




**Shaping
the Future!**

NEOS- LETTER PERCHTOLDSORF

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NEOS Freiheit
Fortschritt
Gerechtigkeit



Better to react
than to act.



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A VILLAGE FIT FOR THE FUTURE?

It cannot go unnoticed - one year before the next municipal elections, media activity of the Turquoise-Green (colloquial for OEVP-Die GRUENEN) coalition in our village is noticeably increasing. Securing of the drinking water supply is hailed, expansion of child care and photovoltaics is (finally) getting off the ground, viticulture is being saved by changing the zoning regulations (Bebauungsplan), the traffic problem is being solved by widening Ambros-Riedergasse, and so on. The mayor hurries from one event to the next. So everything is fine, Turquoise-Green is working at full speed for Perchtoldsdorf.

No doubt, Perchtoldsdorf is a well-managed place. Our infrastructure is the envy of many, and no sensible person would question that. What unfortunately is overlooked in the everyday bustle of the governing coalition is the active shaping of the future of our town. Everything should remain as it is; react instead of act. Admittedly, the Corona period demanded all of our energies and there was little room for other issues. But that is no excuse for getting lost in the minutiae of **day-to-day politics** and neglecting issues of the future.

„Perchtoldsdorf will be a **pioneer in energy-producing communities**“ was the full-bodied statement at the constituent meeting of the 2020 municipal council. Where are we today? **Perchtoldsdorf is more among the laggards than the pioneers.** To achieve that, it would not have been necessary to spend a lot of money on an „energy producer communities“ concept as part of „Perchtoldsdorf4-

future“. It has become very quiet around this concept, except among close followers of the green deputy mayor Christian Apl.

The current **amendment of the zoning regulations** corrects mistakes made in the past, but is silent on future issues such as the reduction of soil consumption and unsealing. As a constructive opposition, NEOS miss approaches on how our town can become more climate-friendly (key words: unsealing, greening in public spaces) and more future-oriented (key words: revitalisation of the town centre, affordable housing).

When it comes to **mobility issues**, Turquoise-Green celebrates small, selective measures instead of finally having the courage to develop comprehensive solutions (keywords: through-traffic and Ambros-Riedergasse). At the same time, very useful solutions for the development of local mobility are proposed in the „Mobility Concept 2030“ study, awaiting implementation.

And progress on the topic of **digitalisation** is also sluggish. The concrete suggestions of NEOS to create structures in the administration that support digital transformation have not fallen on fertile ground. The municipal homepage is a visible expression of the state of affairs in the municipality. There is room for improvement in terms of user-friendliness and interaction with the municipality.

It is sobering to realise that after four years NEOS still have to raise the same issues in the municipality because (too) little has moved. But grumbling and criticising alone is not enough. As constructive opposition, NEOS contribute to the committees and working groups providing concrete proposals on how things could be done better. Sometimes we are successful - you can read about that in this issue - but mostly we have to admit that there is a lack of energy or the courage necessary for initiating fundamental, future-oriented changes. That is why NEOS are needed in the village.

Our promise: We will not let go when it comes to shaping the future of Perchtoldsdorf!

CHILDCARE FROM THE FIRST BIRTHDAY



Childcare in Perchtoldsdorf is comparatively well developed compared to other municipalities. 6 public kindergartens and a private childcare facility for children from the age of 1 are quite respectable. But is this really enough to give **every family in Perchtoldsdorf real freedom of choice**? Have we already reached the end of the line in terms of quality and offer? No, definitely not! In the municipal council meeting on 17 October, the expansion of the Kindergarten situated in Aspettensiedlung was decided as part of the province's kindergarten offensive. This is to **expand the childcare offer - unfortunately only from the second birthday**. This is to be welcomed, but for NEOS it is at best the urgently needed minimum.

From our point of view, Perchtoldsdorf has the opportunity to **become** a real **model municipality** in Austria in the areas of **education and childcare**. This requires a **quality offensive in the kindergartens**, an **extension of opening hours**, afternoon care and, above all, more **care opportunities for all children from their first birthday**. At the same time, the teachers and caregivers must be supported more strongly and continuously trained further and better. They have the most important job in this country - let them do it!

In particular, there is still potential for improvement in the provision of childcare for the under-2s. This will be free in the mornings in future, but criteria for admission will be introduced. This proves that the supply does not meet the demand for childcare places! For NEOS it is clear that the offer must be urgently expanded and extended! Only in this way

can Perchtoldsdorf become an **„opportunity village“ for ALL children**. Yes, of course this costs money and money is scarce in the municipality of Perchtoldsdorf. We are convinced that money for childcare is money well spent.

