Lambertus church in  
Kerkrade town centre

## 2.2 Kerkrade's position

Kerkrade is ambitious and intends to remain clearly visible on the Euroregional, national and international map. This is amply justified by the qualities of the town and the City Region of Parkstad Limburg.

### 2.2.1 Regional

Kerkrade is part of the City Region of Parkstad Limburg, a joint-venture involving eight municipalities with a shared mining past. As long ago as 2003, the City Region was stressing the importance of cooperation among cities and urban areas. A Strategic Agenda for Parkstad Limburg was therefore jointly prepared, which has now been translated into the Regional Programme "Towards a sustainably vital region" (July 2010). The Regional Programme also contains a link to the Regional Action Plan for Population Decline in Parkstad Limburg and will serve as the basis for a long-term Implementation Programme.

As part of the national South Limburg Urban Network, Kerkrade is also focusing on strengthening its socio-economic structure. Kerkrade wants to be and remain a strong town. To achieve this, we make grateful use of the support provided by the region and, in return,

provide support for regional functions. Coordination within South Limburg plays an important part in this.

### 2.2.2 Euroregional

Kerkrade is situated on the border with Germany. From this position, the town can make a special contribution to strengthening the power of the region.

Since 1 January 1998, Kerkrade and Herzogenrath have together formed the “Public Entity of Eurode”. From a European perspective, this is probably the first public-law entity to be formed between two municipalities from different countries. Eurode forms a kind of connection between the regions of Parkstad and Aachen. Thanks to cross-border cooperation, a number of projects have already been completed, including the redevelopment of Nieuwstraat as a shared political boundary, the participation of Kerkrade in Herzogenrath Technology Park and the construction of the “Eurode Business Centre” on the national border.

Various projects were also completed in Eurode as part of the EuRegionale 2008, an initiative of the

German federal state of North-Rhine Westphalia. The emphasis in all the EuRegionale 2008 activities was on cross-border initiatives which focused on both the diversity and the uniqueness of the region. The projects were mostly connected with the redevelopment of the Worm valley as the green heart of the municipalities. One of these projects bears the name “Green Metropolis”. This project is based on the underground link between the Netherlands, Germany and Belgium (formed by the coal seams there) and therefore on their common industrial past. This past forms the basis of new incentives in the areas of tourism, technology and science. It is possible to explore and experience the many cultural and historical sites and buildings in the former mining area by following car and cycle routes. A good example of this is the recently constructed “White Road”, a tourist route between Kerkrade and Aachen which takes visitors across the Pferdelandpark.

If we look at the town twinning scheme within a broader international context, Kerkrade also forms part of a twinning arrangement that extends from Liège, Maastricht, Hasselt, Sittard-Geleen, Heerlen and Kerkrade / Herzogenrath to Aachen and the Meuse-

Rhine Euroregion. The physical interweaving of urban and rural areas is extremely intensive in the transition from the Parkstad region to the Aachen region. Here, the urban area of one region has grown over the border into the other. And just at that “crossing point” sits Kerkrade, or “Eurode”.

### 2.2.3 South Limburg urban networks

With regard to cooperation within regions and urban networks, the Spatial Planning Policy Document states, inter alia, that:

“The Netherlands is developing into a “network society” and a “network economy”. On the one hand, individualisation is proceeding apace while, on the other hand, all these individuals are connecting ever more closely to each other in numerous networks. This trend also has major consequences in the area of spatial planning. There is an increasing amount of cohesion between cities and urban areas. The government applauds this trend towards “urban networks”. Cooperation within these networks increases support for facilities and services and opens up possibilities for making optimum use of scarce space.”



Business activity on the Dutch-German border:  
Eurode Business Centre

With regard to the South Limburg Urban Network, to which Kerkrade belongs, the Dutch government states in its Spatial Planning Policy Document: “The South Limburg Urban Network’s ambition is to provide its population with a pleasant working, living and everyday environment, while at the same time creating an attractive business and investment climate worthy of the title Technological Top Region. Finally, the development opportunities, for businesses, citizens and tourists must be in balance. This ambition is embedded in a European task, as set out in the Lisbon and Gothenburg agendas”.

#### 2.2.4 The EGTC

In the report “The future of Limburg lies over the border” (2007), the Hermans Committee recommended the establishment of a European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) as an instrument for cross-border cooperation. In 2009, the City Region of Parkstad Limburg and the City Region of Aachen decided to set up an EGTC in order to further develop mutual cooperation. Among other things, the EGTC provides the Parkstad region with an opportunity to improve its international position, to benefit from the economic growth in the Aachen



region and to create a cross-border town with a shared labour market.

### 2.2.5 Location

Kerkrade's central location in the middle of a network of larger towns and cities right on the border with Germany is of great importance to the town. The primary market in and around Kerkrade contains almost four million people. The border of this area can be reached within an hour. Within two hours, it is possible to reach an area with a population of as much as 60 million. It is therefore vital to have good road and rail access .

Kerkrade is situated on the motorway network (A76, A79 and A2) that links a number of major European cities. The fact that it is in the immediate vicinity of the Aachen region makes it an exceptionally attractive location. The centre of Kerkrade is only nine kilometres from Aachen's main railway station, where the high-speed train stops. This station is therefore an important link to Europe in a much wider sense. The immediate vicinity of the Eurode railway station in neighbouring Herzogenrath is also very important in ensuring Kerkrade's accessibility.



Eurode station,  
Herzogenrath

## 2.3 The socio-economic situation in Kerkrade

### 2.3.1 Population

The historical development of Kerkrade has been described in the previous sections. Around 1830, Kerkrade, which at that time was an agricultural town, had 3,435 inhabitants. Every 10 years thereafter the population grew by around 1,000 until it reached about 10,000 in 1900, peaking at 50,000 during the mining period. The closure of the mines in the late 1960s resulted in a declining population since that time. In 1982, this decline was halted by the town's merger with the municipality of Eysgelshoven. Kerkrade grew again to over 53,000 inhabitants, but the decline continued thereafter.

Figure 3 shows the population trends over the past two decades. It highlights the process of decline in numbers of young people and increase in numbers of older people. Over the past 20 years, the section of the population aged between 0 and 40 has declined in size, whereas the section aged 40 and over has increased during the same period. On balance, the population of Kerkrade has decreased by 5,436 over the past 20 years.

D'r Joep, the symbol of Kerkrade



## 2 | the socio-geographic context: Kerkrade then and now

Although in the past there was a departure of – mainly German – residents to neighbouring countries, this net emigration trend is in decline. During the past 10 years, net emigration was still responsible for all of the population loss in Kerkrade. By the end of 2009,

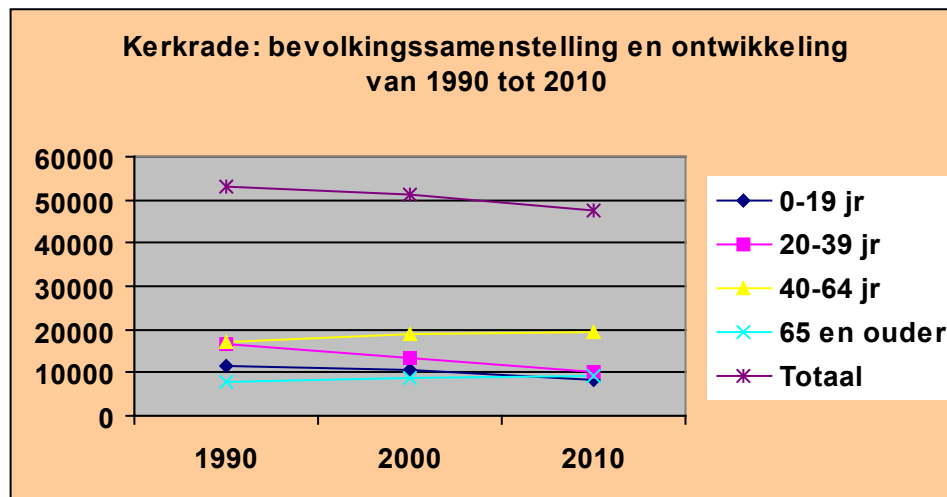
Kerkrade had 3,510 residents of German nationality and 1,259 residents of other non-Dutch nationalities. Finally, Figure 4 shows how the number of residents is distributed across the three districts.

Figure 5. Population trends in the municipality of Kerkrade from 1990 to 2010

Age group	1990	2000	2010
0-19	11,549	10,595	8,395
20-39	16,829	13,317	10,345
40-64	16,864	18,848	19,541
65 and above	7,888	8,698	9,416
Total	53,130	51,458	47,694

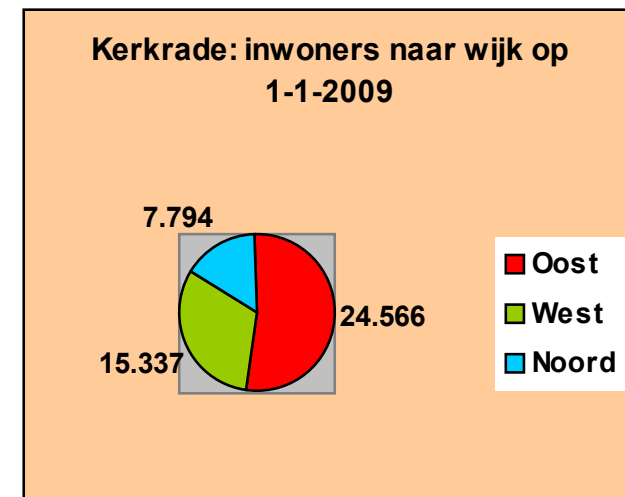
Source: key figures on municipality of Kerkrade

Figure 3.

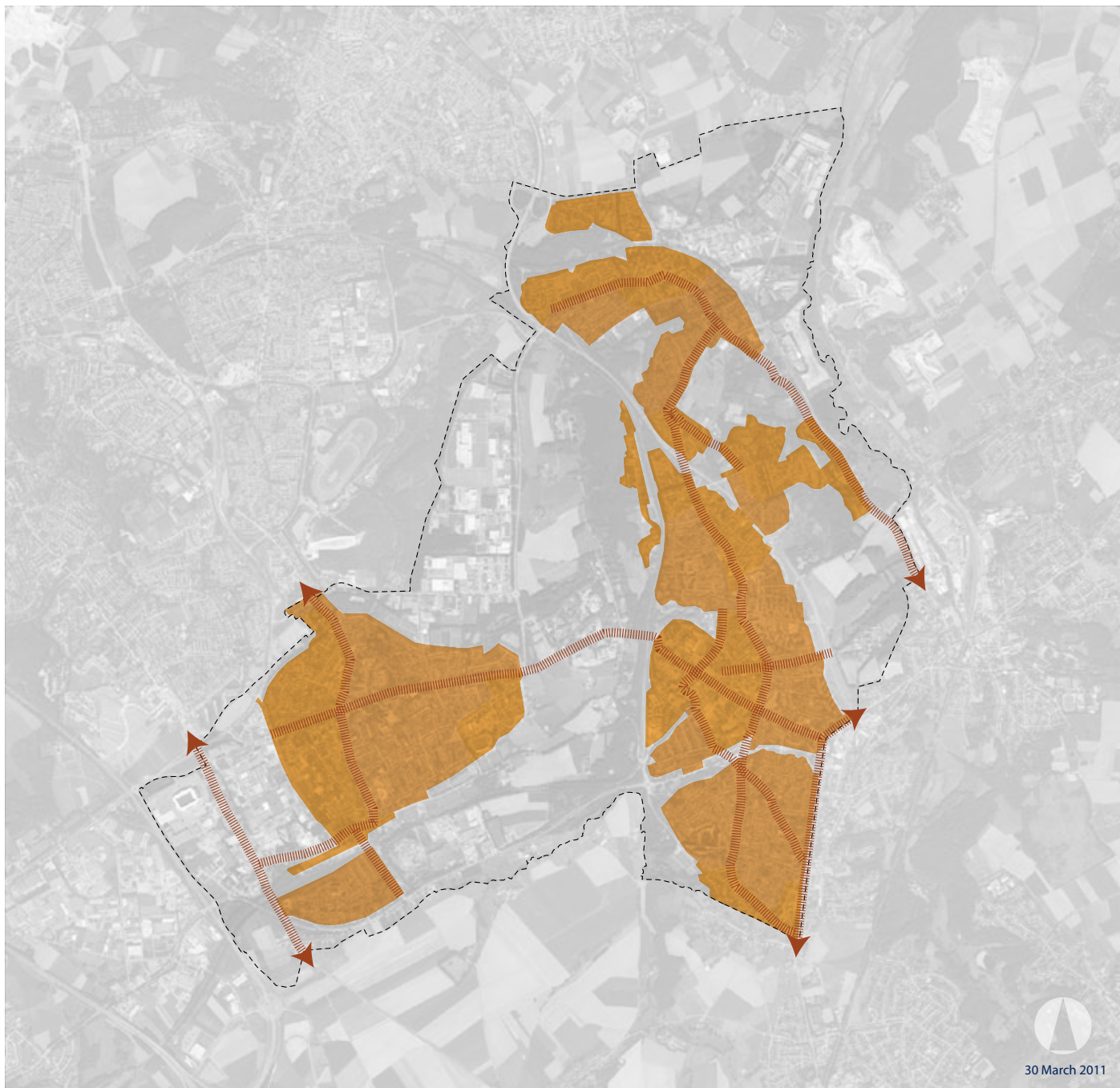


Source: key figures on municipality of Kerkrade, 2009




Figure 4.



Source: key figures on municipality of Kerkrade, 2009



KEY TO SYMBOLS:

-  Residential areas
-  Municipal boundary
-  Ribbons

Housing - existing

### 2.3.2 Housing

The residential areas in Kerkrade have developed in a web-like pattern alongside the “ribbons”. During the mining period, the built-up area rapidly increased in size, the mining communities were built and the urban development of the area continued apace. Even today, it is clear to see that this urban development is mainly concentrated on the higher plateaus. The building density (75%) is one of the highest in the Netherlands.

Following its merger with the former municipality of Eygelshoven in 1982, Kerkrade is made up of a total of 17 residential neighbourhoods, spread over the three districts: East, West and North. Figure 6 provides an overview of the housing stock in each district. Appendix 1 provides an overview for each neighbourhood.

Over the past 10 years, Kerkrade’s housing stock has increased by over 500 housing units to a total of 23,545. Almost 20% of the stock is pre-war. The greatest part (60%) was built between 1945 and 1985.

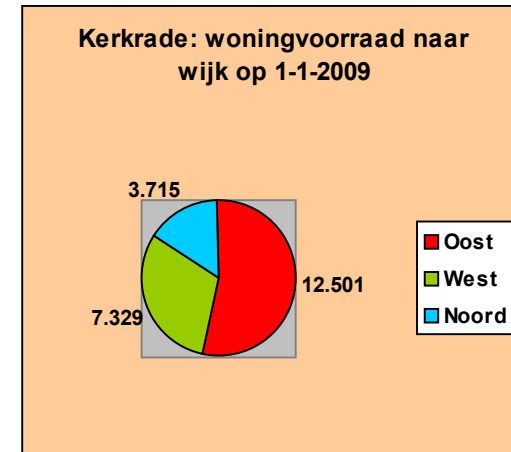
Of the total housing stock, 40% consists of rented and 60% of private dwellings. However, this ownership

ratio differs from district to district. In Kerkrade North in particular, the proportion of private dwellings is high, at 75%. In East, the ratio is 50:50 and the situation in West is consistent with its urban image at 40:60. There are (sometimes major) differences between neighbourhoods within the districts. For example, Terwinselen and Waubacherveld have mainly owner-occupied homes whereas neighbourhoods such as Heilust or Erensteinerveld mostly consist of rented homes.

A relatively small proportion of the rented housing stock is rented out by private landlords and institutional investors, while the largest part is owned by the four housing corporations operating in Kerkrade. The Land van Rode and Wonen Zuid housing corporations mainly own properties in Kerkrade East, with Hestia Group in Kerkrade-West and Wonen Heuvelsteden in Kerkrade North. In addition, Kerkrade has 1,159 housing units in nursing homes, clinics and institutions and – spread over several locations – 35 sites for caravans. This includes four winter accommodation units for fairground operators.

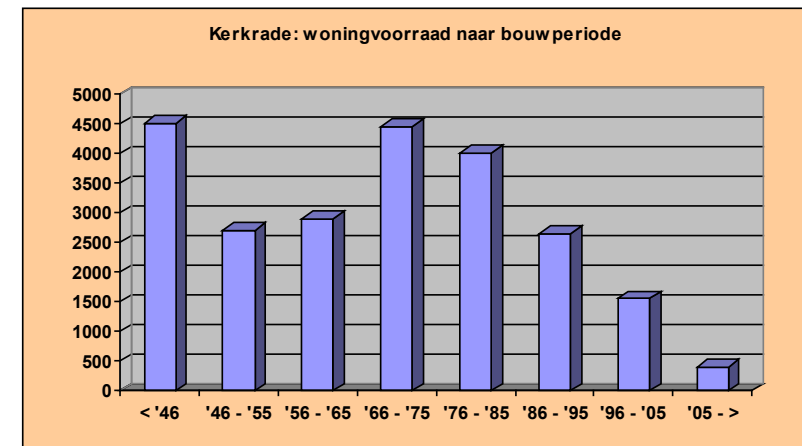
The average occupancy (= number of occupiers per housing unit) has fallen from 2.22 to 2.03 over the

Figure 6.

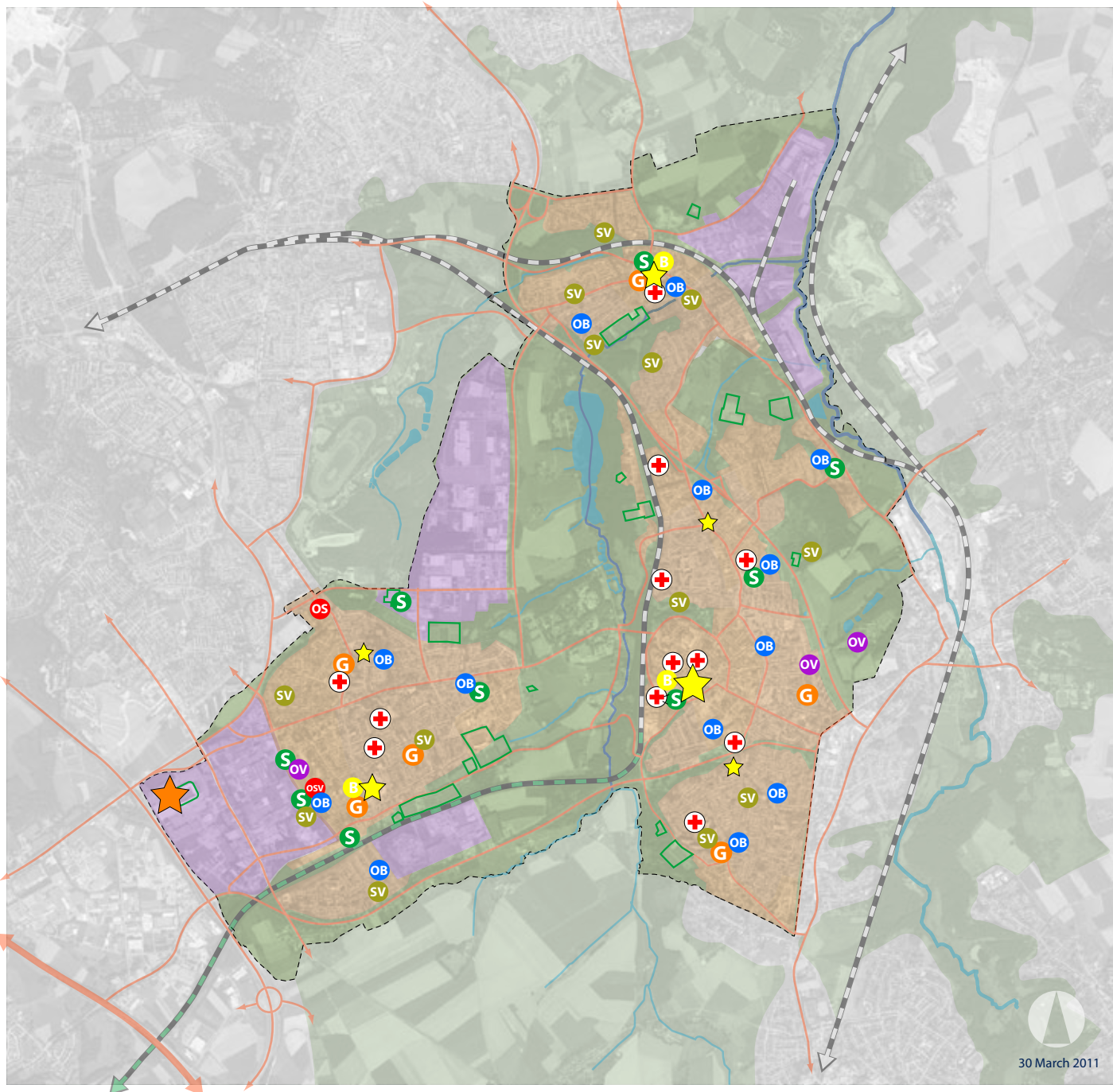


Source: key figures on municipality of Kerkrade, 2009













Figure 7.



Source: Kerkrade in figures, 2009



KEY TO SYMBOLS:

-  Retail - main centre
-  Retail - themed
-  Retail - district centre
-  Retail - neighbourhood centre
-  Outdoor sport facilities
-  Indoor sport facilities
-  Play facility
-  Community centre
-  Healthcare facility
-  Education facility - primary
-  Education facility - special needs primary
-  Education facility - special needs primary and secondary
-  Education facility - secondary
-  Public library
-  Municipal boundary

30 March 2011

past 10 years. However, because of demographic trends, there was a housing surplus (quantitative) in 2010, which manifested itself as a vacancy rate of 6%. In addition, the existing housing stock no longer satisfies the requirements of a changing population (qualitative). The “Restructuring Agenda for the Housing Stock of Parkstad Limburg” was drawn up at the end of 2009. Kerkrade has joined forces with the City Region and housing corporations to set out its ambitions for the future of the housing stock. The Restructuring Agenda is therefore an important framework within which to develop the subject of “housing” from 2010 to 2020. This development is discussed in detail in Section 3.

