

LSV – yesterday and today

Between the two larger cities of Bonn and Cologne lies the smaller city of Bornheim with its 50 thousand inhabitants. It is subdivided into smaller villages alongside the River Rhine, others in the valley, and several in the hilly area higher up. It is a very fertile region, and the agricultural products like fruits, vegetables and flowers have been marketed via the Cooperative Society for the past 100 years.

In 1975 it was disclosed that there was an interest by a company to dig 50 meters down into the promontory above the villages of Roisdorf and Brenig, take out the sand from a huge part of the area around and fill the excavation with ashes from waste



Demonstration against waste disposal plant

incineration plants. The villagers responded by creating a Landscape Protection Association Vorgebirge (LSV) to oppose the mining of silica sand. Today in 2021 the LSV is a registered association comprising around 300 members.

The struggle to prevent sand extraction and the plans for the waste disposal plant lasted for more than 20 years. It employed all kinds and levels of dissemination of information to the villagers and media, advocacy in the city council from inside and outside, and a number of quite tense legal cases at the county and provincial level. In 1994 the end of plans for the waste disposal plant were announced. In 2011 the plan for extracting sand was finally turned down by the respective authorities. Today the area is covered by landscape protection law.

The national association BUND (Friends of the Earth Germany) and LSV have developed the area further, to become a landscape for a variety of Bornheim's fruit blossoms (Obstblütenlandschaft). Several studies have already shown enrichment in the number of species, and the efforts have been acknowledged as an official project within the UN Decade on Biological Diversity.

In 1996 a new rumour spread: that planning was afoot affecting the villages of Merten, Rösberg and Hemmerich, to extract sand in an area of 45 hectares of the promontory. Again, it was



LSV-Tower Fietzeks Weitsicht

the joint efforts in mobilizing the villagers, culminating in a petition signed by 13,000 people and combined with the specific scientific expertise of professors of geography and mineralogy of the Universities in Bonn and Cologne living in Bornheim that resulted in 2011 in that case also being turned down.

By now a new field of struggle has emerged – the installation of windmills to produce energy. Without doubt LSV is in favour of renewable energy, but not in the form of uncontrolled growth anywhere in the countryside; it should be concentrated within a zone where the route of electricity wires in the Rhine valley already exists.

Around 1997 the LSV constructed a lookout tower at the Botzdorfer Neuweg which is today called Fietzeks Weitsicht (Fietzek's Foresight), named after the longstanding chairperson of LSV. This has become a magnet for a large number of visitors. At the lookout site there are several models and visual charts which explain the geological formation of the former intended sand mine in the neighbourhood. More interesting information is presented by a resting station of the Green C and the Rheinische Apfelroute - the Apple Route of the Rhine Valley.

During recent years members of the LSV have undertaken engaged repair of decayed benches, tables and huts for shelter in the lower and higher area. These earned LSV a lot of praise from strollers out for a relaxing break.

On the beautiful Rhine riverbanks of the villages of Hersel, Üdorf and Widdig LSV erected seven new benches – not only for seniors stopping for a while and enjoying the beautiful view of the river flowing by.

Impressum

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*The vigilant eye
from the promontory
to the River Rhine*



**Landscape Protection Association
Vorgebirge (LSV) introducing itself**

www.LSV-Vorgebirge.de

These are our objectives

LSV aims at the protection of the landscape, water and environment. Our area of reach and impact are the villages of the city of Bornheim.

We advocate and campaign that

- ▶ Nature and landscape should be valued as discrete goods that should not get lost against ever growing land-use and building plans. The limits to growth have been reached for Bornheim!
- ▶ The Ville promontory and the Rhine river banks should be protected and preserved as local recreation areas.
- ▶ Agriculture with its arable and fertile land especially in the Rhine valley should continue.
- ▶ Species of animals and plants threatened with extinction should keep their natural habitat.
- ▶ Climate change should be fought at local level and renewable energy transition supported.



Foto: Klaus Benninghaus



“Spring fruit blossom time” –
a project which LSV joined.

How are we doing all this?

Since 2010 the LSV has been recognized by the Federal Environment Agency as a public utility provider. We are therefore called to hear any case with public environmental concerns (like land-use planning) within Bornheim.

We provide expert opinion, and statements on all development plans. Many of our suggestions have been implemented.

To reach our objectives we keep good contact with the city administration and expert bodies. Our neutrality between political parties is often an advantage.

We cooperate with other local and regional associations in order to create synergies and make use of all our skills and competencies.

The LSV is a member of the Regional Office for the Environment (LNU). In this capacity LSV is represented on the Environment Advisory Board of the Rhein-Sieg-Kreis, the county authority. LSV also supports the dissemination of knowledge about our home country through excursions, lectures and our popular home country lexicon.

Especially when practical and technical skills are needed for repair or cleaning-up activities, we enjoy a high level of membership participation.

We

- ▶ cultivate and tidy-up the landscape
- ▶ cooperate in the fruit blossom scenery
- ▶ plant trees, bushes and hedges
- ▶ install, repair and replace rest benches
- ▶ rehabilitate our lookout and shelters
- ▶ build protective fences during toad migration
- ▶ write reports and participate in planning discourses

You can find more about our objectives and activities on our website – or just pick up the phone and call us.

www.LSV-Vorgebirge.de



Foto: Günter Scholz

Become a member of LSV

The membership application form can be downloaded from our website or via the adjacent QR-Code.

Each member strengthens the association and provides backing.

If you have specific knowledge and skills then please contact us.

We are pleased about:

- ▶ People with special interest in local history and geography
- ▶ Technically skilled people
- ▶ Helping hands during planting and cultivating
- ▶ Activists during refuse collection
- ▶ Support in website administration
- ▶ Expertise on internet and finances
- ▶ Geological and biological experts
- ▶ Participation in our managing board