Not only the children benefit from it, but also the families and especially the women – think of the recent discussion about the part-time and pension gaps. If one is serious about it, potential savings can be found to finance the expansion of childcare demanded by NEOS. This is simply **a question of determination and priorities**. We have submitted a motion on this in the municipal council, which is now being discussed further in committee. We stand by our values - our drive has remained unchanged for 10 years: Lifting the wings of EVERY child!

Opening hours of the kindergartens in Perchtoldsdorf

	von	bis
Aspottenstraße 27	7:00	16:00
Castellino (Kleinstkinderbetreuung bis 3 Jahre)	7:00	17:00
Hochstraße 28	7:00	17:00
Hochstraße 8	7:00	16:00
Leonhardiberggasse 10-12	7:00	16:00
S.-Kneippgasse	7:00	17:00
Theresienau	7:00	16:00

TEN YEARS OF NEOS IN PARLIAMENT HAS AN EFFECT!



Martina Kuensberg Sarre, a resident of Perchtoldsdorf by choice, is a member of the National Council and a founding member of NEOS.

We recently celebrated ten years of NEOS in parliament. Automatically, one looks back and thinks of back then. My „back then“ began in December 2011. Matthias Strolz asked me if I would like to found a movement with him and a handful of other politically dissatisfied people. I immediately said „yes“. Soon it was clear to us that our goal should be to participate in the National Council elections in 2013. Typically Austrian was the reaction of many friends, acquaintances and also family: almost all of them gave us 100 reasons why we would not make it. A few believed in us, many of whom eventually joined us. On September 29th, 2013 NEOS managed to achieve what no other movement had achieved before. We entered the National Council for the first time by elector's vote, not as a spin-off of another party, with 4.96% and nine representatives.

The founding issues of education, transparency and taxation remained unresolved then as now. Our first motion in parliament was the demand for a **Freedom of Information Act**. Today, ten (!!!) years later, there is a first draft. From our point of view, it is not nearly sufficient to solve the major problems of transparency. The OeVP and the Greens are not creating a transparent state, but cementing intransparency for decades to come.

Also on the issues of taxes on labour - keyword: reduction of non-wage labour costs and **more net income** - nothing or only little has been done. The partial limitation of income tax progression thresholds to inflation is a welcome, but by no means suffi-

cient first step. Internationally, Austria is still a high-tax country.

We need to drive the monster of bureaucracy out of our schools. In the field of education, there has also been far too little progress from our point of view. Our demands from back then for more autonomy for schools, trust instead of control, a **more equal opportunity education system, making kindergarten the first educational institution** and much more have still not been implemented. Only recently, a survey of teachers by our initiative „Talente blühen“ (Talents flourish) showed that excessive bureaucracy keeps teachers from their actual work, namely that with the children. We have started a petition on this, which can still be signed and forwarded to interested persons. The lack of support staff does not make the teachers' work any easier either. A teacher wanted to become a teacher and not a school psychologist, social worker or administrator. Vienna is taking a big step with Education Councillor Christoph Wiederkehr. Since this school year, every compulsory school in Vienna has an administrative assistant. In addition, every class received an autonomous budget within the framework of the „Viennese Educational Opportunities“ in order to bring extracurricular activities into the classroom, such as workshops with experts. NEOS want to make schools again a place where children and young people like to learn and teachers like to work. In our founding days, someone said to me, „Maybe in ten years we won't even be needed anymore, because our work has changed a lot for the better. When I think of this sentence, I have to smile at all that still needs to be done in our country. NEOS have come to stay.

Here's to many more years to come!

MARTINA KUENSBERG SARRE WORDRAP

What gives you the energy to get involved in politics?

There is so much room for improvement, especially in education policy! I keep meeting people who want to change things for the better. Our children

and young people deserve the best education system, not just a mediocre one. Making a constructive contribution here is what spurs me.

What advice would you give to a young woman who wants to combine family and career?

It is extremely exhausting and you might reach your limits again and again. Build up a network to sup-

port you in an emergency. Don't feel guilty, you are a good mother despite your job. Believe in yourself.

How many hours a week do you „hang on“ to your job as a member of the National Council?

At the moment I'm on an education tour all over Austria, looking at innovative schools and meeting many committed people. Then there are plenary weeks when I am in Parliament from early in the morning until sometimes midnight. There are days when I do parliamentary questions and motions together with my team, I visit education projects, meet stakeholders from education, science and research, and much more. No day is like the other - I like that a lot. I don't count the hours, there are a lot of them, but it's - mostly - fun ;-)

What activity allows you to really relax?