### 2.3.3 Education

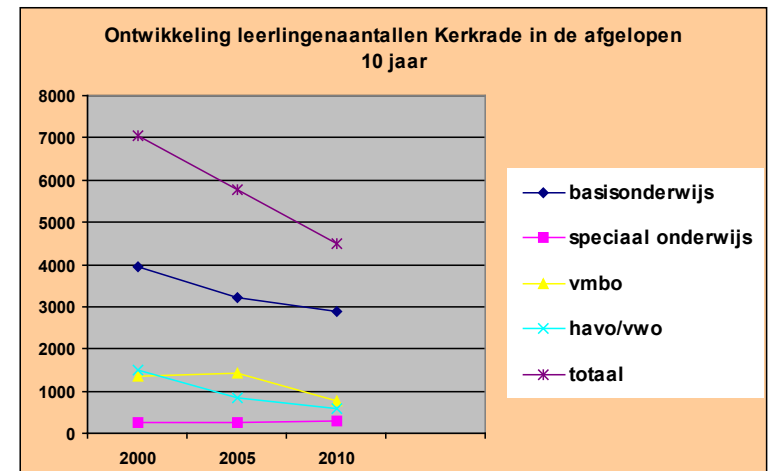
Spread across Kerkrade are 12 primary schools, one special-needs primary school (Arcadia), one special-needs school for both primary and secondary education (Jan Baptist) and three secondary schools. Pupil numbers have declined over the past 10 years. Figure 8 illustrates this trend, broken down by educational category. During this period, the total number of pupils fell from 7,039 to 4,504.

In recent years, Kerkrade has teamed up with educational establishments to make a substantial investment in making these educational facilities “shrink-proof”. The aim is to provide affordable, accessible and high-quality education and ensure that schools can be operated affordably. Throughout the town, schools have been merged, “dislocations” have been closed and new schools have been built.

In 2006, the “De Steltloper” community education centre was opened in Kerkrade East, combining primary education, pre-school and nursery facilities, a parental participation scheme and health care.

Charlemagne College, created in 2009 by the merger of College Rolduc and the Landgraaf Eijkhagencollege, provides different types of secondary education in Kerkrade. The Rolduc location consists of the sub-locations on the Holz and Abdij Complex in Rolduc, where the lower school for pre-university education and upper general secondary education and the lower and upper school for pre-vocational secondary education are housed. Since 2005, Campus Kerkrade has been established in Kerkrade West, a large and modern complex for secondary education (pre-vocational secondary education and pre-vocational special education, also provided by Charlemagne College), further education and art.

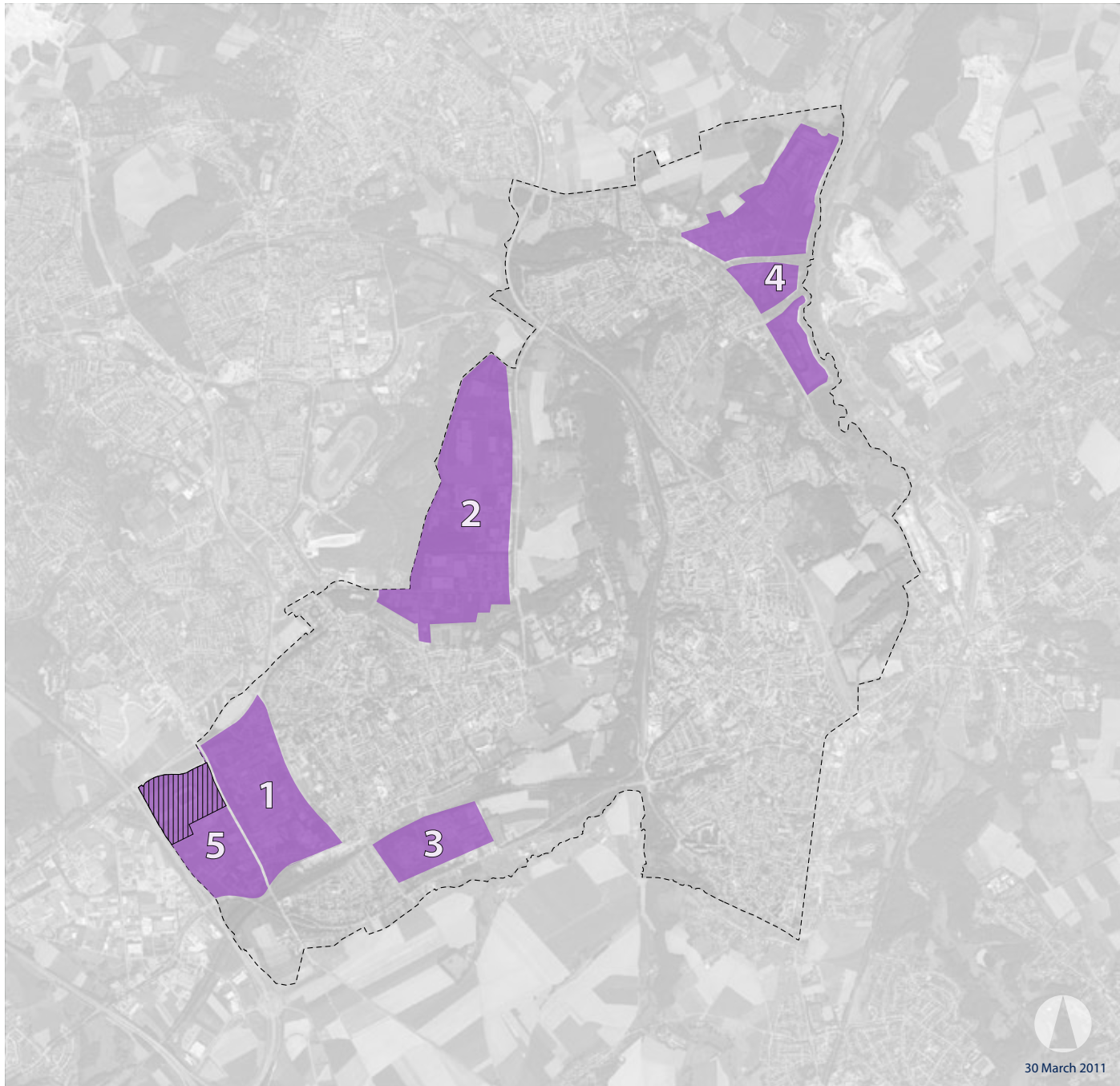
Figure 8.



Source: key figures on municipality of Kerkrade, 2009/Charlemagne College



Campus Kerkrade



KEY TO SYMBOLS:

- Industrial estate
- 1** Spekholzerheide/Euregiopark
- 2** Dentgenbach
- 3** Willem Sophia
- 4** Julia
- 5** Rodaboulevard
  
- Themed retail - sport and leisure
- Municipal boundary

Employment - existing



30 March 2011



Among other things, the Campus provides accommodation for the Music School (610 students), the Vrije Akademie (320 students), a youth and young people's centre and the Kerkrade Pop Music foundation.

Spread over four sites, Kerkrade has 150 places available for after-school childcare and another 150 places for holiday childcare. For the smallest children, the Kinder Opgang Kerkrade (KOK) foundation runs four child care day centres with 200 places and seven toddler playgroups with a total of 112 places (source: Kinder Opgang Kerkrade (KOK) foundation).

Related to education are the libraries, gateways to knowledge for young and old. The libraries are among society's basic facilities. The main library is located in Kerkrade Centre with branches in Kerkrade West (Akerstraat) and Eygelshoven (Socioproject). The libraries receive around 130,000 visitors annually who together borrow almost 200,000 books (source: Kerkrade Library).

### 2.3.4 Employment

Kerkrade has a total of over 17,000 jobs, spread over almost 2,400 establishments. It has a working

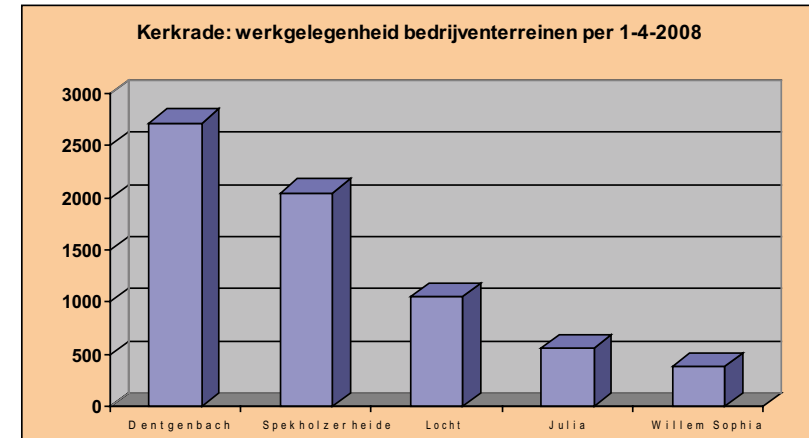
population of 21,200. A large part of the working population works outside the municipality of Kerkrade.

Most of the employment in the town is concentrated on five industrial estates and in seven "retail clusters" (central areas).

The five industrial estates are home to 255 establishments that provide employment for over 7,000 people. The location is shown on the "industrial estates" map. The Juliaterein industrial estate is in Kerkrade North. The remaining four industrial estates are in Kerkrade West. The Rodaboulevard business park partly consists of themed sport and leisure retail outlets (shaded on the map). They are concentrated on the northern part of the site in and around Parkstad Limburg Stadium.

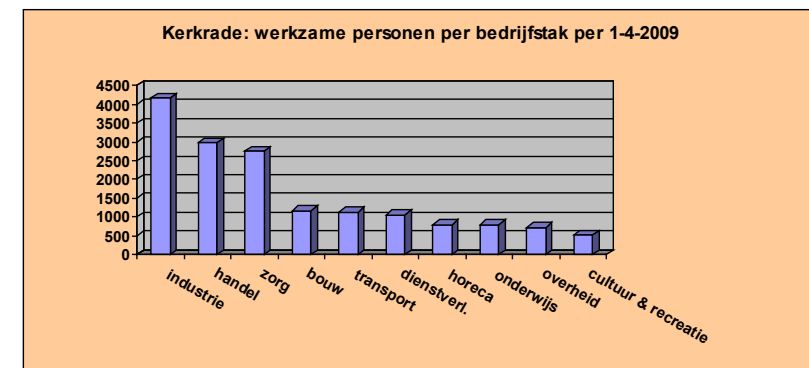
The Intermunicipal Structure Agenda (2009) ranks all the industrial estates in Parkstad according to the importance they represent to the region. The Spekholzerheide/Euregiopark and Rodaboulevard industrial estates have the highest rating: XL. Dentgenbach and Willem Sophia have an L and the Juliaterein an S.

Figure 9.



Source: Etil, Limburg Business Register, 2009

Figure 10.



Source: Etil, Limburg Business Register, 2009



Rodaboulevard industrial estate



## 2 | the socio-geographic context: Kerkrade then and now

Since 2006, Kerkrade has been using Bedrijventerreinmanagement Parkstad Limburg (BTM) to manage the industrial estates, prepare the restructuring and deliver collective services. Figure 9 shows the level of employment on the industrial estates.

Kerkrade has 7 retail clusters of which the town centre is the largest. There are district centres in Kerkrade West (Carboonplein) and Kerkrade North (Eygelshoven) and neighbourhood centres in Terwinselen (Piusplein), Bleijerheide (Maria Goretplein) and Chevremont (St. Pieterstraat and environs). The seventh retail cluster consists of the northern part of Rodaboulevard industrial estate. Small industrial and retail establishments are spread across the town. Most of employment in the retail clusters is provided in the retail, business services, hotel and catering and healthcare sectors. Figure 10 shows total employment in Kerkrade by sector.

At the end of 2009, 2,450 residents were unemployed (source: Employee Insurance Agency [UWV], South East Netherlands). This amounts to 11.4% of Kerkrade's working population of 21,200. For the Province of Limburg, this figure was 8.4% and for

the Netherlands 6.8%. Many industries with a large presence in Kerkrade and the rest of South Limburg were found to be vulnerable. These are the industries which initially showed the greatest growth, both in the number of businesses and in the number of jobs, e.g. the automotive, food and logistics sectors. For Limburg as a whole, the economic recession is expected to result in a loss of 30,000 jobs by 2012 out of a total workforce of 520,000. In addition, a trend towards a substantial decline in the average number of jobs per business was already in progress. The most badly affected sector is manufacturing industry, which is very important to Kerkrade.

With effect from 1 January 2009, the municipality and UWV Werkbedrijf (the work placement branch of the Employee Insurance Agency) combined forces to set up a new "Werkplein Kerkrade" job centre. The Werkplein helps jobseekers and provides re-integration services, as well as giving advice on training courses and work placements. Employers can advertise vacancies at the Werkplein. Werkplein Kerkrade is also becoming increasingly important in terms of the Euroregional labour market.

### 2.3.5 Town centre facilities

#### Town centre

A pleasant everyday environment requires a town centre that provides for the needs of residents and visitors. Kerkrade derives a major part of its identity from its centre. The atmosphere is more of a village than a town. Small but beautifully formed. The centre has an urban function and the area it serves therefore includes all the districts of Kerkrade and part of the region.

The current town centre has a surface area of approximately 45 hectares. A quarter of this is occupied by healthcare and social facilities on the Atrium site and at Kapellaan. Over a quarter of the area has a residential function. The remainder had a mixed function (housing, shops, services, etc.).

To give a clear picture of the current situation, we provide below a summary of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

#### *Strengths*

- Size: the town centre is well laid-out and compact, all of its facilities are within walking distance and it is close to the surrounding residential districts.

- Location: recreational facilities, such as Gravenrode Park, can be quickly and easily reached from the town centre.
- Amenities: the central area contains many socio-cultural, tourist, catering and healthcare facilities.

#### *Weaknesses*

- Accessibility: the rail terminal in Kerkrade town centre has only two departures/arrivals per hour. There is no rail link to Germany and the high-speed line in Aachen.
- Shopping facilities: in terms of size and range, the shops cannot provide all the consumer's needs or compete with the surrounding shopping centres.
- Population: it is mostly older people (requiring healthcare) who live in the centre. There is a large amount of sheltered accommodation. The number of housing units and facilities for younger people is relatively low.
- Employment: there is a limited supply of jobs and the only employment available is in the healthcare and retail sectors.
- Established businesses are sometimes tied to their current locations and cannot always relocate to new locations.

#### *Opportunities*

- Implementation of the town centre plan.
- Atrium area: with its urban planning structure and intended functions (housing, employment, health care, retail and education), the Atrium Master Plan provides great opportunities for Kerkrade town centre.
- This plan includes a stop on the current Heerlen-Kerkrade railway line, which will in future form part of the light rail system linking Maastricht, Heerlen, Kerkrade town centre, Atlantis and Aachen. This will connect the town centre with Euroregional and international rail links.
- Rodahal: the renovated and multifunctional Rodahal is suitable for all kinds of Euroregional events and will undoubtedly provide more activities in the evenings and at weekends.

#### *Threats*

- Loss of jobs as a result of the possible departure of employers.
- Dilapidation: made worse by the closure of shop and office premises, resulting in properties lying empty.
- Ageing population.

### District centres

In Kerkrade North (Eygelshoven Centre) and in Kerkrade West (Carboonplein), we find two centres in Kerkrade which have a district function. Both areas are currently under development in the form of large-scale renovation projects. By adopting this approach, Kerkrade is realising the ambitions of the Intermunicipal Structure Agenda, which advocates the strengthening of both district centres as well as the town centre.

### Neighbourhood centres

Kerkrade has three neighbourhood centres in Kerkrade West (Piusplein, Terwinselen) and in Kerkrade East (Maria Gorettiplein in Bleijerheide and St. Pieterstraat in Chevremont). The quality of all three neighbourhood centres has been improved in recent years. The whole public space on and around Piusplein has been redeveloped and its relationship with the surrounding area has been strengthened. Brand-new shops and homes have been built on Maria Gorettiplein and the public space has been renovated. The public space in St Pieterstraat has also been fully renovated.



The renovated Rodahal



### Markets and fairs

Although of a temporary nature, the markets and fairs are no less important. Kerkrade has three weekly markets: in the town centre, in Spekholzerheide and in Eyselshoven. The market in Eyselshoven in particular is reputed far beyond Kerkrade. Known throughout the Euroregion, this market attracts many thousands of visitors every Saturday.

A fair is held in the town twice a year. In keeping with tradition, the largest of them takes place in the centre of Kerkrade on the Markt and Stationsplein sites. Spekholzerheide (Patronaatstraat site) and Eyselshoven (Markt site) both have a smaller fair which is more focused on youth activities.

### Review of central areas

The Intermunicipal Structure Agenda introduced a hierarchy for all the centres in the region. Kerkrade town centre has been designated as a “satellite centre” and may, just like the two district centres, be developed. Based on the Intermunicipal Structure Agenda, the Parkstad Limburg Retail Structure Agenda – which applies both to the region and to Kerkrade – was adopted by Parkstad Council on 13 December 2010. This agenda provides an accurate picture of the

current strengths and weaknesses of the centres and of the options for restructuring retail over the next ten years. The main issues covered by the agenda are the reduction of the number of vacant properties, the development of innovative and alternative uses for them and ways of striking a new balance between supply and demand.

### 2.3.6 Health and welfare

The changing size and composition of the population already had an effect on health and welfare in Kerkrade at an early stage. The demand for healthcare has grown and changed. Added to this is the fact that the declining working population has consequences for the availability of sufficient staff in the healthcare sector. These trends have had an effect on the built health and welfare facilities and therefore influence land management in the town.

In the past, the facilities in Kerkrade were characterised by an irregular distribution pattern, with a variation in supply and quality. In the early 1990s, Kerkrade therefore began gradually taking action on the supply of facilities. It joined forces with partners to make a substantial investment in increasing the quality standards and accessibility of health and

welfare facilities. The idea was to tailor the facilities to each area in the form of district-specific basic facilities.

The “Facilities – existing” map (page 38) shows the current distribution of healthcare facilities. In terms of healthcare, Kerkrade has – in addition to the Atrium Medical Centre – two clinics for patients with somatic and psychogeriatric conditions: the Hambos Clinic with 190 places and the Lückersheide Clinic with 250 places. In 2009, the Meander Group opened an additional rehabilitation facility in the Elisabethstift to reduce the problem of waiting lists.

Together, the four care homes of Firenschat, Kapelhof, Hoog Anstel and Vroenhof have 317 elderly care places. In recent years, first-line healthcare providers (general practitioners, dentists, physiotherapists, etc.) have increasingly been combined into new district or neighbourhood health centres. This trend towards combination is in line with the efforts of the municipality of Kerkrade to achieve the greatest possible amount of cooperation between healthcare providers. A similar trend has also become noticeable in recent years in the area of welfare facilities. Increasingly, community housing has become a



## Home care services: Spireahof in Kerkrade West

different disciplines together and actually reduced the distance between the provision of care and the people who need the care. Kerkrade has attracted national attention with this development, which is now known as the “Kerkrade social support model”. The Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG) has described and publicised the Kerkrade model – as part of the “De kanteling” project – as an example of how to implement the WMO. In association with local partners, four Social District Teams have been established which operate accessibly and very efficiently from points in the district which are close to the people. The Social District Teams are in keeping with the physical component of Kerkrade’s district-oriented model and they provide a link to the various partners in the healthcare sector. Another special feature is that Kerkrade’s residents are actively involved in the provisional assessment of this model and its further development. In 2009, this model was honoured with a national award and Kerkrade organised the well-attended social support conference in the Rodahal. The Regional Programme “Towards a sustainably vital region” (July 2010) refers to Kerkrade’s Social District Teams as an example of how to tackle the challenge of a declining and ageing population.

linchpin in districts. It is described in more detail in Section 2.3.8.

### Kerkrade social support model

In recent years, Kerkrade has also invested a lot of energy in making smart connections when

implementing the Dutch Social Support Act [Wet maatschappelijke ondersteuning] (WMO), which was introduced in 2007. The objective of the WMO is to ensure that people can live independently and participate in society for as long as possible. In order to achieve this, Kerkrade has brought the



### Healthcare and housing

Changing needs in terms of health and welfare are also reflected in the housing stock. Kerkrade has joined forces with housing corporations and care providers in Parkstad to focus on increasing the number of lifetime homes and homes which are suitable for older people with care needs. This has taken the form of building from scratch and of adapting existing complexes, of which the Lupinehof and Spireahof complexes in Kerkrade West are excellent examples. The municipality, the housing corporations and the Koepel tenants' federation draw up annual performance agreements which set out what the joint efforts should be. As far as the private housing stock is concerned, the aim is to allow as many owner-occupiers as possible to continue living in their own familiar environment for as long as possible. With this in mind, projects such as "Growing older at home is possible" have been started and various convenience services have been established for them.

In addition to accommodation, care providers are providing more and more additional services, known as "home care services". The Kerkrade-based Meander Group provides these services on a neighbourhood basis.

### Accessibility

Accessibility, in both the literal and the figurative sense, is the theme that runs through Kerkrade's thinking on health and welfare. Ensuring equality for people with a disability (physical, sensory, mental or other) is a high priority in Kerkrade. This is based on the principles of "Agenda 22". Agenda 22 is a list of 22 standard rules drawn up by the United Nations to ensure that people with a disability have the same opportunities as other citizens. On the basis of this concept, work has recently been done to make all kinds of facilities suitable and accessible for people with a disability. The physical accessibility of buildings and infrastructure (public space) in town and districts is being achieved, where possible, in accordance with the requirements of Agenda 22. For example, pavements are being raised level with bus stops to ensure that the public transport system is also directly accessible to disabled people.

### Youth

The municipality of Kerkrade is focusing on young people, separately from the focus of education and youth clubs. It has joined forces with the Impuls welfare foundation to implement youth policy. An important aspect of this are the various youth centres

in the districts (The Dream in North, d'r Prick and P3 in East and The Mix in the Campus in West).

In early 2010, the new Youth and Family Centre (CJG) was opened in the Atrium Medical Centre to assist young people and their parents promptly even in difficult situations. The CJG is an accessible facility where parents, as well as young people themselves, can go with questions concerning upbringing and growing up.



Parkstad Limburg Stadium

### 2.3.7 Sport and play

Anyone who knows Kerkrade, knows Roda JC. The Premier league club, which recently changed its name to Roda JC Kerkrade, has long been the flagship of Kerkrade's sporting activities and, since its move from the municipal Sportpark Kaalheide in 2000, has been playing in the Parkstad Limburg Stadium. Training facilities have been maintained at Kaalheide. On average, about 14,000 spectators attend home games every two weeks.

