



## EUROPE STARTS IN PERCHTOLDSORF

Sustainable European strength does not come about through radical reforms, but through gradual, practical improvements. Joint action makes Europe more effective - economically, politically and environmentally, but progress requires practical inspiration rather than abstract facts. Entrenched ways of thinking and snap judgements hinder the changes we want to see. Only by listening to each other can we have a productive discussion about complex issues.

This is exactly where the Europatag-Event kicks in, which the Perchtoldsdorf council is organising on 9 May from 10.00 to 14.00 on Marktplatz. We invite you to celebrate Europe's Day in a spirit of open-mindedness, free from political boundaries: to chat over coffee and cake, ask questions and listen to one another. It is through open conversation about everyday life that the understanding emerges which makes Europe a shared home.

# NEOSletter

## PERCHTOLDSORF

2026 / ISSUE 1

NEOS



**With an eye to  
the future**

## SAVING WITH MODERATION

“Of course we need to make savings – but where exactly do you intend to start?”

I’ve been asked this question particularly often over the last few weeks. The answer was clearly demonstrated at the last council meeting: we’ll start where it’s necessary and feasible – transparently, responsibly and without losing sight of our community’s future.

One of the biggest items in the budget is the Freizeitzentrum (leisure centre). That is why we have implemented selective measures, particularly regarding the indoor swimming pool and the sauna. Along with the admission prices already adjusted in December, this will provide a noticeable relief for the municipal budget of around half a million euros already this year.

A further step concerns the very poorly utilised Ortsbus-Service. We are currently negotiating the termination of this service. This will save more than 200,000 euros annually. We are working on a ‘last-mile’ solution for residents who, for social reasons, require support from the municipal authority. In this way, we are substituting the ‘scattergun approach’ with focused support where it is really needed.

Some would like to see an even faster pace when it comes to reforming the local authority’s finances. This is understandable. At the same time, I would ask you to consider that existing contracts cannot be terminated ‘overnight’ without incurring significant additional costs. The 2025 financial statements clearly show that savings must be made on both a big and small scale.

We have already taken an important step forward with regard to the council’s current expenditure. Compared to the initial budget estimate from last year, we have managed to save almost four percent – that amounts to about 1.75 million euros. And this despite the fact that contribu-

tions imposed by the Province of Lower Austria on the municipality of Perchtoldsdorf for youth welfare, health and social services have risen by around half a million euros, or approximately five per cent.

However, we do not see saving as an objective in itself. Despite the necessary austerity measures, our coalition is succeeding in actively shaping the future: We are particularly glad that the stage has been set for the introduction of the open form of all-day schooling at the Sebastian Kneippgasse primary school. The parents whose children are affected have voted in favour of this by an overwhelming majority. The decision now lies with the Lower Austrian Department of Education – and everyone involved is working to ensure that implementation hopefully takes place as early as next school year. You can read more about all-day schooling and current reforms of the Austrian education system in the article by Martina von Künsberg Sarre.

We are also making rapid progress revising the spatial planning regulations and building regulations. The aim is to allow a moderate increase in housing density in the historic centre, whilst preserving the character of the town. With regard to the building regulations, the focus is on practical solutions and removing unnecessarily complicated or outdated rules. Ultimately, this also means administrative streamlining and, consequently, more efficient approval procedures. In the autumn, these ideas will take specific form.

What do you think about all this? We value your opinion. Join the discussion with us at one of our Polit Talks or simply drop us a line. You’ll find all dates and contact details on the last page of this NEOSletter.

Best regards and have a lovely early summer.



**Tony Platt**  
Deputy Mayor



# A SPRING OF SCHOOL REFORMS

Our world is changing rapidly. Artificial intelligence and social media are shaping the everyday lives of young people – yet schools are currently failing to prepare them adequately for this. With the reform of the upper secondary level of the AHS, we are strengthening key skills for the future without increasing the number of lessons for pupils.

Key changes include the new compulsory subject ‘Media and Democracy’, the expansion of computer science to include artificial intelligence, greater school autonomy, and a streamlining of the curriculum by allowing for reductions in Latin. In addition, we are advocating a social media age limit of 14. This protects young people from addiction, psychological stress and fake news – with full protection of data privacy.

