



## **Press release from the City of Homberg (Efze)**

### **Project Workshop in Homberg (Efze): Citizens Prioritize Projects for Sustainable City Center Development**

The city of Homberg (Efze) took another important step in the participatory process for the development of its city center with a project workshop held on March 4, 2026. As part of the urban development funding program "Social Cohesion," engaged citizens, together with representatives from the city administration and the planning office ProjektStadt, discussed concrete project approaches for the designated funding area. The event revealed which (urban development) measures, in the participants' opinion, can particularly contribute to the sustainable development of the city center.

At the beginning of the project workshop, the previous steps were briefly reviewed: Following the inventory and evaluation of opportunities and challenges, a guiding vision for the city center was presented. Against this backdrop, the participants jointly developed project priorities in various areas of action – from the development of existing buildings and open spaces to traffic and mobility, social services, and the local economy.

The desire for the revitalization of key locations in the area was particularly evident: Participants prioritized, among other things, the repurposing of the fire station site with a redesign of Wallstraße, including the central bus station, the development of Freiheit, and the enhancement of Untergasse and adjacent open spaces. Discussions focused on both structural measures and aspects such as accessibility, lighting, greenery, quality of stay, and improved pedestrian safety.

Another focus was on developing attractive offerings for diverse user groups. Suggestions included the idea of a multigenerational housing complex in Freiheit, the development of the "Magic Garden" as a meeting place and extracurricular learning space, additional play and exercise opportunities, and accessible neighborhood projects. Participants contributed numerous proposals for joint activities and smaller projects – such as neighborhood festivals, clean-up campaigns, "chat benches," children's flea markets, and a community garden. These ideas could potentially be supported through the discretionary fund, which was also presented at the project workshop.



Participants also set priorities in the area of transportation and mobility. They advocated for a transportation development plan that focuses on the bus station, cycling infrastructure, and safe pedestrian routes. Discussions included a more pedestrian-friendly, partially car-free old town, as well as measures to improve pedestrian connections within the designated funding area. Additional suggestions addressed the traffic situation "An der Mauer," parking on certain streets, and improved accessibility to playgrounds and recreational areas.

The project workshop also highlighted the importance of cleanliness, green spaces, and climate adaptation for many residents. Proposals included additional greening in Untergasse and along the city wall, tree and flowerbed sponsorships, the redesign of the city wall gardens, the renovation of the Katterbach playground, and measures such as cleanliness and waste management. Further project ideas focused on promoting the local economy through an incentive program, training and qualification opportunities, and stronger networking among social, cultural, and sports organizations in the area.

The workshop also highlighted the importance of cleanliness, green spaces, and climate adaptation for many residents. "The project workshop impressively demonstrated how concrete and diverse the citizens' ideas are for Homberg's city center. The prioritization of the projects provides us with important guidance for the next steps in the process of developing the Integrated Urban Development Concept (ISEK), which forms the basis for implementing projects and securing funding through the 'Social Cohesion' program. My thanks go to everyone who contributed and participated in the discussions with such expertise and commitment," emphasized Mayor Dr. Nico Ritz.

The project workshop is part of a series of participatory formats that have been running since December 2025 and will continue until the end of March 2026. The collected suggestions and priorities will be considered holistically, categorized, and evaluated in the context of feasible projects within the urban development funding program as the process for developing the ISEK progresses.

For any questions, please contact Julian Stötzer (Department of Economic Development, Urban Development, Tourism of the City of Homberg (Efze), Tel.: 05681 994-292, E-Mail: [julian.stoetzer@homberg-efze.de](mailto:julian.stoetzer@homberg-efze.de)) and Marvin Coker (ProjektStadt, Tel.: 0561 1001-1376, E-Mail: [marvin.coker@projektstadt.de](mailto:marvin.coker@projektstadt.de)).



## **Background to the Urban Development Program:**

The "Social Cohesion" program supports cities and municipalities in linking construction and social measures to strengthen neighborhoods, promote participation, and increase quality of life. The Integrated Urban Development Concept (ISEK) defines development goals for the next ten years and identifies concrete measures to sustainably improve living, housing, and working conditions in the funding area. By participating in the "Social Cohesion" urban development program, Homberg (Efze) is specifically focusing on integrated, sustainable, and community-oriented inner-city development.

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