Amateur sport and unorganised games also receive much attention in Kerkrade. The town has as many as 65 amateur sport clubs with a total of 7,000 members, 3,000 of whom are youth members (source: Kerkrade in figures, 2008). In recent years, a massive investment has been made in concentrating and modernising many outdoor sport facilities and many clubs have been made "future-proof". Here too, the combination of facilities has become evident in the land management of the districts. In Eyselshoven, the premises of several clubs have been accommodated together (football, tennis, scouting, playground and fishpond) at Anselderlaan. A similar concentration has taken place on and near the Willem Sophia complex

in Kerkrade West. Current facilities can be divided into outdoor and indoor sport, the accommodation for which will be multifunctional now and in future.

#### Outdoor sport

Outdoor sport facilities are shown on the "Facilities – existing" map (page 38). The municipality of Kerkrade owns 18 outdoor sport facilities: football (6), hockey (1), archery/rifle shooting (7), athletics (1) and tennis (3). Several small-scale facilities are scattered across the town, including boules pitches and facilities for unorganised sport, such as grass plots. Since 2009, Kerkrade has had a Johan Crujff court, which has been laid out in Prickbos community park. The facilities in Kerkrade West include an outdoor track that enables people to run or walk a distance of 3 or 5 km.

With the construction and renovation of various outdoor sport facilities, Kerkrade is well on the way to achieving its ambitions. Modern facilities are being built in the districts in association with a number of football clubs. Since 2011, all the football clubs have new artificial grass pitches. Two artificial grass pitches have been laid for Roda JC Kerkrade in Sportpark Kaalheide. The renovation of the tennis facilities in Kerkrade West and Eyselshoven has been completed.

Both facilities now have artificial all-weather courts. Kerkrade Hockey Club had previously been provided with two artificial grass pitches and the facilities for the Achilles Top athletic club in Sportpark Kaalheide have now been upgraded.

Two important mergers have taken place in the world of amateur football. In 1999, the Laura and Hopel football clubs in Kerkrade North merged to become Laura Hopel Combinatie (LHC). In Kerkrade West, the football clubs RKVV Heilust and FC Gracht merged to become FC Kerkrade-West in 2003. A G-team is also active in this club. Both mergers were highly successful in all respects and show that combining forces can produce a firm foundation for the future.

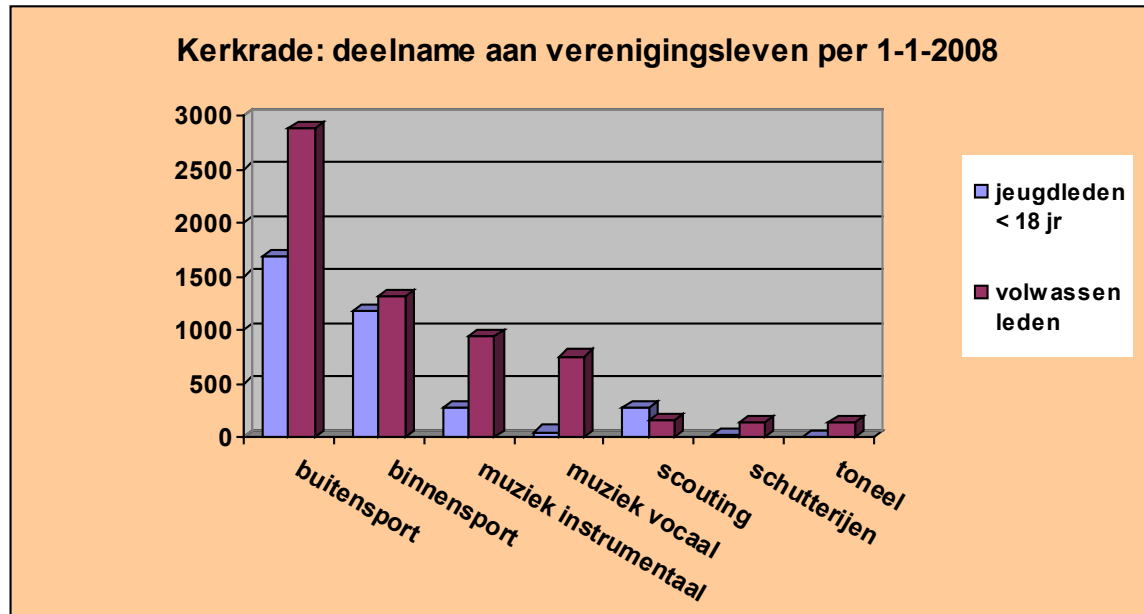
#### Indoor sport

Kerkrade's facilities for indoor sports consist of two sports halls, one sports centre plus gym (in the Socioproject), one covered 50-metre swimming pool, 11 gyms, one gymnastics centre and a school sports facility in the Campus. The management of these facilities has been privatised. Most of the indoor sport facilities are outdated and due for renovation or replacement. Much work remains to be done in this regard. In many cases, the gyms are linked to primary

## 2 | the socio-geographic context: Kerkrade then and now



Figure 11.



Source: Kerkrade in figures, 2008

schools. The principle which has applied to date is that the gym or sports hall must be located on school premises or a short distance from the school. This is because the time taken to travel to a gym facility is at the expense of net teaching time and transport is often time-consuming. As a result of falling pupil numbers (see Section 2.3.3), the utilisation capacity of gyms in particular has also declined.

#### Play facilities

Spread across the town and districts, Kerkrade has a large number of play facilities, including an official

Johan Cruijff Court and three new Panna football cages. Playgrounds and larger-scale facilities in the public space are indicated on the "Facilities – existing" map (page 38). Play areas are constructed and managed in accordance with the town's Play Area Plan. The way play facilities are used has changed in recent years. Not only has the number of children declined, but the amount of time children spend there is also changing. Young People's Meeting Places (JOPs) have been established for older children. The way in which the JOPs operate varies from location to location.

#### 2.3.8 Social cohesion and public services

Just as in many other towns, social cohesion and living standards in Kerkrade have also been under pressure in recent years. Not only has its population changed in terms of size and composition, social trends have also left their mark. Examples include increasing individualisation, decline in church attendance, the exponential growth in the use of computers and the Internet, increasing leisure time and changes in the way it is spent. The effects of this trend can be seen in many areas, both physical and social. Examples include the use of public space, changed housing preferences, participation in clubs and societies, the use of facilities and consumer spending patterns.

And yet Kerkrade still has around 125 clubs and societies, which together have almost 10,000 members. This includes 3,500 junior members (under 18 years of age). Most of them are active in outdoor sports. The scouting associations are the only ones to have more young people than adults as members. Figure 11 provides an overview of participation in clubs and societies in Kerkrade.

Conscious of the changes in society, Kerkrade has been responding to them in recent years. Initially, it focused on physical aspects of quality of life such as the management and maintenance of public space, buildings and facilities. In recent years, this approach has been expanded so that attention is also focused on socio-economic aspects that affect the quality of life in the town. A good example of this approach is the way in which the implementation of the Dutch Social Support Act [Wet maatschappelijke ondersteuning] (WMO) has been tackled (see also Section 2.3.6. Health and welfare). This further reinforces the traditional district-oriented model which has been developed in Kerkrade in the form of active district and resident platforms.

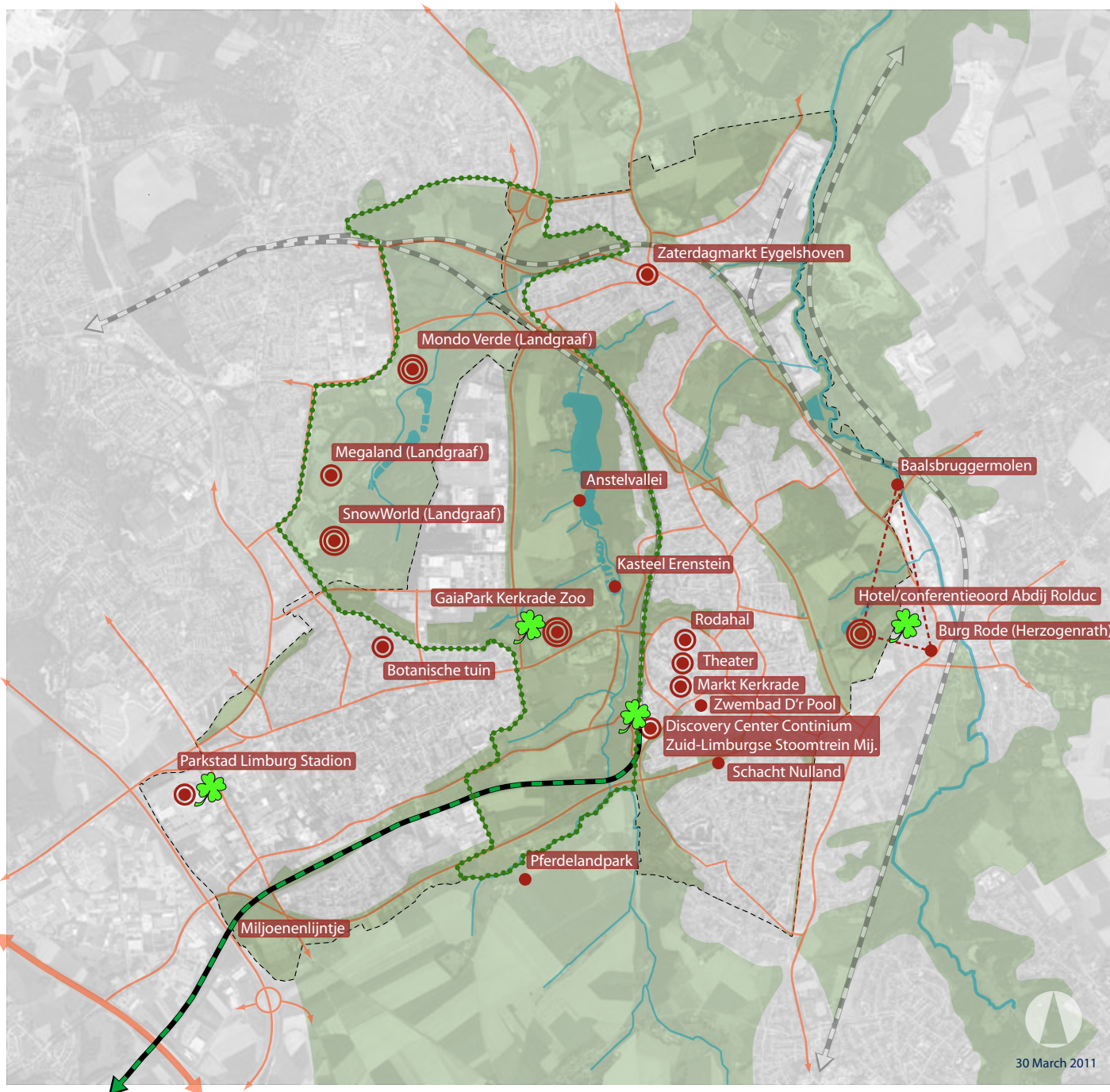
The way in which clubs and societies are being encouraged, with many of their facilities being modernised, is another success. People are central to this strategy and the services and facilities on offer are, wherever possible, tailored to their needs. Working with organisations in the areas of housing, healthcare, education and employment, Kerkrade has made a good start on matching the changed supply and demand.



## 2 | the socio-geographic context: Kerkrade then and now

The district has been chosen as the geographical unit from which to work on social cohesion and quality of life. An increasing number of facilities are being organised and people mobilised at district level under the motto: “Kerkrade is making a social investment in people and districts”. The community centre, as a multifunctional facility (MFF), has been chosen as the linchpin of the district. Based on research into demographic trends and changing demand, six

community centres with interconnecting catchment areas have been chosen. The renovation of the community centres in Terwinselen (Sjtaater Hoes), Bleijerheide (Patronaat) and Holz (Catharinahoes) has been completed and work is in progress in Eygelshoven (Socioproject). The construction of a further two community centres, in Heilust and Chevremont, is in preparation.



KEY TO SYMBOLS:

- Attractions, local level
- Attractions, regional level
- ⊙ Attractions, international level
- ☘ Four "Lucky Clover" attractions
- - - Eurode triangle
- ⋯ Gravenrode Park
- +— Rail (tourist)/"Miljoenenlijntje"
- - - Municipal boundary

30 March 2011

Kerkrade is proud of the many volunteers who are active in a variety of areas. Located at Impuls welfare foundation, the volunteer exchange assists volunteers, provides training and intermediary services and promotes voluntary work. The volunteer exchange is represented on the Social District Teams.

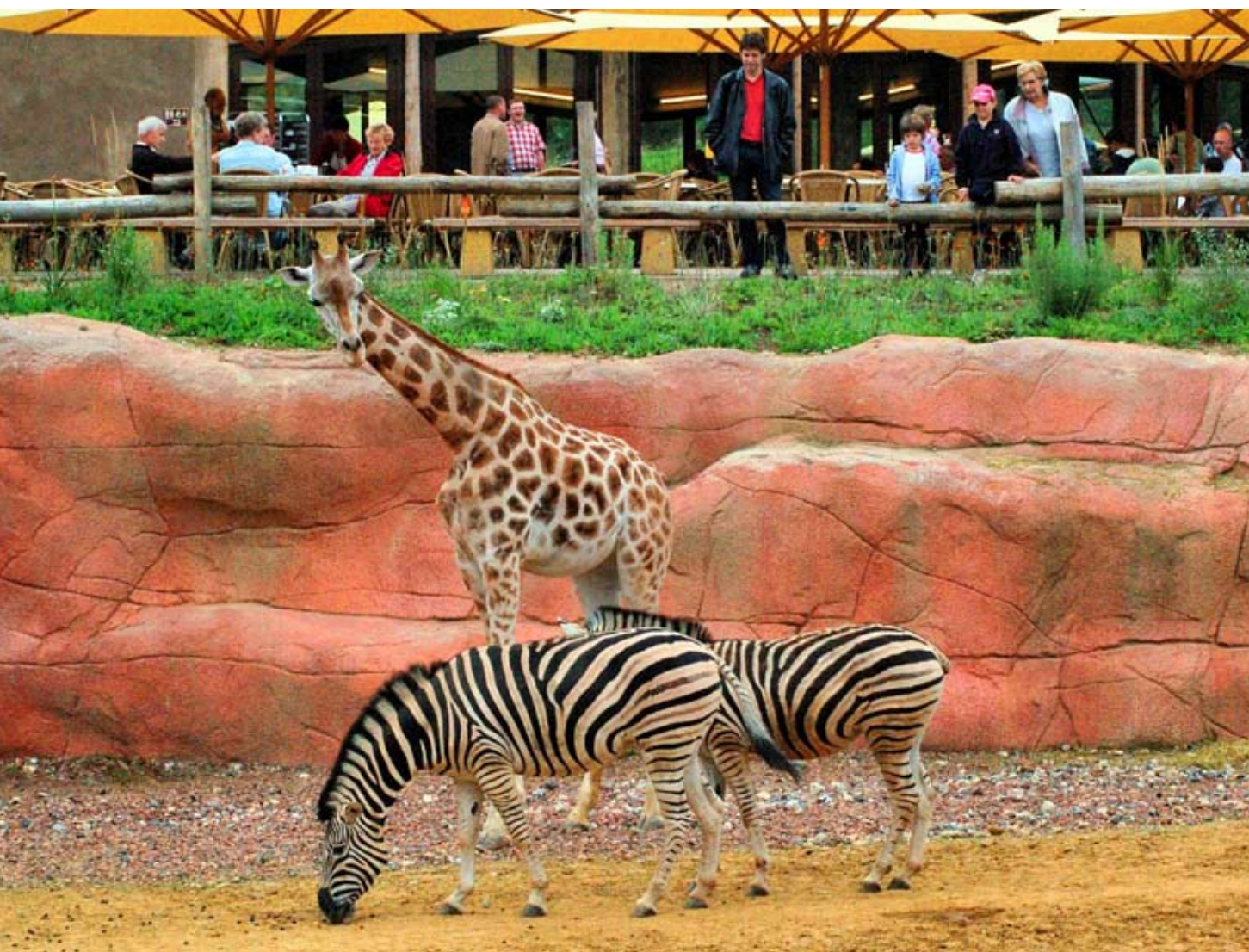
### 2.3.9. Tourism, recreation and culture

Kerkrade has much to offer its residents and visitors in terms of tourism, recreation and culture. The main facilities are shown on the “Tourism and recreation – existing” map.

Over the past ten years, the town has built up a strong reputation as a tourist attraction. The policy implemented jointly with the municipality of Landgraaf in the late 1990s with the aim of boosting the development of tourism and recreation is beginning to bear fruit. Research commissioned by the South Limburg Tourist Board shows that between 2002 and 2006 tourism expenditure in Kerkrade rose



The steam train



Gaiapark Kerkrade Zoo

by 128% (from €25 million to €59 million). New figures will no doubt show continuing growth.

Kerkrade's four "Lucky Clover" tourist attractions (Klavertje Vier) – consisting of GaiaPark Kerkrade Zoo, Discovery Center Continium and the Steam Train (ZLSM), Rolduc Abbey and Parkstad Limburg Stadium – have put the town on the map internationally. Recreational connecting routes have also been created in the form of the Abbey Trail and the GaiaTrail. The Duke of Limburg trail has been restored to its former glory. The "White Road" has been built level with the Pferdelandpark so that people can walk from Kerkrade to Aachen and vice versa. On the east side of the town, the Rolduc abbey complex and conference centre, the Balsbrugger mill and Burg Rode castle combine to form a historical triangle on the Dutch-German border. Relations with neighbouring Germany in terms of tourism and recreation have also been strengthened recently with projects such as Grensland Wormdal, the Green Metropolis and the Pferdelandpark. Facilities for visitors have been improved in the Botanic Garden in Terwinselen. Together with the neighbouring attractions in Gravenrode Park (including Landgraaf's attractions SnowWorld, Megaland and Mondo Verde), the above factors are such a strong addition in the



region to long-stay tourism in Heuvelland. Gravenrode (including the Anselderbeek Valley) now not only fulfils a recreational function but is also important for economic development in the leisure and other sectors.

With this powerful growth, Kerkrade has made a major contribution to achieving the ambitions of the Province of Limburg and the City Region of Parkstad Limburg. The result is there to be seen: the Parkstad region has surpassed Valkenberg and Maastricht in terms of tourism expenditure and several attractions have won awards for their quality. Gaiapark Kerkrade Zoo has been repeatedly voted best zoo in the Netherlands by the readers of the Dutch Automobile Association's magazine and has welcomed its 2 millionth visitor five years after opening. In 2009, Landgraaf and Kerkrade's shared tourism and recreation "business park", Gravenrode Park, was voted most sustainable tourist destination in the Netherlands when it received the Eden Award. This means that the criteria of entrepreneurship (Profit), nature (Planet) and the interests of humankind (People) go together extremely well in Gravenrode Park.

Following in the footsteps of tourism development, there has been a visible increase in related facilities, such as hotels and conference facilities, in recent years. At the present time, Kerkrade has a range of conference facilities, including the Dinodome, Kerkrade Theatre, Rodahal, Rolduc, Parkstad Limburg Stadium and Continium. A new hotel has been opened on the south side of Parkstad Limburg Stadium. The hotel and restaurant Kasteel Erenstein was acquired in 2010. The garden around the castle was given a stylish makeover in 2009.

### Culture

Kerkrade is a medium-sized town and looks the part, but it boasts a wealth of culture and history that would not be out of place in a major city. Kerkrade is the oldest mining town in the Netherlands, has the oldest abbey complex in the form of Rolduc and, in Baalsbruggen, has the only abbey mill in our country. Another good example is the area around Kerkberg in Eygelshoven with the "Oude Kerkje" church and the old Laethof building. The town's mining past has also been important from a cultural point of view. Schacht Nulland, Oude Hopel, Villa Pierre, the Botanic Garden, various monuments and several clubs which have their origin in the mines are living mementos

of that time. The town expanded to form several centres (neighbourhoods), each with its own specific character. This development has turned out to be a healthy breeding ground for a strong and varied range of clubs and societies involved in sporting and cultural activities.

With the Rodahal, Parkstad Limburg Stadium, the Theatre, the Community Centres, the Markt and a number of smaller-scale facilities, Kerkrade provides excellent venues for cultural and other events, both large and small. Kerkrade has always encouraged the development of these "living rooms of the town".

Kerkrade's cultural life and traditions have their roots in district and neighbourhood clubs and societies. Examples of these gems are theatre groups and the range of music and choral societies which the districts have produced. Kerkrade has a total of 45 music societies (wind bands, brass bands, choirs, etc.) including the Kerkrade Symphony Orchestra (KSO). The societies together have over 2,000 members. The societies, which have a good reputation both inside and outside the region, were once the breeding ground for the creation of the World Music Contest (WMC) and the Orlando Festival and the construction



Carnival in Kerkrade



of the Rodahal. The WMC, which is held once every four years, brings a feast of music to Kerkrade. In 2009, the event welcomed over 20,000 participants and about 700,000 visitors. Of all the events that were held in the region in 2009, the WMC was the best attended. A healthy 47% of Parkstad residents visited the WMC. The Castle of Love dance festival has been held around Erenstein Castle since 2006. In 2010, 15,000 people attended the festival, which is now a two-day event. The Kerkrade Music Collective (MKK) organises regular small-scale pop music events in the town. All in all, Kerkrade is justified in calling itself “Sound City”.

Perhaps less well-known, but certainly equally appreciated is the growing number of smaller events which are held regularly in the town. The Terwinselen Street Market, the English fair in the Botanic Garden, the Cloth market and the skating rink in the town centre are good examples of this phenomenon. Finally, of course, we must not neglect to mention the Carnival. This tradition also has deep roots in Kerkrade society with the slogan “Kirchroa Alaaf!!!”. The town and districts have their own Carnival societies, their own processions and their own meetings. The renovated Rodahal and the renewed attention to

“Kloontrekken” (dressing up as clowns) on Carnival Tuesday have given this tradition and real boost in recent years.