In my spare time I am a beekeeper and I enjoy working with the bees. The work at the apiary needs peace and time, so I can't just drop by „quickly, quickly“. When I spin the golden honey in July and fill it into jars, it is a very special moment for me every year.

What music do you like to listen to?

I like listening to Jovanotti, Coldplay or Groenemeyer, but also classical music. I really like Mozart's violin concertos. I also like going to the opera.

Are you a good cook?

I am lucky that my husband is a passionate and excellent cook. To be honest, I prefer eating to cooking.

The most beautiful thing about Perchtoldsdorf?

I enjoy village life and living in the middle of nature. But it's also great to be close to Vienna and to be able to take advantage of all that a city of almost two million inhabitants has to offer. All these were reasons why we moved here. From my point of view, Perchtoldsdorf is ideal for families. We are very happy to live here.



HOTSPOT MARKET SQUARE

The planned redesign of Heldenplatz and Marienplatz - the suggestion originally came from NEOS, by the way - is wonderful and we look forward to its implementation! However, one hotspot of local development is still waiting for a solution: our historic and beautiful market square is predominantly car-oriented in its layout and dominated by parked cars. This reduces its potential as a lively meeting place for citizens and visitors alike and makes it unattractive to stay and enjoy a break! In order to make the market square and Wienergasse, the heart of Perchtoldsdorf, more liveable and lovable, we consider a number of possible **measures**:

As a first step, we are considering the possibility of transforming the market square and Wienergasse up to Donauwörther Straße into an **encounter zone**. This means that all road users, whether on foot, on a bike or in a car, have equal rights. Cars are allowed to travel there without restrictions, but at a maximum speed of 20 km/h. At the same time, a traffic concept is needed to ensure accessibility to the districts south of the market square as well as to the square itself.

The market square next to the Trinity Column can become a **greened general, gastronomic and event space**. The weekly market is already a good start. In order to improve the microclimate and make this area more attractive for people, this part of the

market square should definitely be greened! This measure would eliminate around 30 short-stay car parking spaces. We consider this to be justifiable, as there are sufficient car parking spaces within easy walking distance that can be used free of charge. Some of the remaining parking spaces can be converted into a 30-minute parking zone so that visits to the authorities, the post office, etc. can also be done quickly by car.



A **„town manager“** is one way to actively strive to revitalise the shopping location of Perchtoldsdorf. This includes professional vacancy management.

We can see from examples like Moedling how an attractively designed town centre can give impetus to a community and contribute to its lively development. Perchtoldsdorf has a jewel to offer when it comes to its market square, which is just waiting to be awakened from its sleep!



Vierbatz – Like this or differently?



IS VITICULTURE IN PERCHTOLDSORF ENDANGERED?

There is no question that the Haurer and the Heurigen are an important element of Perchtoldsdorf's identity. Nevertheless, NEOS are insecure whether the planned **changes to the zoning regulations for the Vierbatz** make sense.

If the OEVP and the winegrowers' association have their way, production and storage facilities should be allowed to be built in Vierbatz to the extent of up to 25% of the floor area, limited to a maximum of 1,000m² of building space. Why are NEOS against these changes, which the winegrowers' association and OEVP are vehemently demanding in almost identical terms and without which winegrowing in Perchtoldsdorf would allegedly be doomed? There are **two reasons why we are critical of this change**:

Firstly, this change is unnecessary. It is already possible for winegrowers to build in the Vierbatz. The Lower Austrian Spatial Planning Act stipulates that „the construction and alteration of buildings for the practice of agriculture and forestry, including their ancillary businesses“ is permissible in the designated area of grassland - agriculture and forestry. However, only if and to the extent that it is absolutely necessary. The planned amendment of the zoning regulations must not undermine this needs assessment. This has been confirmed to us by lawyers of the Lower Austrian government. If an upper limit of 25% is imposed, this will disadvantage winegrowers in the Vierbatz with smaller plots of land. According

to the existing regulation, they are allowed to build on more than 25%, provided there is a need. So why all the effort? Here again an unnecessary regulatory spiral is set in motion. NEOS are against overregulation, not against the possibility of creating buildings that are necessary for the purposes of winegrowers.

Secondly, we consider this change counterproductive because there is the very good and positive project of the „Weinbauhallen“ near the Tirolerhof. This project was implemented to provide modern production and storage facilities for the growing winegrowing businesses in the village. A positive side effect is that the joint construction of the facilities saves land and requires less space than if each winegrower were to build in his own vineyard. The project therefore has advantages for the environment and the landscape. This offer has been very well received and there are still two units available. Until these two units are sold, community funds are tied up in the project. So the municipality should be interested in selling these vacant units first before creating new opportunities.

