

Report from site visit in Ørsta

The site visit in Ørsta was held April 23rd, 2015.

The visiting teams were given an introduction to the region by Ingerd Husøy from Møre and Romsdal County. Gro Anita Bårdseth from the Planning and Environment Department in the municipality of Ørsta talked about the European project site and study area in and introduced the task at hand. Participants and representatives from the county and municipality went on a town walk to explore the European study area and project site.

Images from the site visit will be made available online with the following labels:

Study area: ORSTA-NO-SS-P22 – P50

Project site: ORSTA-NO-PS-P52 – P59

During the event the following topics came up:

Water levels:

The difference between ebb and flow is between 1–1,5 m.

All new buildings along the fjord must be situated minimum +2.82 m above sea level due to the risk of flooding.

Housing:

The exact demand for housing and apartments in Ørsta is not clear. The current regulation plan indicates housing in combination with office or commercial space on the ground floor in the central areas. The local administration is currently discussing the level of mixed-use buildings and is looking for strategies on how or where this should be kept and/or implemented. What is the consequence for the centre of Ørsta if one is to open up for changing the functions on the ground floor?

It has been a general priority to facilitate for more housing in the centre of Ørsta.

The general tendency in Ørsta is elderly people that sell their detached house and move into an apartment that require less maintenance and obligations.

The municipality is awaiting a denser form of housing in the central area as the most popular development of housing is still single family homes in Ørsta.

20% of new dwellings in the municipality should be urban dwellings in the central areas.

The existing cultural building:

Proposals on expanding the existing cultural building in its current location or combining it with the hotel have been discussed. These projects have not gone further due to the lack of financial support. New ideas around the cultural building are welcomed but this is not a priority in the program. The main task in Ørsta is to fill the centre with new life and activity and the municipality of Ørsta does not want to put boundaries on the creative work. However, the municipality is asking for realistic ideas that react to a municipality with a few resources.

Ørsta – Volda relation:

There are around 900 people commuting between Ørsta and Volda on an everyday basis. Most of them travel by car despite a somewhat developed bus system in the rush hours. There is not a continuous pedestrian and bicycle path between the two town centres and this has been a priority in the municipality for a long time.

It is important to note that the two towns, Ørsta and Volda, should not compete with each other but rather strive for complimentary activities.