### Sculpture trail

To ensure people’s well-being, it is important that they feel comfortable in the environment in which they live and reside. A well-designed public space helps to create a pleasant atmosphere in the town. Kerkrade is aware of this and, for the past few decades, has been working on producing an artistic design within the public space. These efforts have resulted in a fantastic sculpture trail. The Kerkrade sculpture collection – which has also been published in book form – consists of sculptures by renowned artists and is well known far beyond the boundaries of the municipality.



3

KERKRADE IN  
DEVELOPMENT:  
THE FUTURE

# 3 | Kerkrade in development: the future

**Section 2 describes the origins of Kerkrade, followed by an impression of the town in 2010. This section focuses on future development, from urban planning to socio-economic aspects, from local, regional and Euroregional to international influences, from social trends to local colour.**

## 3.1 Spatial development

Just as in Section 2, spatial development is described in the order of the three layers: substratum (landscape, water and vegetation), networks (infrastructure) and occupation (land management).

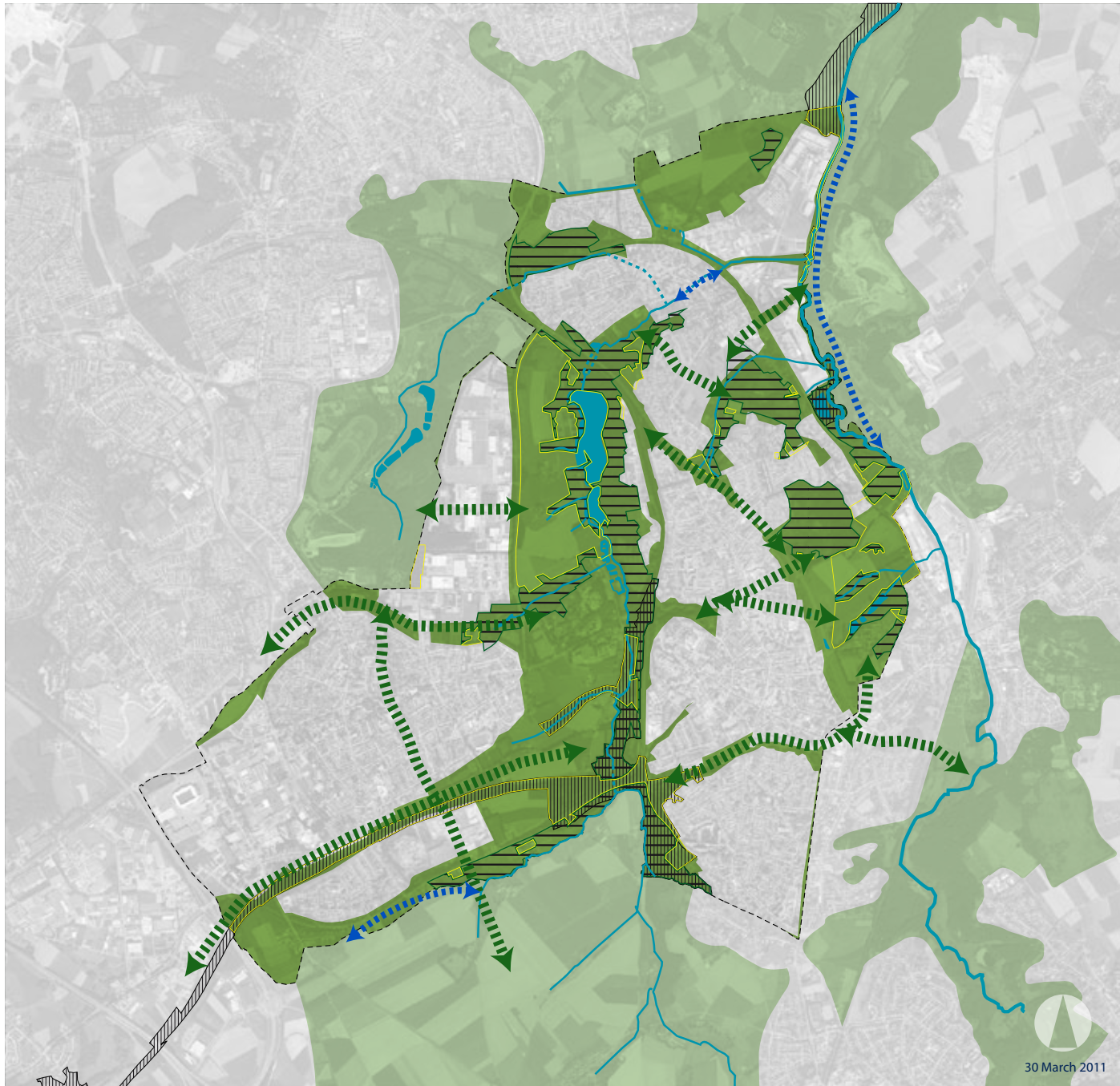
Sustainability and safety are also discussed in this section. Both terms are themes that run through the other subjects and form an inevitable part of spatial development in Kerkrade.

### 3.1.1 Substratum: development of landscape, water and green spaces

Together with the City Region of Parkstad, Kerkrade intends to effect an improvement in quality, in which its identity as a “parkstad” plays an important part. Nature and landscape, including the rich heritage, and the system of stream and river valleys therefore form the foundation for a lasting strengthening of identity and vitality. At the end of 2009, the Intermunicipal

Structure Agenda was adopted, which sets out the way spatial planning is coordinated for the next 10 years and provides a framework for the themes of space, housing, economics and mobility. The key criterion of the Intermunicipal Structure Agenda is that the landscape must play the leading part in spatial development. Almost all of the larger green areas in Kerkrade have been classified as XL, which means that they are of great importance to the region. New developments must enhance the quality, use and perception of the green values in our region.

One of the ways in which population shrinkage will manifest itself will be in a decrease in the number of housing units and therefore the built-up area. The way in which this will happen in Kerkrade is set out in the regional Restructuring Agenda for the Housing Stock. The restructuring will create more space, which will provide an opportunity to further improve the town’s spatial quality. This also gives rise to new spatial planning options for the continuing development of tourism and recreation. In this way, a declining population can act as leverage for an improvement in quality. Opportunities will also be created for (the restoration of) green structures in the urban area. Within these structures, especially the stream and dry



KEY TO SYMBOLS:

- Landscape framework
- Landscape framework outside the municipal boundary
- Water
- Stream/vaulting
- Main Ecological Network (MEN)
- Provincial Green Development Zone (POG)
- Ecological corridor
- Designated area for green corridor
- Restoration of stream valley/stream landscape
- Municipal boundary

valleys, it will be an obvious move to combine them with reserving space for water. In this way, Kerkrade will be better able to deal with the negative effects of climate change in future.

The areas and corridors of which green space and landscape developed in Kerkrade are indicated on the “Landscape and green space – development” map. The map also provides an overview of the Main Ecological Network, the Provincial Development Areas and the Ecological Corridors.

In order to promote the quality of the natural environment, the Provincial Environment Plan for Limburg (POL) states that a robust cross-border green structure is required. Nature reserves have been linked together to form a nature network which really helps to improve ecosystems.

The objective of the Province of Limburg is to create the cross-border Main Ecological Network (MEN) during the period up to 2018. The aim of this is to safeguard important nature reserves and the plant and animal species that live there. The Provincial Green Development Zone (POG) contains designated areas for new nature and ecological corridors in addition to the existing woodland and nature reserves. This zone

is approximately 29,000 hectares in area and contains a major part of the ecological corridors, partly consisting of stream valleys containing streams with a specific ecological function where additional corridors have been provided. The provincial woodland objectives have mostly been achieved in this regard.

The essential characteristics and values in the MEN are protected by applying the principle of “no, unless”. New plans, projects or actions are not permitted if they have a significant detrimental effect on the essential characteristics or values of the area. Only in the case of a major social benefit and in the absence of realistic alternatives will an assessment be carried out in each case to establish whether the benefit of the activity outweighs the benefit of the values to be protected. Kerkrade has decided in principle not to allow any new red developments in the green areas (outer area). When drawing up a new zoning plan for the outer area, the municipality will adopt the basic principles of the provincial policy concerning the Limburg Quality Menu.

Where such activities do have to be permitted, compensation must take place in accordance with the provincial policy rules on supporting measures and

compensation for natural features. This is based on the principle that as many damage mitigation measures as possible should be taken. Any damage which is caused must be compensated. The municipality embraces this policy because it promotes its most important basic quality: the landscape in and around Kerkrade. This policy also lays solid foundations for connecting the new green areas and corridors which will be created as a result of population shrinkage and restructuring.

As stated above, Kerkrade wishes to raise its profile as a “parkstad” (park town) and achieve this by strengthening the stream valleys, bringing green space into the town and making the urban peripheries green. The course which has been embarked upon to enhance the entrances to the town will continue. In the larger built-up residential areas, small but beautiful and user-friendly green areas, known as “stepping stones”, will be laid out. Implementing these initiatives requires a tailored approach and is closely linked to the locations where the restructuring is taking place. In many places where green corridors can be created, there is currently a large-scale built-up area of monotonous appearance. There are no green qualities and there is insufficient space to create significant green spaces. In some peripheral





areas too, there is currently hardly any green space. The designated zones for possible green corridors are indicated on the “Landscape and green space – development” map. Finally, restructuring and area-specific development provide an opportunity to create greater unity and a higher standard of quality when designing public space. This takes the image and perception of the space in the town to a higher level.

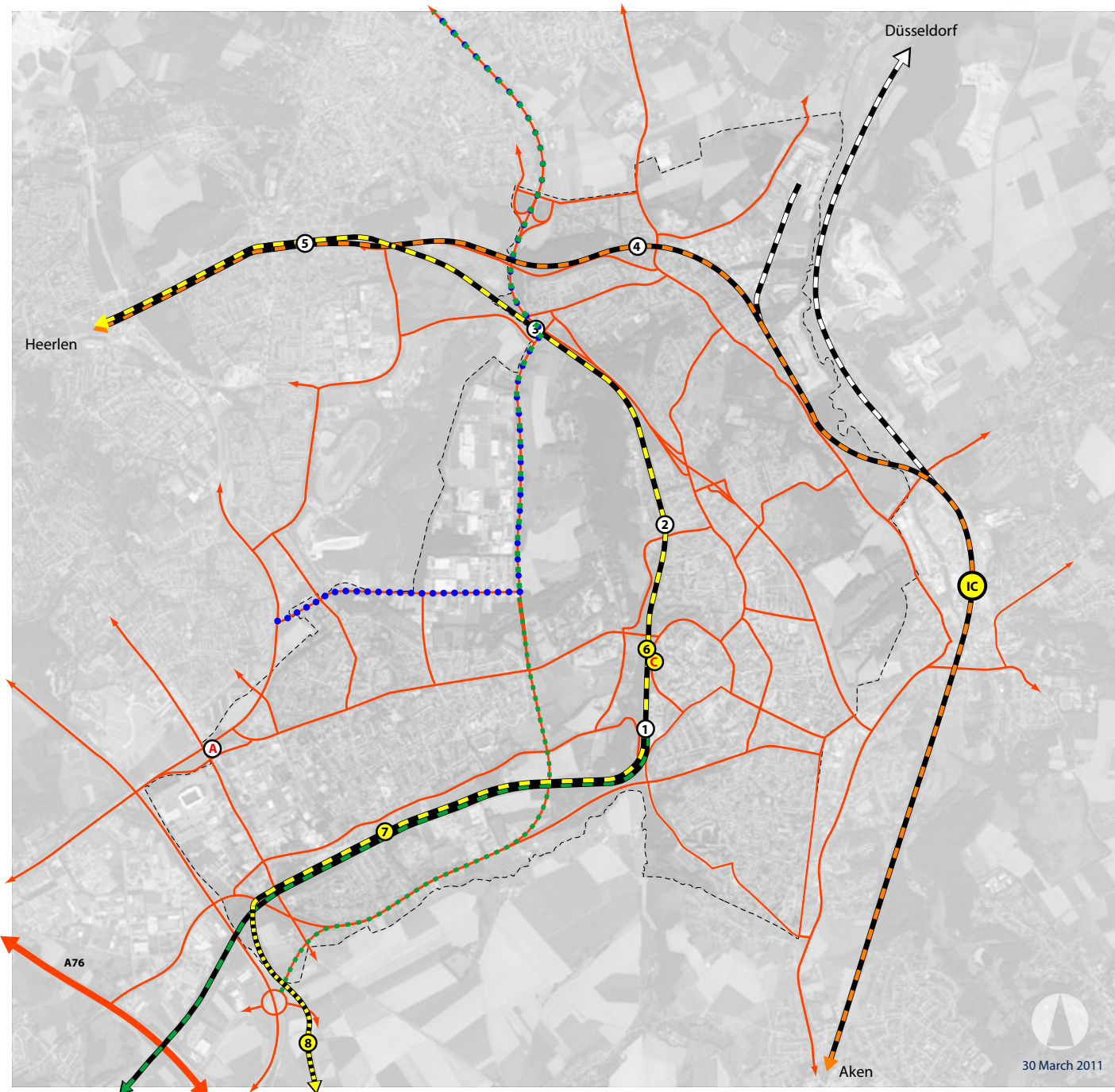
#### Landscape and green space

What do we want to be?

- a vibrant “parkstad” with a high-quality everyday environment.

What are we going to do?

- use population shrinkage as leverage for improving spatial quality
- allow spatial development to be guided by the landscape
- strengthen the stream valley structure
- reinforce green values and nature reserves within the “parkstad” concept
- create green corridors and green stepping stones in residential districts
- continue to use green qualities as a basis for growth in tourism and recreation
- create more unity and quality in public space
- further enhance the quality of the entrances to the town
- include the aspects of urban water reporting and climate adaptation as an integral part of new spatial plans.



KEY TO SYMBOLS:

- District access roads
- Rail (passenger and goods)
- Rail (Avantis line)/new route
- Rail (tourist)/"Miljoenlijntje"
- Rail (IC Heerlen - Aachen)
- Route specified for outer ring road
- Kerkrade's preferred outer ring road
- Kerkrade station
- Chevreumont station
- Eygelshoven station
- Eygelshoven-Markt station
- Landgraaf station
- New light rail station - Atrium
- New light rail station - Spekholzerheide
- New light rail station - Avantis
- Eurode station with future plans for IC
- Stadium bus station (Rodaboulevard)
- New bus station in Kerkrade town centre
- Municipal boundary



### 3.1.2 Networks: developing infrastructure and mobility

This strategic structure agenda repeatedly stresses how important it is for Kerkrade and the region to have the best possible accessibility in order to exploit opportunities and possibilities. Kerkrade is focusing on improving transport links and making public transport attractive. The town intends to improve accessibility by creating a high-quality and uniform infrastructure.

The most important factors for the future development of Kerkrade is the development of the road network and the development of the rail infrastructure. Both are indicated on the “Infrastructure – development” map.

#### Development of the road network

Considerable changes will be made to Kerkrade’s road network in the next few years. These consist mainly of the construction of the outer ring road, but also – on a smaller scale – the continued work on a permanently safe road network in the town and district, built around good road management and good road signage. Parking policy must assist Kerkrade’s development.

#### Outer ring road development

The outer ring road project involves the construction of a provincial road that combines with the A76 and the N281 to form a complete ring road around the region. The aim is to improve links to national and international and regional and interregional roads and to boost economic and tourism and recreation structure in the region. The outer ring road will also improve the accessibility of the existing residential areas and traffic safety and the quality of life in these areas.

According to the requirements of the project initiators (the initiator is the Province of Limburg, which is working in close cooperation with the Parkstad Limburg region in this project), the outer ring road is to become a fully fledged motorway with two carriageways (with two lanes per carriageway) and a design speed of 100 km per hour (outside built-up areas). The “Infrastructure – development” map shows two alternatives on Kerkrade’s territory. The outer ring road is expected to become operational in 2015.

In Germany, there are also plans for the construction of the B258n as an extension of the existing B258 and therefore the road connecting the Aachen region with

the outer ring road and an alternative to the German L232 ring road. However, agreement has not yet been reached in this regard on the German side. The municipality of Kerkrade opposes the construction of the B258n because it would have a detrimental effect on the scenically and ecologically valuable Crombacherbeek Valley and the neighbouring Horbacher Börde.

In the summer of 2010, the Province presented the draft Provinciaal Inpassingsplan (PIP) for the outer ring road for inspection. The municipality of Kerkrade submitted a wide-ranging opinion. Kerkrade considers that insufficient evidence has been submitted to demonstrate the utility and necessity of the option in question. In addition, in its proposed form, the road gives rise to a number of problems on various fronts. The municipality of Kerkrade therefore opposes the preferred option and itself prefers the tunnel road option which has been investigated as one of the alternatives. Both options are indicated on the development map. On 8 October 2010, the Provincial Council of Limburg approved the Inpassingsplan for the Parkstad Limburg outer ring road and therefore the route preferred by the province and the region.



WERKVERKEER



Upgrading the entrance to the town:  
Locht roundabout (Kerkrade West)

### Sustainable Safety

As part of the “Sustainable Safety” programme, all the roads in Kerkrade – just as in the rest of the country – have been divided into three categories, namely:

- Freeways (motorways).
- Distributor roads (roads that connect the freeways to residential areas).
- Access roads (roads that provide access to residential and business properties).

The categorisation highlights residential areas. These are areas in which cars have equal status to cyclists and pedestrians and a maximum speed of 30 km an hour applies.

The transition points from distributor roads to residential areas must be clearly signposted. In addition, as few (physical and legal) traffic measures as possible are in force in residential areas.

The result that the Sustainable Safety programme aims to achieve:

- a “calmer” streetscape with fewer traffic accidents;
- a properly functioning road network that suits users;
- clear information for road users.

The upgrading of the residential areas is scheduled for completion in 2011.

Figure 12. New IC link between Heerlen and Aachen

### Development of urban ribbons

Section 2 describes the urban ribbons in Kerkrade and also refers to the functional changes which they have undergone over time. It is essential for the identity and the special character of Kerkrade to respect the existing ribbon structures. This can only be done by reinforcing specific functions on the ribbons (e.g. the business locations on them) or by changing them (e.g. by giving unoccupied shop and business premises a residential function). The traffic function can be reduced in certain places by making roads only accessible to slow-moving traffic or public transport. The layout of these roads must be designed accordingly. The “Housing – development” map (Section 3.1.3) shows the ribbons where these developments are envisaged.

### Development of rail infrastructure

In view of Kerkrade’s location, good – international – rail links are an important precondition for development. At the present time, Kerkrade is mainly a rail terminus, but this is about to change. The main developments at a glance:



### Development of intercity (IC) link between Heerlen and Aachen

An important result of the cooperation between the City Region of Parkstad Limburg and the City Region of Aachen is the boosting of cross-border public transport. In this context, the intercity line connecting Amsterdam, Eindhoven and Heerlen is being extended to Aachen (Aachen University of Technology (RWTH) Campus and Aachen Hauptbahnhof). There, passengers will be able to transfer to fast international rail connections such as the Thalys and the ICE. In order to make it eventually possible to operate this

link to Aachen sustainably and effectively, a number of technical alterations will have to be made – in addition to the already planned construction of the bypass track in Landgraaf. This involves, among other things, a doubling of the track and electrification on the section of line between Heerlen and Herzogenrath. Figure 12 shows the planned IC route and its link to Kerkrade.

#### *Development of Avantis line*

The trains from Maastricht and Heerlen that currently terminate in Kerkrade-Centrum will in future continue on a short stretch of new track to the HST station in Aachen via Aachen-Richterich and the RWTH Campus. They will then travel on to Stolberg, Eschweiler and Düren. This new link is called the Avantis line, named after the cross-border Avantis Science and Business Park. The existing track between Kerkrade Centrum and Kerkrade West stations will be modified so that it can be used by modern trains. Approximately four kilometres of new rail track will be laid between Spekholzerheide and Aachen-Richterich, which completely opens up Avantis business park. From Richterich the track can then be connected to the existing main Aachen-Düsseldorf line. New stations are

also planned. In Kerkrade these have been provided at the Atrium Centre and Spekholzerheide (Kerkrade West). The two stations are a major stimulus for the area-specific development that Kerkrade has in mind for both locations. These modifications and extensions provide new opportunities even for the historic steam train (ZLSM), because these trains can continue on into Aachen (Figure 13).

#### **New public transport hub**

In connection with the redevelopment of the Atrium site and the construction of a new Atrium light rail station, Kerkrade intends to investigate the possibilities of moving the existing bus station from Oranjeplein to Casper Sprokelstraat. This would mean building a new public transport hub on the west side of the town centre which would improve the accessibility of the facilities in the centre and of Garvenrode Park (Erenstein and Gaiapark).

#### **Slow-moving traffic**

In addition to good links for public transport and motor traffic, Kerkrade believes it important to have good links for slow-moving traffic (bicycles and pedestrians). In the district agendas for the West,

East and North districts, improvements and/or the construction of new slow-moving traffic links for daily use (e.g. to school, work and other facilities) and recreational use will be further investigated.

## Transport

What do we want to be?

- a town with good transport links
- a town with a sustainably safe arrangement of residential districts

What are we going to do?

- improve road access
- construct new rail links with Germany (intercity and Avantis line)
- construct new stations at Atrium and Spekholzerheide
- complete the sustainable safety programme in the districts
- (investigate the possibilities of) creating a new public transport hub on the west side of the town centre
- conduct an investigation into improving and/or constructing new slow-moving traffic links for daily and recreational use

### 3.1.3. Occupation: spatial planning development

The most notable and most radical requirement in terms of land management in Kerkrade is the need to restructure the housing stock as a result of population shrinkage and changes in the composition of the population. Following on from this, changes will be made over the next few years involving purpose-built facilities, the town centre and the district centres and a number of urban ribbons. The way in which facilities, infrastructure and housing link together also has consequences for the quality of life. Population shrinkage therefore requires an integrated approach in which social, physical and economic aspects play an important part.

What is new in Kerkrade is the way in which these interventions are viewed. For the first time, it has opted for “integrated area-specific development”, an approach adopted and implemented by all the parties together, starting in Kerkrade West.

#### The housing stock

In order to implement the 2006 Regional Housing Agenda, the Parkstad municipalities and the 11 housing corporations operating in the region developed a joint strategic agenda for the restructuring of the housing market in Parkstad Limburg for the period 2010-2020.

