

## INTERVIEWS IN DANISH ECOVILLAGES

### ADVICE FOR STARTING COMMUNITIES

#### DYSSEKILDE

- The common vision needs to have higher priority than the individual needs
- You learn to love one each other through the work of creating community
- Stay in the process - although it gets tough
- Find a balance between agreements and disagreements
- Don't take it too seriously!

#### SVANHOLM

- Practice spaciousness, giving space to each other
- Be sure to be clear and transparent in your processes
- Make sure not to include any dominating and hierarchical male figures in the process
- The common meetings should have the loudest/biggest voice
- There is value in having a big group - one being that you do not have to be best friends with everyone
- A common economy is a good choice - it makes many things much easier
- There needs to be a willingness to work in and with the group
- Make sure to outline which part of the community is obligatory/compulsory.

#### SOLENS HJERTE

- Be sure that all your paperwork is complete and kept track of
- Make sure to outline common values before you move in together.

#### GLASHUSENE

- Think about conflict resolution methods before they are needed
- Make sure to place all community elements (in the landscape and architecture planning) before members decide where to live
- Remember to include places where you can dry clothes
- It is a good idea to have common washing machines and dryers
- Plan everything (as much as possible) before moving in together
- Think about creating many 'meeting spaces'/common spaces that invite members to meet and share time (formal and informal)

- Remember to think about the children in your planning of the community and physical infrastructures
- Let each other know about visitors beforehand.

## **FRI & FRO**

- Be clear on the agreements about community work and the expectations of community work before starting the community.
- Be ready to compromise, accept and change.
- Be aligned on the main values of the community.
- Be considerate about people in different financial situations, and make sure to be able to include those who have the least financial capacity.
- Seek knowledge and inspiration about how to structure yourself economically.
- Doing common Mindfulness courses or practices in the community is very much worth it!
- Make sure that the meetings are also fun and inspiring, so that they do not become draining.
- Make sure not to spread out the meetings too much, so that too many agenda points get stacked together.
- Be sure of your conflict resolution methods from the beginning!

## **HALLINGELILLE**

- Make sure to establish good contacts with the neighborhood/surrounding community.
- Bring attention to social dimensions all the way - not just practical, legal, financial.
- Involve the children in decision making from the beginning.
- Remember to explore what can be shared and what should be individual. Sometimes we went so fast with our individual buildings that we forgot to investigate shared solutions.
- Clarify what is covered by the 'shared pot' from the very beginning and make sure the individual contributions to the shared pot is not set too low - then you avoid so many discussions and difficult decisions later on.