

22.06.2026

Strong Interest in the "Social Cohesion" Project at the Homberg Town Hall Meeting **Marvin Coker provided an update on the current status of downtown development**

How can Homberg's town center become even more attractive, livable, and sustainable in the coming years? This question was the focus of the latest "Homberg Town Hall Meeting" on June 18th at the Gasthaus Krone. Around 15 interested citizens took the opportunity to learn about the current status of the "Social Cohesion" urban development program and to contribute their suggestions.

The participants were welcomed by Julian Stötzer from the Department of Economic Development, Urban Planning, and Tourism of the City of Homberg (Efze). Marvin Coker from the Kassel-based planning office ProjektStadt, part of Nassauische Heimstätte | Wohnstadt, then presented the results achieved so far and the current status of the Integrated Urban Development Concept (ISEK).

The development concept forms the basis for future urban development in the funding area and is scheduled for completion by the end of the year.

Recognizing Strengths, Utilizing Potential

The analyses conducted so far are based on numerous workshops, participatory formats, and discussions with citizens, which took place from the beginning of December 2025 to March 2026. These analyses revealed that Homberg's city center possesses many strengths, but also faces challenges.

The historic old town is considered a defining feature of the city's identity and has high tourism potential. At the same time, there is a need for renovation: approximately 42 percent of the buildings in the designated development area require refurbishment, and nearly ten percent are vacant. Nevertheless, the city center offers attractive conditions – many facilities are within walking distance, the quality of life is high, and the historic buildings offer diverse cultural opportunities. Homberg also benefits economically. As a regional center with important government offices, the city is experiencing employment growth and a growing service sector. However, the comparatively high unemployment rate and the long-term population projections present challenges. The wide range of educational and childcare options, the diverse recreational areas, and the civic engagement of the city were also positively assessed.

The broad range of educational and childcare options, the diverse recreational areas, and the commitment of the city's residents were also positively evaluated. The analyses identified areas for improvement, including accessibility, cycling infrastructure in certain districts, and the traffic situation in the city center.

Focus on Quality of Life

A key concern for residents is improving the quality of life in the city center. Therefore, in the future, greater attention will be paid to accessibility, green spaces, and the design of public areas. Traffic management will also be examined more closely. The strong dominance of traffic in the city center was repeatedly addressed in the public participation processes. Despite these challenges, Homberg is perceived very positively by its residents overall. "Homberg is a city of short distances. Many everyday errands can be run on foot. At the same time, the city is perceived as family-friendly and offers good medical care as well as numerous advisory services," emphasized Coker.

Guiding Principles for the Future

Concrete measures have now been derived from the findings, based on the guiding principle "Homberg in Motion: Vibrant and Diverse for Young and Old." The goal is a vibrant city center with a high quality of life, attractive green spaces, good infrastructure, and diverse meeting places for all generations.

Key areas of action include the development of existing buildings, the enhancement of public open spaces, the promotion of education, culture, and social cohesion, and the strengthening of the local economy. Furthermore, the topics of safety, climate protection, and sports and exercise opportunities play an important role.

Lively exchange with citizens

Following the presentation, a lively discussion ensued. Those present took the opportunity to ask questions, contribute ideas, and discuss the future of their city. The public forum thus provided not only information on the current planning status but also an important platform for participation and exchange.

Background

The Integrated Urban Development Concept (ISEK) is a prerequisite for participation in the urban development funding program "Social Cohesion." It defines the goals, measures, and projects for the development of the designated funding area over the

next ten to fifteen years. In Homberg, the funding area includes, among other areas, Freiheit, Ziegenhainer Straße, and Wallstraße. Furthermore, the possibility of including the area around Stellberg and Untergasse in the further development is being examined.

Those interested can find more information about the project and opportunities for participation on the city center development website: <https://www.homberg-innenstadt.de/>

The Homberg City Talks series continues on Thursday, August 20, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Gasthaus Krone. The topic will be "What is an extracurricular learning location?" The speaker will be Sascha Kurzrock from the Erich Kästner School in Homberg. (di)