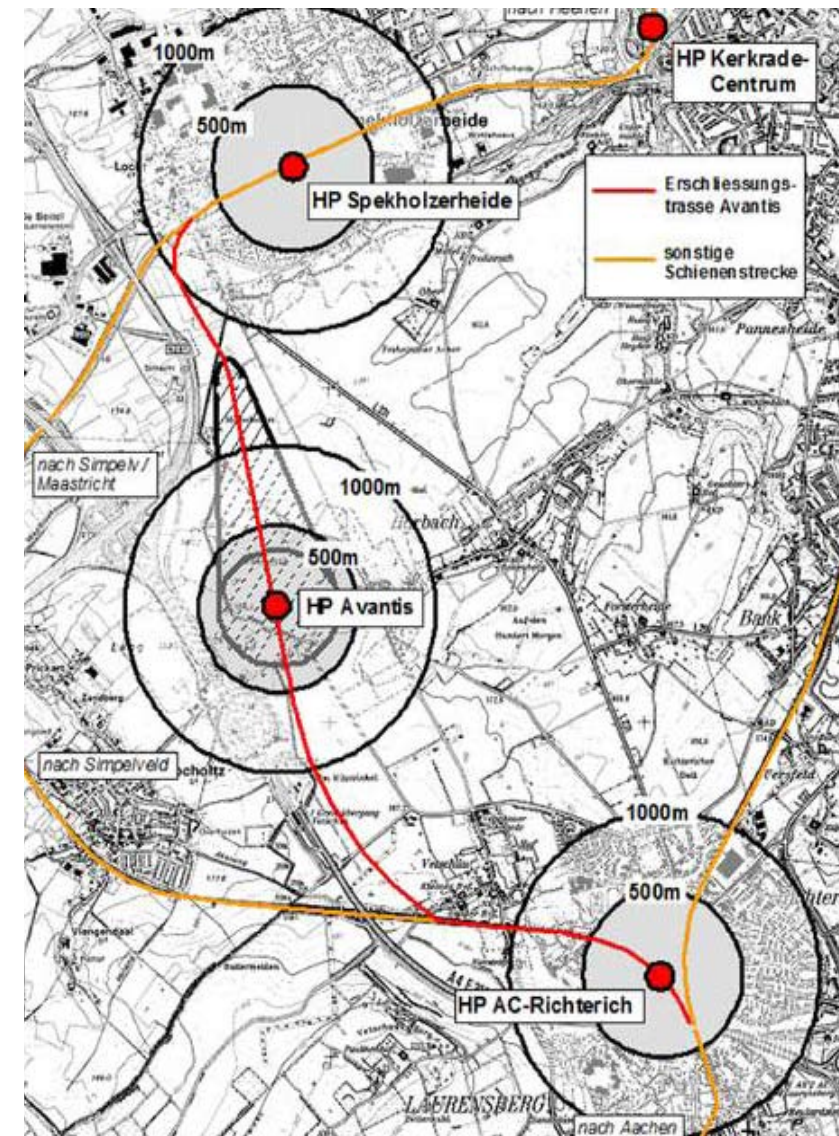
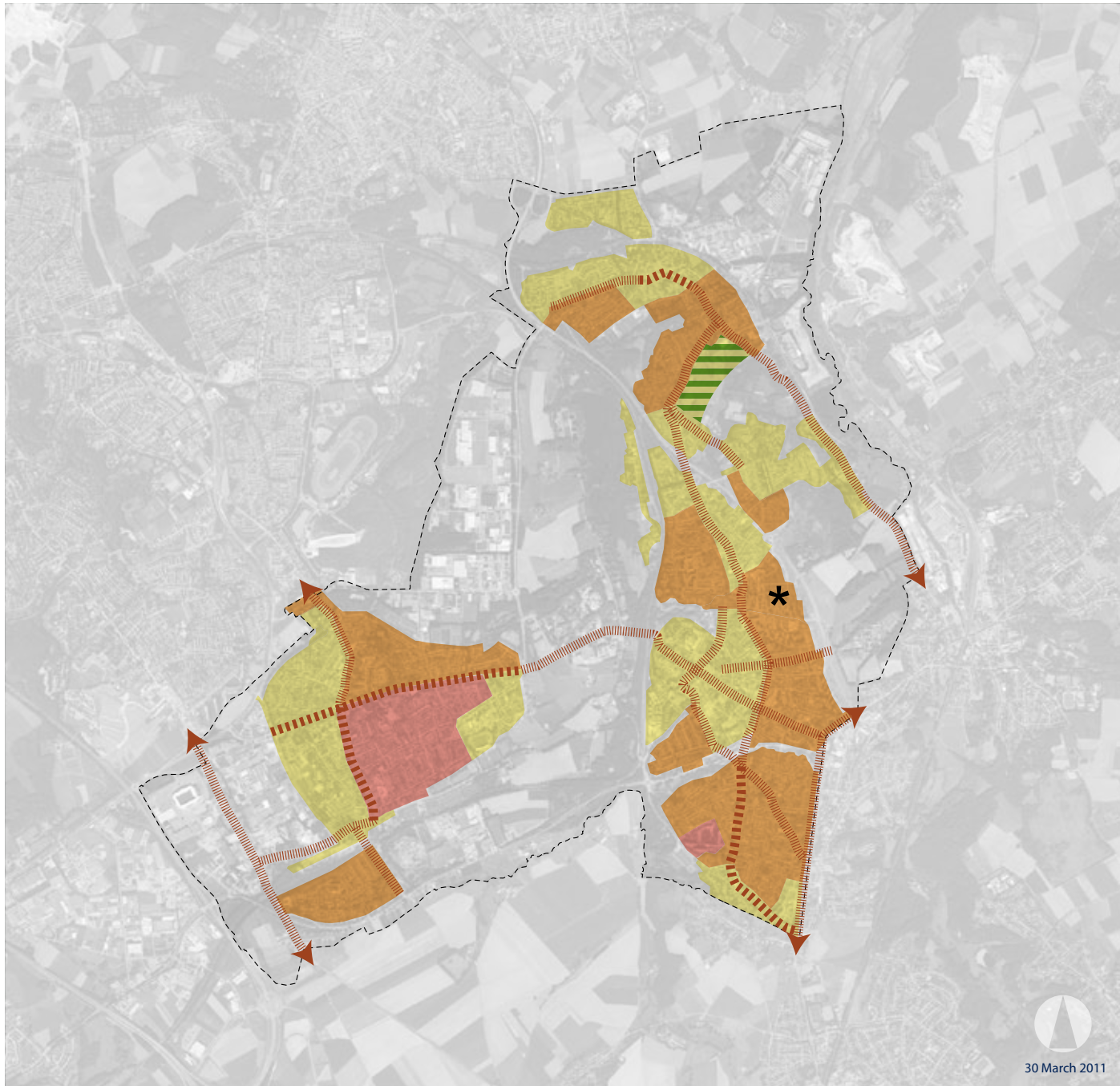


Figure 13. The Avantis line with stations



KEY TO SYMBOLS:

- Management areas
- Clearance areas
- Development area - pilot
- Homes in a green setting
- Municipal boundary
- Existing ribbons
- Ribbons, to be developed
- \* Special plan development envisaged

Housing — development



30 March 2011



The result is the “Restructuring Agenda for the Housing Stock of Parkstad Limburg” which was adopted at the end of 2009. In terms of the theme of “housing”, the Restructuring Agenda is the regional framework for local strategic structure agendas, district agendas and their implementation. The Restructuring Agenda is also the basis for determining the resources required and instruments to be developed. These follow-up steps are set jointly by municipalities and housing corporations at district level.

The transformation task up to 2020 has been formulated by each municipality in the form of an “envelope” on the basis of recent population forecasts, vacancy rates and “hard” or agreed housebuilding plans. This envelope consists of a qualitative and quantitative transformation task with a target date of 1 January 2010. Because the envelope is the basis of the task, it was adopted by all the partners. The figures will be monitored annually.

The Restructuring Agenda contains information at regional, municipal and district level. The arrangements for Kerkrade are shown on the “Housing – development” map.

**1. Management areas:**

Areas where, in principle, no restructuring of the housing stock is taking place, except for the completion of any “hard” housebuilding plans already scheduled (known as ABC plans). Other developments can take place there, provided that they do not involve the restructuring of the housing stock. The areas are indicated in yellow on the “Housing– development” map.

**2. Clearance areas:**

Areas in which quality can be improved by clearing housing, reducing the pressure on the public area, providing green spaces and improving the quality of life in general, e.g. demolition and rebuilding but also merging and modifying housing units. The areas are indicated in orange on the “Housing– development” map.

**3. Development areas:**

Areas in which the municipalities (and partners) have already drawn up (integrated) plans in the light of population shrinkage, which involve a change in structure and function. These areas are indicated in light red on the “Housing– development” map. Heilust-Kaalheide and Vroenhof-Bleijerheide have

KERKRADE			
Opgave 2010-2020	WONINGEN	Toelichting	Bron/overige
	1.681	Onttrekking door afname huishoudens en terugbrengen leegstand tot 2%.	Bron: Prognost 2009 E,tl en Monitor Leegstand 2009 Parkstad Limburg, gegevens per 31-12-2009
	942	Verwachte netto toevoegingen ABC plannen	Bron: Monitor Regionale Woningbouwprogrammering 2009, gegevens per 31-12-2009
	263	Verwachte toevoegingen zorgwoningen	Bron: Programmering Zorgwoningen, d.d. 27-1-2010
	2.886 Maximale onttrekking	De grootte van de totale onttrekking tot en met 2020 is afhankelijk van realisatie van de verwachte toevoegingen: het zijn “communicerende vaten”.	
	---	Vervangingsopgave: kwalitatieve aanpassing en/of transformatie van de bestaande woningvoorraad	In het Burgeronderzoek Parkstad Limburg 2009 zijn geen vragen over dit thema gesteld, dus geen gegevens beschikbaar
	2886	netto toevoeging door 'overige plannen': DvE plannen en overige bij de gemeente bekende capaciteiten	Bron: Woonmonitor 2009 Parkstad Limburg, gegevens d.d. 31-12-2009

Transformation task: the envelope for Kerkrade

Source: Restructuring Agenda for Parkstad Limburg



New buildings at Kloosterpark in Pannesheide (Bleijerheide)



been designated as development areas for Kerkrade. The area-specific development of Heilust-Kaalheide was addressed dynamically as long ago as 2009 as part of the Limburg District Approach (see below). The municipality and the Land van Rode housing corporation began preparations for the area-specific development of Vroenhof-Bleijerheide in 2010.

#### Transformation task

In Kerkrade, 2,886 housing units, both rented and owner-occupied, are to be withdrawn from the existing stock in the period up to 2020. Specific urban – and possibly also regional – policy is required, especially with regard to the withdrawal of owner-occupied housing.

#### New building developments

The task from the Restructuring Agenda is in line with Kerkrade's ambitions for new building, most of which are included in the regional housebuilding programme 2006-2010. This programme was adopted in 2007 and contains new building plans in categories A to E. The so-called A, B and C plans are "hard plans", which means that they can for the time being be implemented without being assessed in accordance with the region's quality requirements and/or without

its permission. Any other plans must first be critically assessed in accordance with the working method agreed for regional housebuilding plans before being presented to the Parkstad Limburg management board for approval.

Some of the "hard" plans have now been implemented or are in progress and others have ground to a halt, whereas the implementation of some plans is no longer considered desirable. With a view to the programme for 2011 and beyond, these hard plans will therefore have to be critically reviewed as well. After all, each plan which is not being built makes a "contribution" to the restructuring, which means that fewer housing units have to be removed from the existing stock. In the coming period, Kerkrade, in consultation with its regional partners, will decide which plans can be retrieved from the programme and how this will be possible.

Despite the restructuring task, additional new building will still be required in order to maintain and boost the quality of the town and its quality of life. These new plans will also have to secure a place in the housing programme which has yet to be drawn up, e.g. by swapping with other plans and/or linking to

# Centrumplan Eygelshoven Materialisatie

## Legenda

- 0 = Bestaande beplanting
  - 1 = Platanus acerifolia maat 40
  - 2 = Acer platanoides 'Emerald Queen' maat 20-25
  - 3 = Carpinus betulus 'Fraxi Fontaine' maat 20-25
  - 4 = Gleditsia triacanthos 'sunburst' maat 20-25
  - 5 = Bux meserveae 'Blau Prince'
- Onderbeplanting monumenten (Pustak, St. Jansstraat en Fortboenders) = Bux meserveae 'Blau Prince'  
(hoop plantlichtheid)

- ⊙ = Lichenvoslen parkeren
- ⊙ = Lichspots maaltijd
- ⊙ = Straatmeubilair (bankjes / prullankbak)
- ⊙ = Wegvoerkamering 'Inox Clou' WVS 11a (geplaatst met betonbewerping a155)
- ⊙ = parkoverplaatsaansluiting (P-angel) (VetcoA)
- = Chinese hardsteen (80x120x20/20 cm)
- = 18/20 banden zwart natuursteen tegel
- = 18/20 band zwart
- = PWS band zwart
- = Banden Voska (zwart)
- = Indisch gres plattes recht verband (14x14x7,9 cm)
- = Portugees graniet ketjes (18x10x15x10 cm)
- = Portugees graniet ketjes slijmnet verband (18x10x15x10 cm)
- = Bestaande bestroting behouden en aansluiten tot aan wegwak
- = 'Reflecting white' idalt
- = Hellingbaan beton (zwart) zwart gres
- = Opslagplaats tusschaltor beton (zwart)
- = Topp plein, tennis en kull chinese hardsteen
- = Wegvlak: Straatvlaksteen keformaat (keperverband) KLEUR: PM
- = Parkeren: Straatvlaksteen (halfsteenverband) KLEUR: PM
- = Loopstrook: Straatvlaksteen (halfsteenverband) KLEUR: PM
- = Fietspad: rood idalt



Oktober 2009

demolition sites. In the next ten years, Kerkrade will not just be demolishing but also building, altering and improving to order.

The “Housing – development” map also contains information on a number of other important subjects:

#### Limburg District Approach: pilot scheme in Kerkrade West

As part of the Limburg District Approach, an initiative of the Province of Limburg, the whole of Kerkrade West has been included as one of the five pilot districts in Parkstad. The aim of the Limburg District Approach is to speed up the restructuring process and at the same time improve the quality of life in the area. Kerkrade is giving this process a very high priority and has developed this pilot scheme into a District Agenda with its own implementation programme. The municipality of Kerkrade, Woonmaatschappij Hestia *group*, the City Region of Parkstad Limburg and the Province of Limburg are jointly the clients for the preparation of the District Agenda. Residents, businesses, institutions, clubs and societies in Kerkrade

West are closely involved in preparing the agenda, which also consists of an implementation programme, a communication plan and a management plan for the area to be restructured. The area of Heilust-Kaalheide, which is included in the Restructuring Agenda the development area, definitely forms part of this approach. The way in which the Kerkrade West pilot scheme has been addressed is expected to be of national interest. At regional and provincial level, the project is considered an example of the way in which the consequences of population shrinkage are dealt with.

#### Special plan development: Rolduckerveld

The Restructuring Agenda also describes locations in which special plans will be developed. In these areas, there is a special situation concerning the restructuring of the housing stock which can be typified as exemplary (trendsetting) and relevant to several locations inside and outside the region which have identical issues. For Kerkrade, special plans are being developed in Rolduckerveld. This location is one of the first areas in the region in which large-scale

demolition has taken place in response to the first symptoms of population shrinkage. At this location, Kerkrade is developing the idea of a green buffer in the form of a forest adventure park and “tree factory”. This development gives concrete form to the concept of making the town green and it also sets the trend in Limburg and in the region on this subject.

#### Strengthening of ribbons

Some of the historic ribbons of the town which in the past played a major part in the creation of Kerkrade have been designated as zones that require an additional boost. Wide red hatching on the “Housing – development” map indicates where the quality of the ribbons can do with improvement. This improvement process has already started in the Akerstraat (West) and Veldhofstraat (North) ribbons which are dilapidated and contain vacant properties. The options for strengthening the ribbon which is formed by Bleijerheiderstraat and Pannesheiderstraat will be set out in the East district agenda.

### Strengthening of centres

A lively and multifunctional town, village and district centre is needed to allow the town and district to function properly. A number of centres have therefore been given a star to indicate the desirability of strengthening them. In Kerkrade, the town centre and the centres in the West (Carboonplein) and North (Eygelshoven Centre) districts qualify for further strengthening. These are discussed in greater detail in the section on “town centre facilities” (see “Facilities – development” map)

### Regional Programme, SCBA and Regional Housing Agenda

The Regional Programme contains the frameworks for restructuring the housing stock and also links up with other policy areas. In order to put the restructuring into effect, the Transformation Fund has been created,

which is linked to the regional Transformation Plan. The aim of this is to reduce the excessive amount of vacant property in the region. In order to achieve this goal, research is also being conducted at regional level to ascertain what additional measures are needed and possible. The options include merging housing units, converting housing units to sheltered accommodation and developing an approach to the private housing stock. Research is also being conducted to ascertain how building titles can be withdrawn with as little risk as possible of loss or damage due to planning decisions. These additional measures are set out in the report “Onorthodoxxxxxx” (2010).

In the spring of 2010, the City Region of Parkstad Limburg commissioned a Social Cost-Benefit Analysis (SCBA) to ascertain whether it would be worthwhile to invest in areas affected by population shrinkage. The conclusion of this analysis was that this was indeed

the case. The SCBA therefore provides further support for the restructuring which has been set in motion.

The Regional Housing Agenda dates from 2006 and is due for review. Together with the housing corporations and the neighbouring municipalities, Kerkrade will contribute to this review which will be completed in 2011.

Kerkrade and the housing corporations will of course also be actively involved over the next few years in deciding how the restructuring of the housing stock will be worked out and tackled.

### Housing

What do we want to be?

- a town with a suitable housing stock and an attractive environment in which to live

What are we going to do?

- join forces with partners to continue developing and implementing the Restructuring Agenda
- implement area-specific development in Kerkrade West based on the district agenda
- implement area-specific development in Vroenhof-Bleijerheide based on the district agenda
- implement the special plan development in Rolduckerveld
- strengthen a number of ribbons



The Rolduckerveld Tree Factory (Source: Municipality of Kerkrade)

### 3.1.4 Sustainability

In terms of spatial development, Kerkrade aims to achieve a sustainable urban environment with a high-quality working, living and everyday environment for its residents. Under the heading of “Energy as a foundation”, sustainability is one of the six pillars in the Intermunicipal Structure Agenda and will form the basis of future decisions which will also have to be taken in Kerkrade. This approach is also in line with the principles of the Regional Programme “Towards a sustainably vital region” (July 2010). Sustainability therefore plays an important part in the district agenda for Kerkrade West. The district was subjected to a sustainability scan which included the aspects “people”, “planet” and “profit”. In the accompanying implementation programme, the task of improving sustainability was developed in projects. The shared ambition for Kerkrade West is to make the entire district energy-neutral by 2040. By adopting this way of working, Kerkrade is taking a first step towards elaborating the regional agenda on sustainability. External financing or co-financing is an important prerequisite for continued success in future.

Sustainable development is a concept that combines ecological, economic and social benefits. Finding ways

of applying sustainability is therefore a key objective in strategic policy. Kerkrade intends to lead the way with sustainable, low-energy solutions for areas such as housebuilding, urban development and road construction. It is looking both to “new energy” (as referred to in the Parkstad Agenda and the Regional Programme) and to practical sustainable applications for use in developing the districts. For example, the discharge of rainwater has been disconnected from the sewer system almost everywhere in the town. Kerkrade aims to strike a balance between the well-being of people, concern for the environment and economic opportunities. Kerkrade’s view of sustainability is set out in its Social Climate Policy Plan 2009-2012 in which physical and social goals are combined. In 2009, this policy was awarded “Triple-A status” by the Dutch Climate Alliance (Klimaatverbond).

Long-term arrangements have been set out in an agreement with the housing corporations and tenants’ federation in Kerkrade, the aim of which is to save energy in existing residential buildings. Saving energy cuts CO2 emissions and reduces energy bills for tenants and homeowners. New apartments and buildings will be designed to save energy and be

sustainable for both people and the environment and be in keeping with the dynamics of society. The project “Today’s district of tomorrow” in Kerkrade West is a good example of this. The Hestia *Group* has teamed up with Hogeschool Zuyd and the Woonpunt and Wonen Limburg housing corporations in this project to work on sustainable development. The aim is to renovate existing housing in a sustainable way using energy-saving technologies which have been conceived by students from the region.

Other examples are the partition of Kerkrade as schools in the “Energetic schools” project which is being implemented in Parkstad, the appointment of “energy advisers” and the organisation (in early 2010) of the second edition of Limburg’s Sustainability Day in Discovery Center Continium.

Trying to achieve a safe and sustainable town is not the sole responsibility of the municipality. Residents, businesses and institutions also have an important stake in creating a sustainable everyday environment. The municipality has the role of director in this process by promoting innovative applications. It is up to manufacturers and users to provide for needs that will ensure that future generations have a wider range of options. This new look at sustainability is



also known as the “cradle-to-cradle principle”. At the heart of this philosophy is the concept that waste is food. Products must be designed so that they can be reused without loss of quality. This idea is being further developed at local level by the municipality of Kerkrade. Because a focus on the environment plays a substantial part in urban development, information on the main environmental aspects are listed below.

#### Noise

To date, the “Long-term Action Plan on Noise” (2008) has not resulted in urban planning interventions or changes to the spatial structure.

#### Air quality

In recent years, the municipality of Kerkrade has conformed to the standards and – on the basis of national forecasts for car mobility and the associated atmospheric emissions – will also continue to do so in the near future.

#### Soil quality

As we know, Kerkrade is one of the towns in the region which has a mining past. From soil quality maps (1998 and 2006) it appears that the soil in the residential and outer areas of Kerkrade is, in general,

only slightly contaminated. In 2011, a new soil policy will be drawn up on the basis of the Dutch Soil Quality Decree, which may result in a few small-scale clean-up operations.

#### Sustainability

What do we want to be?

- a town with space for sustainable and experimental development

What are we going to do?

- include sustainability and the district agenda for Kerkrade West
- manage and develop with new energy in mind



The sons of Gaia: Gyges and Briareus



A safe environment is created by people

### 3.1.5 Safety

Safety is a theme that runs through all the subjects discussed in this strategic structure agenda. Safety is not an obvious subject but it is a basic precondition for ensuring a properly functioning society. Safety is also a precondition for hospitality and therefore for achieving Kerkrade's ambitions. We make a distinction between objective (measurable, e.g. based on reports) and subjective (as perceived by the public) safety. The Parkstad Limburg Public Survey (2009) showed that the degree to which people feel safe is partly determined by their living environment. People living in urban areas feel less safe than people living in rural areas. Kerkrade has an average rating within Parkstad.