## Good news for Perchtoldsdorf

There is also good news at local council level: together with our coalition partner, we have taken an important step ahead in education. Starting in the 26/27 school year, the Sebastian-Kneipp-Gasse primary school will operate as an all-day school (Ganztagsschule in der offenen Form). Both the school administration, parents and teaching staff have spoken out strongly in favour of making this change. This transition will enable children to receive more targeted support in the future, increase equality of opportunity and make it easier for parents to balance family and work commitments. This marks the implementation of a long-standing goal of NEOS.



**Martina von Künsberg Sarre**  
Member of the Austrian Parliament

## School Community Committee



# CHANGE IN THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE IBMS

Perchtoldsdorf is a major centre of education. The Interest- and Career-Oriented Secondary School (IBMS) is regarded as a pioneer in career orientation and prepares its pupils specifically for their future careers over a four-year period.

The Secondary School Community Committee is responsible for the school’s administration, operations, budget and infrastructure. The chairmanship of this key committee has now been taken over by **Roman Nossal**, Councillor for Education. He succeeds **Franz Pleterski**, who is stepping down from the role for professional reasons. A sincere thank you to Franz Pleterski for his dedicated service.

There is also a school committee for the primary schools. **Franz Pleterski** and **Stefanie Moser** represent NEOS on this committee.

# PERCHTOLDSDORF IS COMMUTING

– and is in need of better connections!

60,000 people from Lower Austria commute to Vienna by public transport every day. Many of them from Perchtoldsdorf. For all of us, the 14-month closure of the main Schnellbahn-line will be a real test of patience. Longer journey times, more transfers, less predictability – and those who can afford it are simply switching to their cars. That cannot be the answer.

Vienna started working on solutions early on. Lower Austria? Not a peep. Yet we are the ones particularly badly affected. NEOS are fighting to ensure that, despite the closure, you can get to work, university or your loved ones reliably, with a predictable schedule and without daily hassle.

## What we are specifically demanding:

- » **Shorter intervals of line 260 and an express bus to the U6 terminus.** This is our most urgent demand. No endless transfers, no hoping for connections: a direct express bus from Perchtoldsdorf to the U6 terminus reduces bottlenecks, eases the strain on Ketzergasse – and makes the daily journey to Vienna manageable again.
- » **Expand the Core Zone 100.** If the service is getting

worse, it must at least become cheaper – and it needs better connections! Expanding the Core Zone will ease the strain on our wallets.

- » **Information before the chaos hits.** Commuters need clarity months before the closure begins – not only when they're already standing on the platform waiting for alternatives that nobody has organised.
- » **Task force to tackle train cancellations.** Delays and cancellations like those we've seen recently must not become the new normal. ÖBB and NÖVOG must work together to get this issue under control.

Perchtoldsdorf commutes – daily, reliably, and with a right to a properly functioning public transport service. Following our initiative, the local council has already passed a resolution to this effect. Join in and sign the petition now!

<https://niederoesterreich.neos.eu/mitmachen/rettet-die-pendler-innen>



**Christoph Müller**  
Member of the State Parliament  
of Lower Austria

## OUR TEAM ON THE LOCAL COUNCIL



**TONY PLATT**  
Deputy Mayor,  
Fraction Chairman



**SABINE SCHOBER**



**ZSOLT JANOS**  
Councillor for  
European matters



**CLAUDIA BUCHANAN**



**ROMAN NOSSAL**  
Councillor for  
Education

### STAY UP TO DATE!

- [niederoesterreich.neos.eu/gemeinden/perchtoldsdorf](https://niederoesterreich.neos.eu/gemeinden/perchtoldsdorf)
- [perchtoldsdorf@neos.eu](mailto:perchtoldsdorf@neos.eu)
- [facebook.com/neospdorf](https://facebook.com/neospdorf)

### WHAT DO THE NEOS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THIS?

In our blog, we share our views on current local issues. Why not take a look?



- [niederoesterreich.neos.eu/gemeinden/perchtoldsdorf/perchtoldsdorf-blog](https://niederoesterreich.neos.eu/gemeinden/perchtoldsdorf/perchtoldsdorf-blog)

### UPCOMING EVENTS



**MAY 6<sup>TH</sup>**

Political discussion with Tony Platt and Zsolt Janos, at Heurigen Schmid, Brunner Gasse 14

**MAY 9<sup>TH</sup>**

Europa-Tag, organized by Perchtoldsdorf's Council – in the market square, starting 10 am



# NEOS