The project currently under construction in Vierbatz apparently meets the requirements of the Lower Austrian Spatial Planning Act. As we are assured, care will be taken during operation to ensure that the requirements are met. Everyone can judge for themselves whether this is the case with the other, already existing project in Vierbatz.

AMBROS-RIEDERGASSE: IT CAN BE DONE BETTER!

Widening the carriageway in Ambros-Riedergasse? This can't be a serious proposal from the OEVP and the Greens: **sealing more areas** without batting an eyelid, without seriously thinking about alternatives?

If the OEVP and the Greens have their way, the possibility should be created to widen Ambros-Riedergasse in the area of the narrow section in front of Wiener Gasse. From the current width of 4.5m to 7.5m. So that, according to the responsible Green deputy mayor Apl and the OEVP mayor Andrea Kö in chorus, „prams, cyclists and wheelchair users“ can use this bottleneck more safely - in addition to the 2,000 or so cars a day that use the cut-off from Plaettenstrasse to Wiener Gasse. Sounds convincing, doesn't it? A green deputy mayor is in favour of additional sealing - which is what a road widening by 3m means - and willingly supports the plans of the Austrian People's Party (OEVP) to further increase land consumption!



The sad reality

Widening a side road cannot be the means of choice to solve this problem, NEOS believe. Before resorting to this last resort, **all other options** must be put on **the table** and evaluated. In the Mobil 2030 concept - both Kö and Apl were active in the municipal council when it was developed - solutions can be found. Please read it! For example, the creation of a left turn option from Donauwoertherstrasse into Wienergasse. This would allow this section of

Ambros-Riedergasse to be closed to through traffic and converted into a **pedestrian zone**. The existing roadway there would then be sufficient for the use of all road users and not a single square metre of grassland would have to give way, let alone be expropriated. The through traffic would thus be transferred directly to Wienergasse. A driving ban except for residents and cyclists is also a conceivable possibility. What is needed is an **overall concept** with the aim of guiding as few cars as possible through Perchtoldsdorf.



What is planned?

Why are such options not discussed before trying quietly and secretly, under cover of the summer break, to get through this „solution“, recalling the spirit of the last century, off the ground? Do Apl and Kö want to avoid the process of reflection and discussion on a future-oriented solution to this problem, which has been pending for many years, one year before the next municipal elections because they are afraid of making courageous decisions? Looks like it, unfortunately. Or is it simply an unwillingness to face up to complex problems?

No matter what the real reason is. NEOS advocate that widening the carriageway can only be the very last option if nothing else works. We demand a thorough analysis of what options are available to guide the 2,000 cars per day that use this small alley to get to the motorway by other routes. Only then can a decision be made as to which of these options is the best for the neighbouring residents and the town as a whole and - please remember, dear Greens - the environment.

GET TO KNOW THE NEOS TEAM IN YOUR TOWN



CLAUDIA BUCHANAN

Culture, Integration, Sport



ZSOLT JANOS

Economy, finance, transparency, communication, organisational development



MARTINA KUNSBERG SARRE

Education, Science



MAXIMILIAN MADER

Mobility, economy, education, fundamental rights



CHRISTOPH MÜLLER

Youth, education, local development, market square



ROMAN NOSSAL

Mobility, noise protection, local development



TONY PLATT

Mobility and environment, finances, transparency, municipal services



SABINE SCHOBER

Spatial planning, local development, environmental protection, biodiversity, soil unsealing

VOTING RIGHTS FOR EU CITIZENS

There are important election dates when citizens from EU countries can vote: the European Parliament elections in June 2024 and the municipal council elections (presumably) in January 2025. The prerequisites are a main residence in Perchtoldsdorf and that you have reached the age of 16 by election day at the latest. **Make use of your right to vote!** If you are not yet registered in the electoral roll, the citizens' service of the town (buergerservice@perchtoldsdorf.at, +43-1-866 83-140) will help you.



You can also contact our local councillor **Tony Platt** with any questions.

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 +43-699-1908 1532

VISIT THE PARLIAMENT WITH MARTINA KUENSBERG SARRE

19. Dezember, 16:00 Uhr

NEOS Perchtoldsdorf invites you to the heart of democracy! Martina Kuensberg Sarre, Perchtoldsdorf resident and NEOS education spokesperson in parliament, welcomes all interested parties to a guided tour of the new parliament on December 19, at 16:00. Everyone is cordially invited, NEOS affinity or even membership is not required! Registration is absolutely necessary until 2 days before the event.



What do NEOS have to say about this?

In our blog, we comment on current issues in the village. Take a look! Sorry, this is in German only.

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