The Dutch government has designated safety as an important core task and has determined that local authorities are in charge of safety at local level. To this end, it is preparing the Dutch Municipalities (Directive Role) Act [Wet regierol gemeenten] which will require local authorities to draw up a safety plan for a period of four years (2011-2015). Kerkrade takes this directive role extremely seriously and has started preparations for the safety plan. At all events, the main feature of this plan is its integrated nature as it

includes cooperation with all the partners involved in safety and consists of five areas of safety:

- safe living environment;
- business and safety;
- physical safety;
- young people and safety;
- integrity and safety.

The safety plan will result in an Annual Local Safety Programme.

In recent years, Kerkrade has gained experience in this way of working through drawing up safety plans for the districts. These District Safety Plans, which are being implemented in all the districts, will therefore serve as an example for the town's plan.

In the meantime, Kerkrade has adopted a proactive attitude towards both minor offences and serious crime. A dispersal and improvement policy has been established for certain types of business and selective use has been made of the options offered to local government by the instruments provided by administrative law (including Bibob). In addition, extensive use has been made of the powers included in the Opium Act [Opiumwet] to close so-called "drug houses". Kerkrade has two condoned coffee shops, one in Eyselshoven-Kom and the other in

Hammolenweg on the boundary between Kerkrade East and West.

A number of measures have also been taken in the areas of prevention, detention and after-care in order to improve safety and the perception of safety within the municipality. A good example is the Kerkrade Safety House. This joint-venture helps to prevent people from relapsing into undesirable behaviour such as theft, juvenile delinquency and crime, domestic violence and repeat offending. Projects such as Safe Living and Business Crime have also been initiated by the municipality and implemented jointly with housing corporations, the police, residents and businesses.

The above-mentioned District Safety Plans act as a guideline for the implementation of a wide variety of safety projects at district and neighbourhood level. Much attention is, for example, focused on traffic safety projects involving schools and on all kinds of nuisance in residential neighbourhoods. The housing corporations are essential partners in this respect as well. It is also worth noting the continued increase in "heart safety" due to the installation of defibrillators. Kerkrade is proud of this project, mainly because it is supported by an extensive network of volunteers

who have been specially recruited and trained for this purpose.

In order to be able to continue to act as appropriately as possible, Kerkrade is continuing to invest in cooperation with all the parties who are concerned with safety – such as the police, fire service, medical services, housing corporations and partners from social services.

### Safety

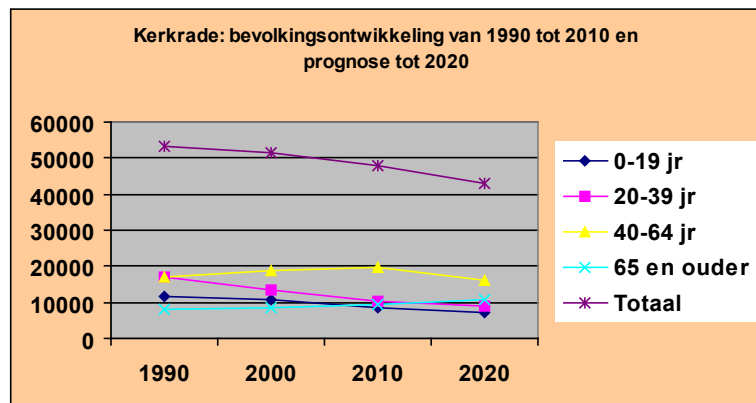
What do we want to be?

- a safe town for residents, business owners and visitors

What are we going to do?

- continue with our active approach to safety in the town and districts
- continue to work together on safety with residents, business owners and partners
- include the new directive role in the local Safety Plan and implementation programme

Figure 14.



Source: key figures on municipality of Kerkrade, 2009

Figure 15. Population trends in municipality of Kerkrade from 1990 to 2010 and forecast to 2020

Age group	1990	2000	2010	2020
0-19	11,549	10,595	8,395	7,100
20-39	16,829	13,317	10,345	9,000
40-64	16,864	18,848	19,541	15,900
65 and above	7,888	8,698	9,416	10,900
Total	53,130	51,458	47,694	42,800

Source: key figures on municipality of Kerkrade, 2009

## 3.2 Socio-economic development

### 3.2.1 Population

The population decline which has started and the change in the composition of the population are expected to continue in the decades to come. According to current forecasts, which are shown in Figure 14, the population is set to decline (shrink) by 11% by 2020. A major part of the decline is to be found in the younger section of the population (declining numbers of young people). For the first time, the group aged between 40 and 64 is also set to decline over the next 10 years. Residents over 65 years of age are the only section of the population expected to increase over the next 10 years. It is possible that the decrease in population is being made worse by a negative migration balance (more people moving out of Kerkrade than moving into it).

The number of households (the determining factor for the demand for housing) will for the first time decrease by 800 households from 27,700 to 26,900 over the next 10 years. The average household size will also decline, mainly as a result of the increase in single-person households.

Just like the surrounding Parkstad region, Kerkrade will therefore be confronted with population shrinkage, a phenomenon which has also been rising up the national agenda recently. At the end of 2009, the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG), the provinces (IPO) and the Dutch government jointly drew up the “Intermunicipal Action Plan on Population Decline”. This plan contains an analysis of the population shrinkage and details of actions to be taken to address the negative effects of shrinkage. Some specific examples of the consequences of shrinkage are falling property values, fewer facilities, an increasing number of vacant properties and the departure of various sections of the population. The consequences of shrinkage often build on each other and can result in a downward spiral. The plan lays down actions for the three regions which are currently the most seriously affected by population shrinkage: North-East Groningen, Zeeland Flanders and Parkstad Limburg. The actions included in the Regional Programme “Towards a sustainably vital region”, cover the subjects of “housing”, “space”, “education”, “labour market” and “raising awareness”. All the tiers of government (national, provincial, regional and local) and many social partners are involved in the implementation of the action plan. Kerkrade will be

closely involved in the implementation of the action plan under the auspices of the City Region of Parkstad Limburg.

### 3.2.2 Housing

Kerkrade will undergo a very extensive development of its housing stock in the decades to come. Because this will also have an immediate and far-reaching impact on the spatial structure, the development of housing is described in Section 3.1.3. "Occupation: spatial planning development".

### 3.2.3 Education

Obviously, the declining population has consequences for educational facilities. The number of pupils in primary education is expected to decrease by 9% over the next 10 years from 2,931 in 2010 to 2,686 in 2020. This decrease will gradually work its way through to secondary education. The number of pupils in special-needs primary education will decline by a similar percentage over the same period.

Education is one of the socio-societal facilities which are deemed to be "basic facilities" in Kerkrade. The development of these basic facilities requires low-threshold access from the districts. In view of the

figures quoted above, the course which has been embarked upon will continue or be completed in the years to come, concentrating high-quality educational facilities in six catchment areas. Because much has been achieved in recent years, future developments will be relatively limited. This can be clearly seen on the "Facilities – development" map which shows all the developments in colour.

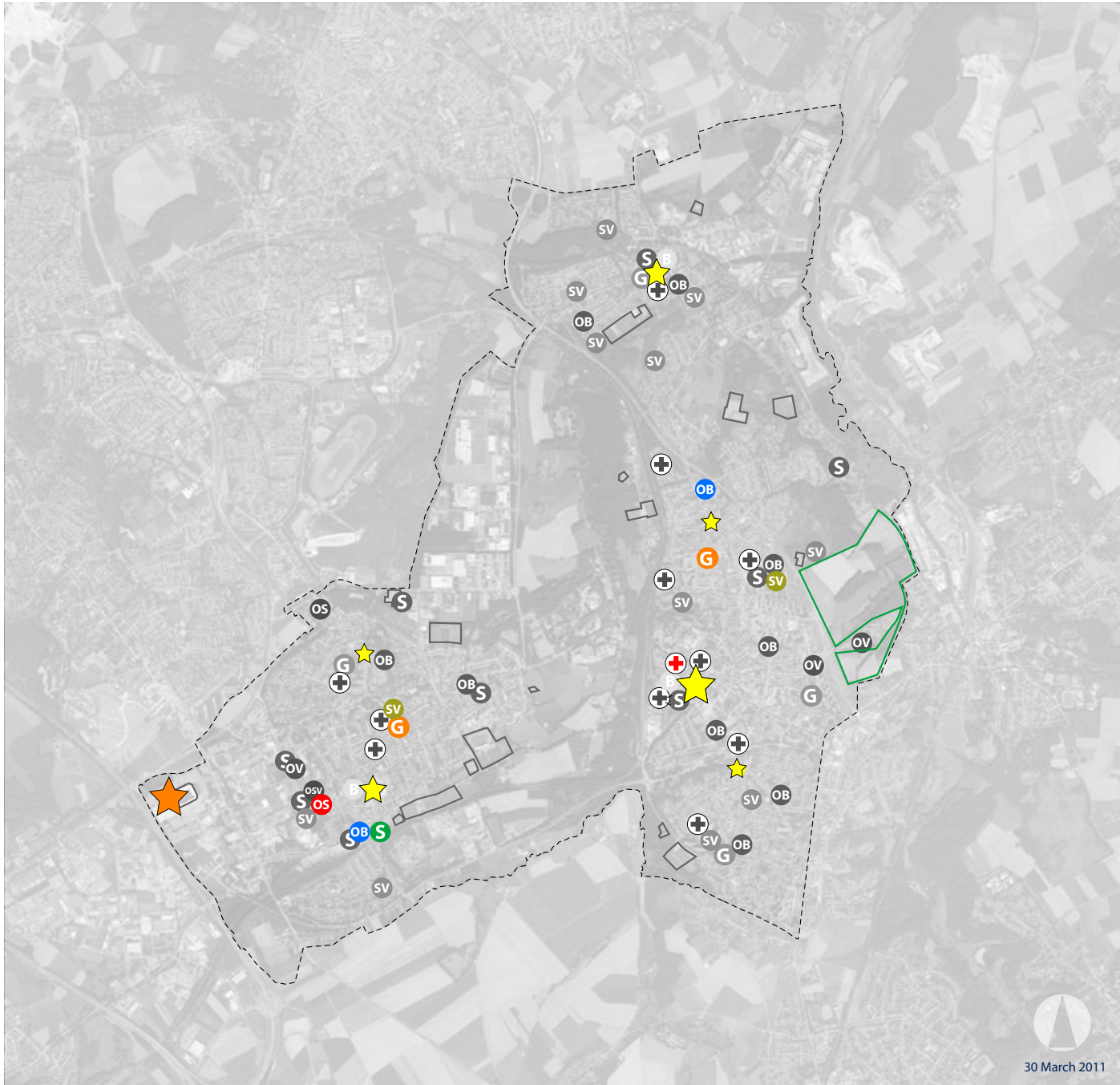
A new community education centre, in which the Gracht and Spekholzerheide primary schools will be combined, will be built on the Plein site in Kerkrade West. The new building will also contain a gym. This site was chosen because of its central location.

Arcadia, a new special-needs primary school, has also been built in Spekholzerheide in Kerkrade West.














In Kerkrade East, the primary school in Haanrade was closed in September 2010 and relocated to the "unilocatie" of "De Blokkenberg" in Chevremont (Akkerheide).

In secondary education, Charlemagne College is planning the merger of two sub-locations in Rolduc: the locations in Holz and the Abdij complex.





KEY TO SYMBOLS:

-  Retail - main centre
-  Retail - themed
-  Retail - district centre
-  Retail - neighbourhood centre
-  Nieuw - Outdoor sport facilities
-  New - Indoor sport facilities
-  New - Play facility
-  New - Community centre
-  New - Healthcare facility
-  New - Education facility - primary
-  New - Education facility - special needs primary
-  Various existing facilities
-  Municipal boundary



30 March 2011

The continued development of the “De Steltloper” community education centre in Kerkrade East into a focus for education, sport and culture in the district (including after school hours), will be an important priority over the coming period. A similar development is being attempted at the Campus. The significance of the complex for the district and the strengthening of cooperation between the various users will be on the agenda for the next few years.

The municipality has drawn up an “Integrated Accommodation Plan” in order to match supply and demand as closely as possible. This plan will have to take account of falling pupil numbers in primary and secondary education in good time. Finally, the plan provides for the monitoring of a suitable maintenance level for new and existing educational facilities.

The “Moelejaan” project, the aim of which is to detect and remedy language difficulties and delayed development in children, will be continued, as will the approach to early school leavers.

The “Euregioschool 2009-2012” project has been started to encourage bilingualism among pupils. The

project is in line with Kerkrade’s European ambitions and increases the opportunities for young people on the labour market.

#### Education

What do we want to be?

- a town with high-quality, accessible education

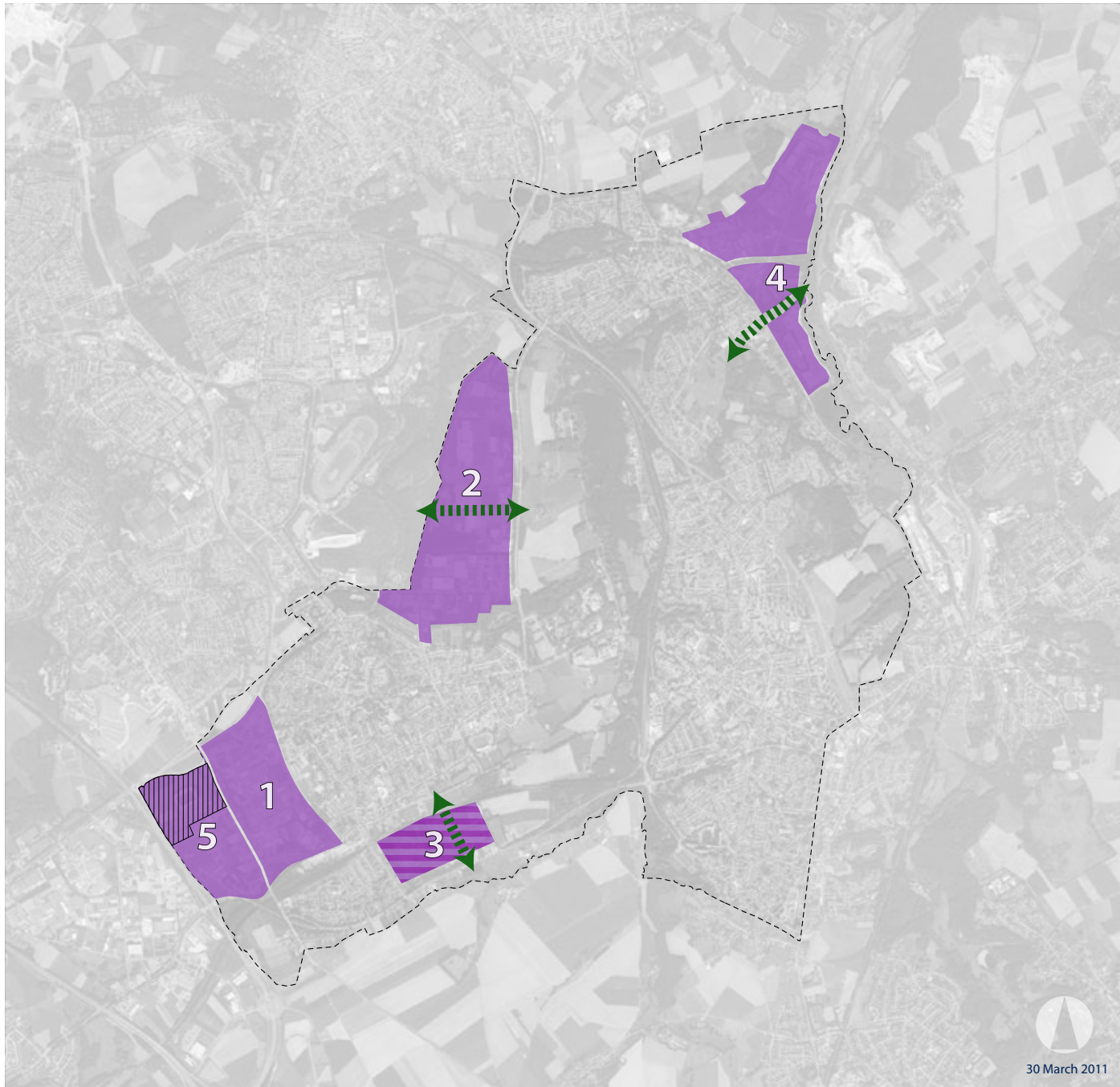
What are we going to do?

- complete the concentration of educational facilities
- reinforce the district function of community education centres and Campus
- continue the Moelejaan project and approach to early school leavers
- continue the Euregioschool 2009-2012 project






#### 3.2.4 Employment

Employment is of enormous importance to every town, especially in times of recession. It is the main factor that causes people to settle in a town and therefore determines its power of attraction to remain in the town or relocate to it. We saw in Section 2.3.4 how most employment in Kerkrade is provided on the five industrial estates and in the seven retail clusters (town, district and neighbourhood centres). The largest “employers” are industry, retail and healthcare. Between now and 2020, the working population is expected to fall by 17% from 21,200 to 17,500. And yet, in view of the uncertainty about economic trends, it is impossible at this time to estimate the number of unemployed in ten years’ time.

Kerkrade has boosted employment considerably in recent years and will continue to do so in future. Since 2006, Bedrijventerreinenmanagement Parkstad Limburg (BTM) has also been operating in Kerkrade to manage, restructure and provide common services on industrial estates. The first industrial estates, such as Spekholzerheide, have been successfully revitalised in this way and therefore retain their power of attraction



KEY TO SYMBOLS:

-  Industrial estate to be restructured
-  Industrial estate
  - 1 Spekholzerheide/Euregiopark
  - 2 Dentgenbach
  - 3 Willem Sophia
  - 4 Julia
  - 5 Rodaboulevard
-  Themed retail - sport and leisure
-  Designated area for green corridor
-  Municipal boundary



for employers. At the present time, the City Region of Parkstad Limburg is preparing a structural organisation to succeed BTM and take charge of the restructuring of the industrial estates in Parkstad. In addition to the municipalities, the partners in this process are the province, regional development company LIOF and Ondernemend Limburg. This effort is in line with the scheduled revitalisation of business locations in Parkstad, as included in the Regional Programme.

In Kerkrade West, the Willem Sophia industrial estate is scheduled for restructuring, which has been listed as part of the integrated area-specific development. At regional level, parties are working together to review the stock of vacant commercial properties. Finally, the total surface area of industrial estates will not be increased over the next few years.

Kerkrade is not forgetting the retail clusters (centres) either. A local retail survey has been carried out for all

the clusters. The results of the survey are being used to stimulate wherever possible the development of the centres, which has already started in Kerkrade West and in Eyselshoven, within the frameworks specified for this in the Intermunicipal Structure Agenda.

Membership of employers' organisations is being actively encouraged among businesses both in the town centre and in the district and neighbourhood centres. The "mutual entrepreneurs fund" has been successfully introduced in Kerkrade centre. Increasing membership of these organisations makes it possible to share knowledge and skill and make the best possible use of them. Start-up businesses are being actively mentored in Kerkrade to promote independent entrepreneurship. This requires a clear view of the relationship between supply and demand.

In order to be able to satisfy the demand from business and industry to the maximum extent

possible, Kerkrade is also working on strengthening the ties between educational institutions and employers. This is being done at local and regional level. The Foundation for Secondary Education in Parkstad Limburg (SVOPL), of which Charlemagne College in Kerkrade is a member, is one of the partners in Xperience Parkstad in which cooperation between education and industry is high on the agenda. At local level, Kerkrade is aiming to further develop cooperation with businesses. This involves, among others, the IBK, representing various industrial estates, and business associations, representing various retail clusters.

Kerkrade's position on the border can also give rise to opportunities. Kerkrade's position next door to Germany and the language knowledge of the local workforce have already been found to be positive factors. The same is true of the connecting function of the Eurode Business Center (EBC). Even more cross-

border activities and cooperation will be required. The possibilities of cooperation and exchange within the border area between Kerkrade and Aachen are being investigated with the local chamber of commerce and Aachen Chamber of Commerce and Industry and contacts are being strengthened. By making the level of facilities and the economic profile on both sides of the border transparent, the government will be able to contribute to the creation of new business opportunities.

The cross-border Dutch-German Avantis Science and Business Park, between Aachen and Heerlen, is of vital importance to the economic development of the Euroregion. Avantis can become the “fourth campus” of RWTH Aachen University. RWTH is one of the most important universities in Europe working in the area of new technologies. It is also the intention that Avantis should function as a production campus for businesses already conducting research on the other campuses in Aachen. This development could also have a positive impact on other aspects, such

as housing. Kerkrade aims to give the Werkplein Kerkrade job centre a more Euroregional character, in line with the town’s European ambitions.

Finally, most of the opportunities for new employment are in healthcare and the tourism and recreation sector. Healthcare, which is already a major source of employment, is expected to continue to grow as a consequence of the ageing population and is less sensitive to fluctuations in the economy. In the tourism and recreation sector, the regional tourism agenda forecasts an increase in total regional turnover of over €450 million in 2020, with Gravenrode Park and the Eurode Park remaining the main attractions.

## Employment

What do we want to be?

- an economically sound town with sufficient employment

What are we going to do?

- complete the restructuring of the industrial estates
- reinforce the centres on the basis of the new retail agenda
- continue to encourage entrepreneurship and cooperation with entrepreneurs
- improve the matching of education and employment
- exploit the border location
- strengthen the Euroregional nature of Werkplein Kerkrade
- exploit the “growth sectors” of health care and tourism and recreation





Development of town centre, part of master plan for Atrium site

### 3.2.5 Town centre facilities

The importance and the development options for all the town centre facilities in Parkstad are set out in the Intermunicipal Structure Agenda. The extent to which the centres are important to the region as a whole is indicated in the form of the “size labels” XL, L, M and S. The centre of Heerlen is labelled XL and will be developed as the main centre of the region. The facilities in the centre of Kerkrade are ranked as follows:

- Kerkrade Centre: L
- Kerkrade West (Carboonplein): M
- Kerkrade North (Eygelshoven): M
- Kerkrade East (Maria Gorettiplein): S
- Kerkrade East (St. Pieterstraat): S
- Kerkrade West (Piusplein): S

The municipality of Kerkrade is bound by this classification and the spatial impact of future plans will have to be assessed on this basis. Depending on the answer to the question whether the initiative supports or disturbs the structure, agreement may be required from the region and possibly the province (the “no, unless” principle).

### Town centre

Completely in line with the Intermunicipal Structure Agenda, Kerkrade intends to continue to develop and enhance the town centre. This is important for Kerkrade, but also for the region. The development of Kerkrade town centre and its importance for the region is stressed once again in the Regional Programme (2010), which also refers to the relationships with the area-specific outer ring road development and the development of the Avantis line. The improved access to the centre brought about by these infrastructural developments also creates the potential for attracting consumers from Germany.

For the town centre, the municipality aims to combine dynamism with an urban appearance while preserving the village-like, pleasant atmosphere which is experienced in the existing centre. The centre is the heart of the municipality and, as such, make a major contribution to the town's image. It is very important for the municipality as a whole to have a vibrant town centre that meets the changing needs and wishes of consumers. The future of the central area is based on the idea that it must be improved in the broadest sense of the word. The development of a top-quality, differentiated and compact shopping centre

with an efficient routing system is required. This is underlined by the Retail Planning Study produced for the implementation of the new centre plan. Such a shopping centre will effect the necessary improvement in the standard of the existing shops. The provision of other facilities will have to be maintained. In addition, the number of homes for young people and young families will have to be increased. Employment in the centre must at least be kept at the same level and all possible measures will have to be taken to increase it.

The development of the town centre also involves the Atrium site, the Theatre, the proposed new station at the Atrium site and the area around the Continium. The municipality has completed the planning procedure with regard to the zoning plan "Kerkrade Centre, Revision 1".

### District centres

In addition to the development of the town centre, there is scope for the development of two viable district centres, one in Kerkrade North (Eygelshoven) and the other in Kerkrade West (Carboonplein). The development of the two centres has been addressed. The new retailing centre of Kerkrade West was opened in autumn 2010. The refurbishment of the centre of



Development of town centre, model of Town Centre Plan

Eygelshoven, in which the Socioproject and the Markt are also being renovated, is now in full swing.

### Neighbourhood centres and other facilities

The other three centres (Maria Gorettplein, St. Pieterstraat and Piusplein) fulfil the role of



The new heart of Kerkrade West: Carboonplein (Source: bv Bruls en CO)

neighbourhood facility, which can provide for basic needs. In principle, all districts should continue to have a health centre and proper neighbourhood facilities. This can sometimes be achieved in collaboration with the organisations concerned. Where market forces are of vital importance to the operation of facilities, there is a noticeable trend towards making cutbacks. Facilities which are vital to the districts – and therefore the key objective of the policy – are the community centres, which serve as multifunctional facilities (MFFs). These were discussed in greater detail in the section on “Health and welfare”.

#### [Retail agenda](#)

Population shrinkage and ageing population, from which the Netherlands is increasingly suffering, are most in evidence in Parkstad Limburg. To achieve a healthy retail structure, it is important to make suitable provision in advance. The aim of the Parkstad Limburg Retail Structure Agenda 2010-2020 is to create a sustainable retail structure for the region. This involves preserving and improving the regional supply functions (including those of Kerkrade) to ensure

that they can cope with demographic trends and also includes a regional framework and methodology for agreements.

Parkstad's Regional Retail Structure Agenda outlines the situation in each municipality. Kerkrade centre is one of the regional supply centres, also known as satellite centres. These centres have a supply function for parts of the region (supra-local supply function). The municipality of Kerkrade occupies a special position as a municipality directly on the border with Germany and in particular regarding retail developments and the German retail planning system, as they have a substantial effect on Kerkrade's position as a retail supply centre.

The Retail Structure Agenda does not deal with the position of local retail concentrations (neighbourhoods and districts) in detail. In order to draw the correct conclusions and take the necessary actions to improve the retail experience in these shopping areas, a local retail structure agenda has therefore been drawn up for Kerkrade. It sets out the ambitions and the



opportunities, threats, strengths and weaknesses for each retail concentration. It forms the initial foundation for the actions to be taken over the next few years to improve the situation.

#### Town centre facilities

What do we want to be?

- a town with a lively town centre and healthy district and neighbourhood centres

What are we going to do?

- implement the Centre Plan
- complete the renovation of the district centres in West and North
- develop community centres to become social linchpins of the districts

### 3.2.6 Health and welfare

Many developments will continue to take place in the area of health and welfare which will influence the spatial structure and management of the town and its districts. As stated in Section 2, the percentage of Kerkrade's residents aged 65 and over is set to increase over the next 10 years (by an average of 1.5% to 2.0% per annum). It is this age group that determines to a great extent the nature and size of the demand for healthcare. The proportion of "non-active" residents (not in paid employment) is also increasing. This means that the demand for all kinds of social support is set to increase and the social support market is therefore a "growth market".

Kerkrade expects to be able to continue to meet the demand now and in future. This can take the form of a wide range of collective, coherent facilities which will have to be delivered within budgetary constraints. But this is conditional on its ability to involve its own networks and neighbourhood initiatives, to make use of the expanding non-active population (people on benefits or who have retired early, pensioners, etc.) and to create "smart connections".

#### Local policy

A local health policy has been adopted. In the years to come, it will focus on matters such as prevention and raising awareness. Greater emphasis will be placed on

the relationship between health and issues such as exercise and a healthy lifestyle. The concept of "cure and care" (non-preventive care) will also be further integrated.

The principle is and remains providing integrated chain care with district facilities linked to the Transmural and Medical Centre (Atrium) in Kerkrade. Kerkrade is continuing with the implementation of the Kerkrade Atrium master plan which involves the establishment and development of the Health Care Campus and the creation of an outpatient centre. The establishment of other and different healthcare initiatives (including a rheumatic centre) in and near the Atrium site is being actively supported. A new key objective is to internationalise and continue to raise the profile of the healthcare facilities in Kerkrade (by improving their external image). Businesses, private individuals and organisations with innovative ideas for use in healthcare are being encouraged to settle in our town.

At district level, the municipality is supporting the continued development of neighbourhood-based medical health centres from which general practitioners, dentists, practice nurses, paramedics,



Home care services in Egelshoven:  
new Laethof complex, artist's  
impression (Source: Buro 5)



pharmacists and other associated parties can operate. The various roles and responsibilities will be coordinated together with the professionals from the Social District Teams. Kerkrade is setting itself the goal of reducing the social costs of diagnosing medical conditions. This involves using medical conditions for various purposes including social support, fall prevention, medical expenses, primary healthcare and projects in the area of local health policy. A reduction in costs can be achieved by improving the coordination of work processes which are currently separate and by exchanging more information. Worthy of note is the Heart Safe project, in which defibrillators (known as AEDs) have been installed all across the districts. An extensive network of specially trained volunteers has been created for this project.

Welfare facilities will increasingly be combined. The community centres will have a key role in this development.

**Sheltered housing**

The consequences of the changing population mix for the need for sheltered accommodation are being addressed as part of the restructuring of the housing stock (see Section 3.1.3). There is a steadily increasing

demand for small-scale residential accommodation with healthcare facilities close by. In recent years, the municipality, housing corporations and healthcare institutions have taken the first steps in this direction and a regional implementation plan for sheltered housing has been drawn up. What remains problematic at the present time is the private sector and the fact that the housing market is currently stagnating. Many older people are therefore unable to move into sheltered accommodation in time and have to rely on (expensive) adaptations and facilities. A new approach will have to be developed at regional level in respect of this housing category, which mainly consists of family homes.

Self-reliance remains one of the principles of the health and welfare strategy. In line with this strategy, as much effort as possible is being devoted to meeting the demand for facilities for senior citizens and care homes in the districts. This helps to achieve the objective of allowing people to live in their own district for as long as possible. The way care of the elderly is provided will also take shape on the basis of this strategy. The “Kerkrade in Balance” project, which aims to encourage exercise and reduce the risk of falling, is a good example of the active way in which Kerkrade operates.

Figure 16. Population trends: 0-19 age group

Age group	1990	2000	2010	2020
0-19	11,549	10,595	8,395	7,100

Source: key figures on municipality of Kerkrade, 2009



Eygelshoven health centre



SGL  
leeft met  
je mee!



SGL leeft met je mee!

**SGL**

Actief

Begeleiding

Revalidatie

Wonen

**SGL**

www.sgl-zorg.nl  
1800-7451745



### Youth

With the decline in the number of young people, which is set to continue in future, it is becoming even more important to continue to offer Kerkrade's young people the prospect of remaining in their own environment. Figure 16 shows an extract from the population figures from the 0-19 age group.

The new and existing community centres will also play a major part in this. Over the next few years, Kerkrade will be focusing on increasing the number of activities for younger people. This takes the form of the 1001 activities plan which is being implemented jointly by youth centres and the Impuls welfare foundation. At the heart of this approach is the idea of tailoring the activities provided to the demand that comes from the young people themselves. The first activities plan is scheduled to start in early 2011.

In addition to the efforts made within the education system, Kerkrade also wants to help promote good health among young people by providing information on projects and alcohol use, obesity and smoking. The Youth and Family Centre (CJG) will continue to be developed.

### Health and welfare

What do we want to be?

- a town in which to spend a lifetime, with suitable healthcare and self-reliant residents

What are we going to do?

- maintain a wide range of suitable facilities
- encourage self-reliance, networks and neighbourhood initiatives
- focus on prevention and raising awareness
- support the Atrium Master Plan
- welcome innovative healthcare alternatives
- continue to develop neighbourhood-based health centres and social district teams
- use community centres as social linchpins in the districts
- implement 1001 activities plan for young people
- promote good health among young people
- continue to develop the Youth and Family Centre

### 3.2.7 Sport and play

Section 2 described the catch-up exercise carried out in recent years with regard to the construction and renovation of outdoor sport facilities in particular. Kerkrade intends to complete this catch-up exercise and also take charge of the development of indoor sport facilities. Regular consultation also takes place at regional level with regard to future development opportunities within the sport sector.

#### Outdoor sport

All football clubs will have modern artificial grass pitches before the 2011-2012 season begins. It will then be possible to state that the level of facilities for all Kerkrade's outdoor sports is up to date again and ready for the future. A completely new addition to the existing outdoor sport facilities is a golf course which is planned for Eurode Park. The "Tourism and recreation – development" map shows the location and the size of the golf course, which is in the immediate vicinity of the Rolduc abbey complex.

#### Indoor sport

The indoor sport facilities are generally outdated. Many facilities are linked to primary and other schools and returning pupil numbers may therefore also affect

the future of these facilities. From the point of view of primary schools, the current range of facilities must be retained in order to prevent an increase in travelling time between the school and the gym. This does mean that, in the long term, gyms will remain empty for longer during the day. The disposal of facilities (not until after 2020, according to forecasts) is an option but this must not be at the expense of the quality and practice of physical education. The combination with schools and other social facilities is important to indoor sport. For this reason, it is desirable to involve indoor sport in future area-specific developments in good time.

A completely new gym is being built at the community education centre on the Plein site in Kerkrade West. This education centre brings together the De Gracht and D'r Durpel primary schools, which makes the gym at Grachterstraat surplus to requirements. The same applies to the gym at Willem Sophiaplein, likewise in Kerkrade West. The users of this gym can move to the Campus. The Kerkrade West sports hall may in future (around 2020) be replaced by a new facility in a more central location in the district. The initial ideas involve combining it with other social facilities in the vicinity of Heilust.





Amateurs meet pros: LHC v. Roda JC, start of 2008 season





In Kerkrade East, no radical developments in indoor sport are expected over the next 10 years.

In Kerkrade North, the Socioproject is being cited by the Province of Limburg and others as an example of the way in which sport facilities can be combined with other functions. The sports hall in the Socioproject will shortly be fitted with a completely new floor.

Since 2007, Kerkrade has been performing neighbourhood, educational and sporting activities under the name “BOS Projects”. This initiative is consistent with the wide range of measures to encourage sport in which the Huis van de Sport, educational establishments and neighbourhood clubs and societies play an active part. The aim is to encourage children to take exercise and provide them with a healthy and pleasant way to spend their leisure time. On completion of these successful sport stimulus projects, which are being carried out as part of BOS (involving neighbourhood, education and sport), they will continue in the form of sport and exercise projects. They will be carried out as part of the National Action Plan for Sport and Exercise (NASB).

### Play facilities

The future development of play facilities in Kerkrade is set out in the Play Area Plan. The municipality will be revising this plan in the near future to take account of the changing use of play facilities and the latest data on population shrinkage.

#### Sport and play

What do we want to be?

- a town with a healthy climate for professional sport, amateur sport and recreational sport
- a town in which sport and play have been properly coordinated with other social functions

What are we going to do?

- complete the upgrade of outdoor sport facilities
- implement the planned improvements in indoor sport facilities
- develop an agenda for indoor sport after 2015
- involve indoor sport in future area-specific development
- revise the Play Area Plan

### 3.2.8 Social cohesion and public services

Kerkrade wants to be a town with an active population, a population that takes part in the life of the community whenever possible. Kerkrade encourages individual power and initiative, also known as “empowerment”, in order to prevent social exclusion and increase social fitness. A good example of this is the “Can Do” project which is being jointly carried out with housing corporations and of which self-management by residents is a key part.

Kerkrade represents sustainable social development. This is achieved by pursuing an effective policy in the areas of education, sport, health and young people. Government, businesses and institutions must jointly tackle the task of facilitating and encouraging people to take part. The important part played by Kerkrade’s clubs and societies in this regard has already been described in Section 2.

Kerkrade adopts an area-specific and integrated approach to these issues. The district and neighbourhood constitute people’s main experience of life and the world and, for this reason, are used as a yardstick against which to measure basic facilities. The four renovated and two new community centres (MFFs) will give this approach an enormous boost.

The Social District Teams, engaged as part of the district-oriented approach, are fully consistent with this philosophy. People are the key. The approach is demand-driven and bridges gaps between physical and social aspects. Social partners play a vital part in the process. Traditionally, residents’ platforms, district platforms, housing corporations, educational establishments, the police, social work and many other (sometimes temporary) joint ventures are therefore involved in the district-oriented approach.

The efforts to spur people into action mainly apply to that part of the population that owing to circumstances is unable to take an active part in daily life. This group receives support in the form of, for example, reintegration procedures, courses in self-reliance and help with debt. What is new in this area is the social role of Roda JC Kerkrade. The football club and the municipality share the ambition of organising social projects that benefit Kerkrade society. Even the club’s junior section is involved, in the form of the “Roda on tour” project. Just like the “Drop Out” project, this is part of the social programme “Eleven for Limburg”.

Often people’s income level also determines the extent to which they participate in society. There





Socioproject in Eygelshoven after renovation (Source: Arcadis)

are therefore various schemes operating in Kerkrade that also make it financially attractive for less affluent members of society to be active. For example, Kerkrade has financial schemes to support business start-ups, to organise a variety of neighbourhood activities, to perform voluntary work and to participate in all kinds of social, cultural and sporting activities.

#### Social cohesion and public services

What do we want to be?

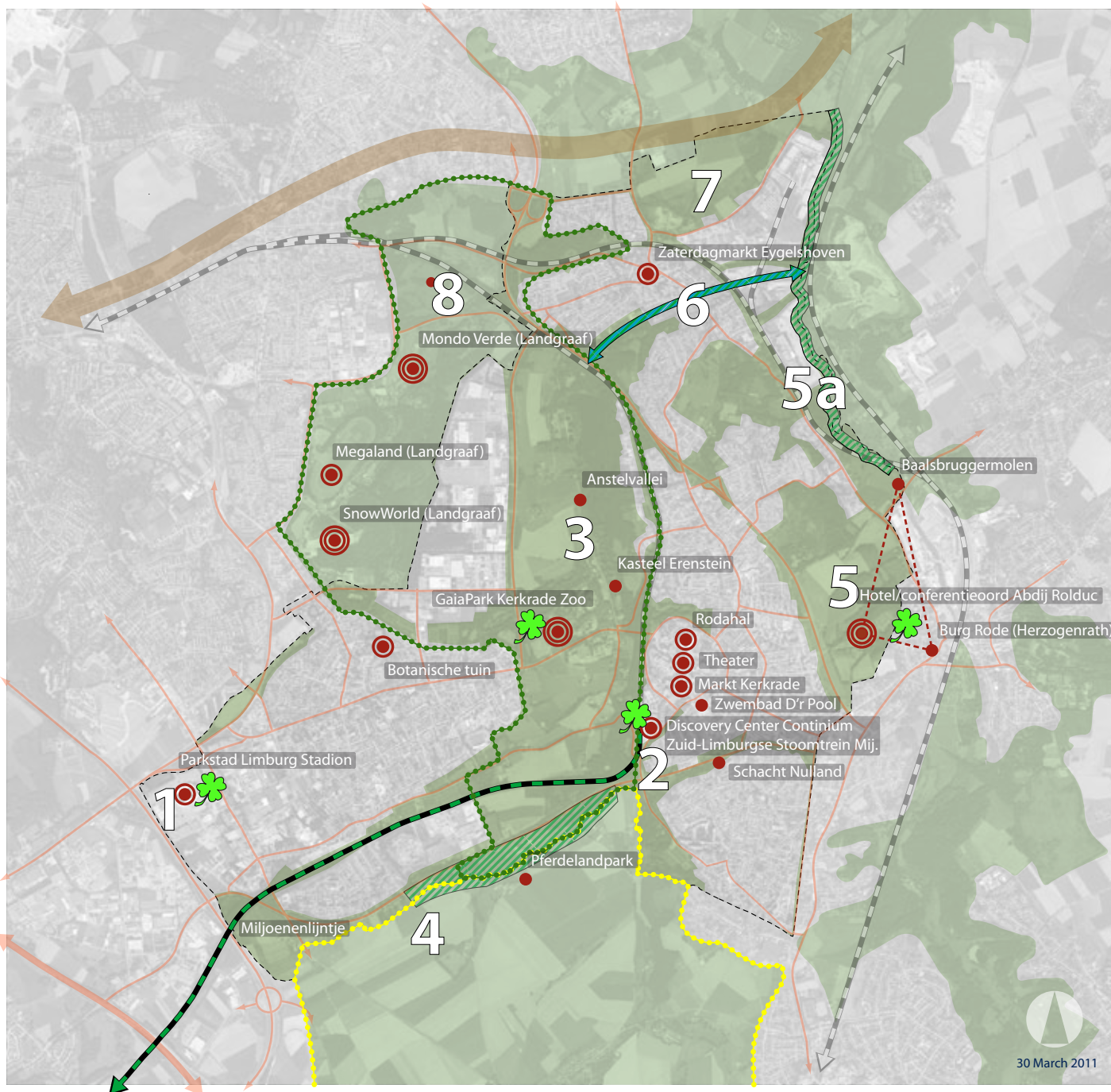
- a social town with an active population

What are we going to do?

- encourage individual power and initiative
- build or renovate six community centres

(MFFs) to become linchpins in the districts

- continue the district-oriented approach
- continue to encourage clubs and societies
- perform social projects jointly with Roda JC Kerkrade
- provide residents with support where necessary



KEY TO SYMBOLS:

-  Development of recreational corridors
  
- New developments:**
- 1** Stadium and surrounding area. Theme: sport and leisure
- 2** Discovery Center Continium / Explorium
- 3** Hof van Gaia - New Erenstein - Anstel Valley
- 4** Restoration of historic link Katzenpohl - Crombacherbeek Valley
- 5** Eurode Park - Golf course
- 5a** Walking trail - Green corridor
- 6** Recreational route from Anseldebeek to Worm
- 7** Integrated project, Ubach via Worms (large woodland site)
- 8** Landgraaf Waterworld
  
-  Attractions, local level
-  Attractions, regional level
-  Attractions, international level
-  Four "Lucky Clover" attractions
  
-  Historical Triangle
-  Gravenrode Park
-  Pferdelandpark
-  Via Belgica
-  Municipal boundary

30 March 2011

### 3.2.9 Tourism, recreation and culture

Tourism and recreation have become a new economic mainstay for Kerkrade and the Parkstad region. Between 2000 and 2010, Parkstad Limburg was the fastest-growing tourist region in the Netherlands. Individual attractions are becoming better integrated and together form a driver, also in the economic sense. Strong growth in tourism and regulation helps to:

- reinforce the region's image;
- boost the population's confidence and self esteem;
- make the region more attractive as a place for businesses and people to settle;
- improve the quality of public space and, in particular, of the natural environment.

The district of Kerkrade West is the key factor in terms of recreational and tourist facilities. Examples include GaiaPark, Botanic Garden, Gravenrode, Pferdelandpark and Parkstad Limburg Stadium and surrounding area. The title of the Strategic District Agenda is "The Re-creation of Kerkrade West".

In order to combine forces, Kerkrade's attractions are actively involved in the Attractive Parkstad



Joint Venture. The continuing development of the attractions will contribute to the necessary economic boost to the town and is consistent with the continuing development of the Parkstad concept.

The "Tourism and recreation – and development" map provides a picture of this (the existing attractions are in black and white). What is striking is the importance that Kerkrade attaches to the continuing development of green corridors and walking trails. Examples include the corridor through Pferdelandpark, the recreational

routes through the Worm Valley and the recreational route connecting Worm and Anselderbeek. The "Worm Valley without Borders" project is the result of long-term cooperation between the Worm Valley municipalities (Kerkrade, Landgraaf, Herzogenrath, Würselen and Úbach-Palenberg). Today, several subprojects have been completed on both sides of the national border. On the basis of the Master Plan for the Worm Valley, which was updated in 2010, work will continue on improving this area.



## Schacht Nulland mine shaft

Because of its location in Gravenrode Park, the planned Waterworld attraction in the municipality of Landgraaf is included in the development map.

The region's ambitions are also set out in the report "Strategic Agenda for Tourism in Parkstad" (2008) in which it is recommended that the planned outer ring road should be designed as a "leisure ring road". "Red Clusters" (Entertainment Clusters) and "Green Clusters" (for less intensive recreational activities) are to be developed alongside this ring road. This plan provides for three red and one green cluster for Kerkrade.

### Red clusters

- GaiaPark/Brughof/Erenstein Castle (Wildlife)
- Continium/ZLSM
- Parkstad Limburg Stadium and the surrounding area

### Green clusters

- Eurode Park/Rolduc, Baalsbrugger mill, Burg Rode Castle/golf course

Another regional ambition is to expand long-stay capacity in the form of hotels and conference facilities. The expansion of accommodation in the form of Bed

& Breakfasts and camping facilities is also in line with this ambition. The demand for accommodation is increasing as a result of the growing number of day trips. An increased potential for long-stay visitors could have a positive effect on visitor numbers for the tourist attractions. This is an excellent fit with Kerkrade's wish to be a welcoming town.

Kerkrade's ambitions are also formulated at local level. The report "Gravenrode: on the way to 2020!" (2007) provides guidelines for the continuing development of Gravenrode Park. One of the recommendations for Phase 1 (2008-2012) is to improve profitability by developing integrated concepts in existing businesses. For Kerkrade's part, the advice is to develop two integrated concepts:

- The first is the possible cooperation between the zoo and the hotel, linking and marketing them thematically.
- The second concept involves cooperation between Discovery Center Continium and the ZLSM.

At the present time, a study is also being carried out to ascertain whether Schacht Nulland and the surrounding area can be included in the improvement of tourism and recreation facilities in this area. An important development in this connection is the





Part of the Eurode triangle: Burg Rode in Herzogenrath



planned arrival of the activities of Science Exploration which is currently based on Brunssumerheide together with the observatory.

In the district of Terwinselen, the Botanic Garden is about to take on the task of increasing its attractiveness with the aim of drawing in more visitors and generating more income. The aim is to collaborate with partners in the Euroregion – sometimes in the form of European projects – and at local level (including the GaiaPark). The Botanic Garden also intends to open itself up more to the surrounding neighbourhood of Terwinselen, further strengthening the historical links between the garden and the neighbourhood.

Situated to the east of Kerkrade, Eurode Park is characterised by three historic complexes: Rolduc Abbey complex, Burg Rode Castle and Baalsbrugger mill. Kerkrade has had a theme park (Eurode Park) designed around these three historic buildings. As part of this park, Rolduc intends to improve its vulnerable economic position by building an 18-hole golf course. Just like Gravenrode Park, Eurode Park must be an example of sustainability in which the interests of Rolduc, the natural environment and the residents of Kerkrade are balanced out.



Erenstein Castle hotel

The plans to expand Parkstad Limburg Stadium and the surrounding area to create a sport and leisure centre have been badly affected by the economic crisis. The possibilities of the further development of conference facilities and leisure functions are being investigated. A new hotel opened on the south side of the stadium in the spring of 2010.

In recent years, the town centre, as the centre of the four Lucky Clover attractions, has been provided with additional tourist signposting and new walking routes in the form of the GaiaTrail and the Rolduc Abbey Trail. New tourist brochures have been produced to persuade visitors to visit the other attractions that the town has to offer. Completion of the Centre Plan will be a substantial boost for the town centre, also in terms of tourism and recreation.

In view of the increasing supply of conference facilities in the town, Kerkrade is also justified in presenting itself as a conference venue. However, caution is also required in contemplating further expansion of the supply, especially in the light of the economic situation.



### Long-stay tourism

As part of the Strategic Agenda for Tourism in Parkstad Limburg, the aim is not only to continue developing day trips (the Leisure Ring Road concept) but also to add long-stay leisure facilities. This will both increase the primary market for the tourist attractions and boost the local economy. Kerkrade wants to respond to this and is investigating the options. There is an obvious connection with the town centre, the existing facilities and nature reserves.

### Culture

Kerkrade is studying ways of ensuring that culture and events (both large and small) continue to contribute to the town's image for tourism and recreation in future. In this way, it will be possible to make smart connections, promote cooperation between the parties involved and provide clear communication and marketing. It will also be possible to safeguard valuable manifestations of Kerkrade's culture and community spirit for future generations.

Kerkrade's cultural heritage is built on broad and varied foundations. By encouraging forms of collaboration in these broad foundations, Kerkrade intends to guarantee that it has a viable future.

Inspired by and in response to the awakening Cultural Spring in Parkstad Limburg, Kerkrade's cultural life is presenting itself with a new panache. Existing initiatives and festivals, such as the WMC and the Orlando Festival, can continue to be developed from this perspective. Initiatives in the field of art education will be embraced and encouraged.

New digital media will also be further expanded and deployed as an instrument for innovating specific aspects from the cultural field.

### Art in the public space; Kerkrade's sculpture collection

A well-designed public space helps to create a pleasant atmosphere in the town. An artistic arrangement of this public space adds an extra dimension. Kerkrade already has a fantastic, carefully accumulated collection of outdoor sculptures. Preserving it for future generations is now a priority to ensure that the collection retains its shine and continues to exert an inspiring influence on people's artistic experience.

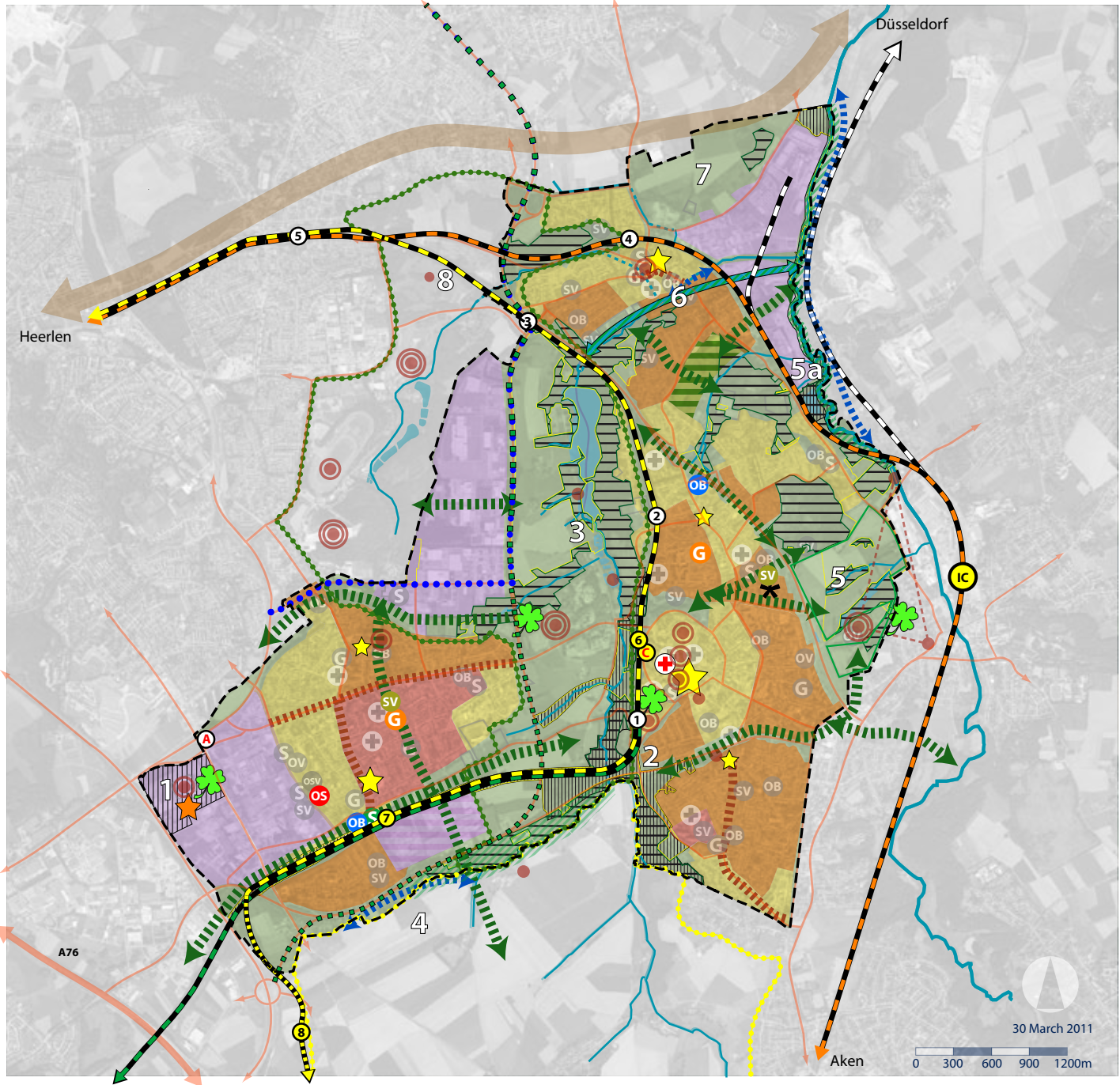
## Tourism, recreation and culture

What do we want to be?


- a welcoming town with excellent tourism and recreation facilities

What are we going to do?









- continue to develop existing and new attractions
- develop new recreational and other links between attractions
- improve Kerkrade's image in terms of tourism and recreation by adopting a strategy for events
- improve Kerkrade's image in terms of tourism and recreation by means of communication and marketing
- continue to develop conference and meeting facilities
- investigate the possibilities of developing all forms of tourist accommodation















## KEY TO SYMBOLS

 Municipal boundary and limit of plan area







### LANDSCAPE AND GREEN SPACE

-  Landscape framework
-  Water
-  Stream/vaulting
-  Main Ecological Network (MEN)
-  Provincial Green Development Zone (POG)
-  Ecological corridor
-  Designated area for green corridor
-  Restoration of stream valley/stream landscape




### INFRASTRUCTURE

-  District access roads
-  Rail (passenger and goods)
-  Rail (Avantis line)/new route
-  Rail (tourist)/"Miljoenenlijntje"
-  Rail (IC Heerlen - Aachen)
-  Route specified for outer ring road
-  Kerkrade's preferred outer ring road
-  Existing railway stations
-  New light rail station (Atrium, Spekholzerheide and Avantis)
-  Eurode station with future plans for IC
-  Stadium bus station (Rodaboulevard)
-  New bus station in Kerkrade town centre






### HOUSING

-  Management areas
-  Clearance areas
-  Development area - pilot
-  Homes in a green setting
-  Ribbons, to be developed
-  Special plan development envisaged

### EMPLOYMENT

-  Industrial estate to be restructured
-  Industrial estate
-  Themed retail - sport and leisure

### FACILITIES

-  Retail - main centre
-  Retail - themed
-  Retail - district centre
-  Retail - neighbourhood centre
-  New - Outdoor sport facilities
-  New - Indoor sport facilities
-  New - Play facility
-  New - Community centre
-  New - Healthcare facility
-  New - Education facility - primary
-  New - Education facility - special needs primary
-  Various existing facilities

### TOURISM AND RECREATION

-  Development of recreational corridors
- 1** Stadium and surrounding area. Theme: sport and leisure
- 2** Discovery Center Continium / Explorium
- 3** Hof van Gaia - New Erenstein - Anstel Valley
- 4** Restoration of historic link between Katzenpohl and Crombacherbeek Valley
- 5** Eurode Park - Golf course
- 5a** Walking trail - Green corridor
- 6** Recreational route from Anselderbeek to Worm
- 7** Integrated project, Ubach via Worms (large woodland site)
- 8** Landgraaf Waterworld
-  Attractions, local level
-  Attractions, regional level
-  Attractions, international level
-  Four "Lucky Clover" attractions
-  Historical Triangle
-  Gravenrode Park
-  Pferdelandpark
-  Via Belgica



4

IMPLEMENTATION AND  
COMPLETION

# 4 | implementation and completion

## 4.1 Implementation programme

The strategic structure agenda serves as a guide for encouraging new developments, is the framework for planning developments (including the task of large-scale transformation) and is the basis for consultation and collaboration with other parties. This section describes how the municipality intends to implement the strategic structure agenda in more practical terms.

In accordance with the Dutch Spatial Planning Act [Wet ruimtelijke ordening], the Strategic Structure Agenda for Kerkrade 2010-2020 is not binding on third parties. It does expressly indicate the direction that spatial policy and related developments must take. In order to ensure that this strategic structure agenda is general and flexible, it does not involve an implementation programme.

Proposed spatial developments have been or are being developed in detail in the agendas for the West, East and North districts in 2011 and 2012, which

include general implementation plans at district level. The district agendas and their implementation programmes will be adopted by the municipal council. The municipality will work out the details of the general programmes available from the district agendas in an implementation programme, which will also be adopted by the municipal council.

The detailed Implementation Programme is a separate document which will in due course legally form part of the structure agenda and the district agendas. This is a programme in which developments and projects are coordinated for a limited number of years and which contains a financial estimate of the cost of developments in the town and highlights the issue of funding. This document must be updated cyclically, with present and future district agendas serving as input.

The desired developments, including financial estimates and funds available, are further elaborated



Demolition of semi-detached house  
at corner of Kommerveldlaan and  
Laurastraat



New buildings in  
Kommerveldlaan

while the detailed implementation programme is being drawn up and monitored. The status of projects is further elaborated, described and explained in this programme.

The spatial developments described in the district agendas will be set out in new zoning plans and/or, in future, in management regulations. Kerkrade also has legal instruments at its disposal, such as the Dutch Municipalities (Preferential Rights) Act [Wet voorkeursrecht gemeenten] and the options set out in the Dutch Spatial Planning Act for directing spatial developments as described in the Kerkrade strategic structure agenda and its elaboration in district agendas (not yet drawn up).

#### 4.2 Land Utilisation Act

The Dutch Land Utilisation Act [Grondexploitatiewet (GreXWet)] entered into force on 1 July 2008. This act has been embedded in the new Spatial Planning Act (WRO).

This is an important step towards clarifying the municipality's directive role in the introduction of spatial plans. One of the objectives is to create a clear legal framework for the recovery of costs under private law and improve the recovery of costs under public law.

Municipalities are required to recover costs incurred from initiators of spatial developments. They can do so by adopting a land utilisation plan or by entering into a land utilisation agreement or an anterior agreement.

The municipality must recover costs where an initiative has been facilitated by a zoning plan or revised zoning plan, a project decision, a project deviation decision or a change plan and where a building plan as referred to in Article 6.2.1 of the Spatial Planning Decree is involved.

Where applicable, the municipality of Kerkrade intends to make use of the options provided by the law, with particular reference to the recovery and settlement of costs. The municipality endeavours, wherever possible, to follow the path of private law to recover costs. This means that the municipality will in the first instance try to conclude an anterior agreement with the owner of a site.

On the basis of the new WRO, a strategic structure agenda must at least show the context of:

- (A contribution to) spatial development;
- Multi-plan settlement by acquiring funds;
- Description of functionally coherent sites (multi-plan settlement).

By adopting the Strategic Structure Agenda, the municipal council is providing a clear basic framework within which to apply the instruments required to recover costs.

#### Financial contribution in spatial development

In addition to multi-plan costs (see below), the GrexWet provides scope for entering into an agreement (under private law) to make arrangements concerning a financial contribution to the spatial development to be paid by a landowner to the municipality. The Municipal Executive may include provisions in the anterior agreement\* with regard to a financial contribution to spatial developments. The financial contribution can only be requested where the municipality has an agreed strategic structure agenda which also actually includes details of the spatial development. Examples include the construction of natural features and social facilities as well as the improvement of a municipality's infrastructural facilities.

#### Multi-plan costs

Multi-plan costs, i.e. the cost of facilities subservient to several plans and mainly located outside the area being utilised, can be included in the utilisation plan for several sites or parts thereof in the form of a contribution of funds, provided that a strategic structure agenda has been adopted for these sites or parts thereof, which gives instructions on the expenditure that can be charged to the funds. This can be done both in an anterior and in a posterior agreement, which clearly shows how the method of allocating the cost to be recovered to the land to be issued will be put into practice.

A coherent development of different sites is possible on the basis of a strategic structure agenda in which this coherence must be clearly described.

#### Fund for Multi-District Facilities (BOVO)

The municipal council or municipal executive can adopt a land utilisation plan for land for which a designated building plan has been proposed (Article 6.12). Since the entry into force of the GrexWet, the recovery of the cost of multi-district facilities has become enforceable (through a system of permits).

“Multi-district facilities” are facilities the benefit of which extends beyond the limits of the new buildings and the existing buildings/districts therefore also benefit from the facilities. Simultaneously with the implementation programme, the municipality draws up a Policy Document on Multi-District Facilities in which the proportional allocation to cost centres is transparent and satisfies the necessary (statutory) conditions and criteria and is therefore legally tenable. This involves a more detailed elaboration of multi-plan cost settlement. The annual Land Use Policy Document will also focus the necessary attention on this matter.

*\* Agreements which are concluded prior to the date on which a land utilisation plan (new instrument under the Dutch Land Utilisation Act) is adopted are referred to as anterior agreements. Where an agreement is concluded on the basis of a land utilisation plan, it is known as a posterior agreement.*



### Settlement

The WRO provides the option of laying the foundations for multi-plan settlement in a strategic structure agenda. It is also possible to settle costs at regional level (supra-municipal).

The aim of this is to provide an incentive to participate in integrated area-specific development in which the construction of profitable functions (housing, business) is related to the funding for various social functions (e.g. nature, recreation, water storage, infrastructure and cultural facilities). The spatial relationship must be evident from the Strategic Structure Agenda for Kerkrade 2010-2020 and the district agendas (to be drawn up) for West, East and North with their implementation programmes.



SOURCES CONSULTED

# sources consulted

- . *Op hete kolen*, Parkstad Limburg, 2003
- . Provincial Housing Agenda, Province of Limburg, 2005
- . Provincial Environment Plan for Limburg (POL), Province of Limburg, 2006
- . Regional Housing Agenda for Parkstad Limburg 2006-2010, 2006
- . Social Support Policy Plan for the Municipality of Kerkrade, 2007
- . Regional Housebuilding Programme, Kerkrade section, 2007
- . Provincial and Regional Transport Plan, 2007
- . Implementation Programme for Rural Limburg, Province of Limburg, 2007
- . Framework Policy Document on the Economy, Parkstad Limburg Region 2007-2010, 2007
- . Framework Policy Document on Doing Business in Kerkrade, Municipality of Kerkrade, 2007
- . Project Plan for Grensland Wormdal, Euregionale 2008, 2007
- . Agreement on Safety House, Municipality of Kerkrade, 2007
- . Policy Document on Integrated Youth Policy, Municipality of Kerkrade, 2007
- . Policy Document on Encouraging Sport, Municipality of Kerkrade, 2007
- . The future of Limburg lies over the border, Recommendation by the Hermans Committee, May 2007
- . *Koersbrief Kerkrade, voor een strategische discussie over onze gemeente*, November 2007
- . *Investeren en Verbinden*, Coalition Agreement, Province of Limburg, 2007-2011
- . Limburg District Approach, Quality of Life Survey by Geo Groep Neer, August 2008
- . Integrated Health Policy, Municipality of Kerkrade, 2008
- . Kerkrade in figures 2008, Municipality of Kerkrade, 2009
- . Key figures 2009, Municipality of Kerkrade, 2010
- . Public Survey, Gemeentemonitor Kerkrade, 2009
- . Public Survey, Monitor Parkstad Limburg, 2009
- . Intermunicipal Structure Agenda for Parkstad Limburg “Ruimte voor park en stad”, October 2009
- . Intermunicipal Action Plan on Population Decline, VNG/IPO/Dutch Government, November 2009
- . Citadel Rode Master Plan, November 2009
- . Restructuring Agenda for the Housing Stock in Parkstad Limburg, December 2009
- . Social Climate Policy Plan, Municipality of Kerkrade, 2009
- . Pilot Parkstad Onorthodoxxxx & de Parkstad-5, Parkstad Limburg, January 2010
- . *Samen werken aan de Toekomst*, Budget of Municipality of Kerkrade, 2010
- . *Ondernemend met Krimp*, Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, 2010
- . *Witboek Krimp*, Municipality of Kerkrade, September 2010
- . *Kerkrade een droom van een stad?, Droombrief gemeente Kerkrade*, May 2010
- . *Beleidsplan Integrale Veiligheid gemeente Kerkrade*, draft, June 2010
- . The Re-creation of Kerkrade West, Strategic District Agenda for Kerkrade West, draft, July 2010
- . Parkstad Limburg Regional Programme “Towards a sustainably vital region”, July 2010
- . *Kerkradse Wmo-model, voorbeeld van een gekantelde gemeente*, Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG), August 2010
- . Retail Structure Agenda 2010-2020, Parkstad Limburg, adopted in December 2010 by Parkstad Council
- . Programme of the Municipal Executive, 2010-2014
- . NRIT study “Market opportunities for long-stay tourism in Kerkrade”, January 2011
- . Kerkrade Travel Guide 2030, February 2011
- . District Agenda for Kerkrade West, February 2011



# APPENDIX

# appendix

## Kerkrade: number of dwellings and residents by district and neighbourhood on 1-1-2009

Kerkrade East	Housing units	Residents
Centrum	2,294	4,126
Holz	1,211	2,395
Nulland	1,744	3,637
Bleijerheide	2,223	4,415
Erenstein	935	1,872
Rolduckerveld	1,465	2,684
Chevremont	1,677	3,475
Haanrade	952	1,962
	12,501	24,566

Kerkrade North	Housing units	Residents
Eygelshoven-Kom	1,148	2,140
Hopel	1,016	2,267
Waubacherveld	491	1,093
Vink	1,060	2,294
	3,715	7,794

Kerkrade	Housing units	Residents
	23,545	47,697

Kerkrade West	Housing units	Residents
Spekholzerheide	1,736	3,257
Heilust	1,581	2,943
Terwinselen	1,652	3,919
Kaalheide	1,325	2,938
Gracht	1,021	2,259
Dentenbach/ dispersed houses	14	21
	7,329	15,337

Source: Key figures on municipality of Kerkrade



Project name: Strategic Structure Agenda for Kerkrade  
Project number: 80684  
Date: final version 30 March 2011  
Client: Municipality of Kerkrade  
Project sponsor: P. J. B. C. Thomas  
Client contact persons: Ms S. Ilbrink/Mr R. Loozen  
Project team: Municipality of Kerkrade  
Editorial board: Municipality of Kerkrade Project Team  
Final editing and graphic design: SAB  
Photography, etc.: Mr W. Pelzer, Mr H. de Vries and Municipality of Kerkrade  
Translation: Balance Maastricht/Amsterdam

Visiting address

Markt 33  
6461 EC Kerkrade

Correspondence address

PO Box 600  
6460 AP Kerkrade

[www.kerkrade.nl](http://www.kerkrade.nl)

**Approved on  
30 March 2011**