



Election programme 2026 - 2030

Just do what is good for Maasdriel

Fewer rules, more results.

VVD Maasdriel, locally liberal

with a strong provincial, national, and European network

Just do what is good for Maasdriel

Maasdriel is a municipality to be proud of. Our strategic location on the A2 motorway and between the Meuse and Waal rivers makes us attractive for both living and working. We have a strong agricultural countryside, a diverse range of small and medium-sized businesses and a growing population. What sets us apart is our active community life: the glue that holds our villages together. Moreover, Maasdriel is in good financial health; we are a thrifty municipality with a balanced budget. That is a foundation we must cherish.

Nevertheless, we cannot afford to sit back and relax. We see the threats looming. Our attractiveness is putting considerable regional pressure on our housing market, leading to tensions between housing construction, agriculture and our valuable landscape. At the same time, we see that our civil service organisation is under pressure due to many ambitions and increasing national tasks, while costs in the social domain (Youth/Wmo) are rising. Our scale is limited; we depend on the region for many facilities, and although cars have plenty of space here, cycle connections and public transport are lagging behind.

The VVD-Maasdriel does not turn a blind eye to these weaknesses, but sees opportunities above all. We do not see the necessary transitions in climate, energy and agriculture as a threat, but as a flywheel for innovation for our entrepreneurs. But to seize those opportunities, we must be honest. We cannot do everything at once. In recent years, ambitions have sometimes exceeded what could be achieved. Projects piled up.

That is why the VVD-Maasdriel is now opting for sharp realism:

- Focus on the basics: We are putting a stop to the accumulation of unworkable plans. We would rather do fewer things very well (construction, safety, maintenance, basic facilities) than many things half-heartedly.
- Our own strength: We build primarily for our own residents and first-time buyers, in keeping with our green living environment, not to solve the region's shortcomings.
- Customer-friendly government: We give residents and entrepreneurs the space to develop and facilitate initiatives from society, instead of regulating everything.

We believe in the strength of our residents. The government is not there to control your life, but to create the space in which you can decide for yourself how you want to live. The government only intervenes when it is really necessary to tackle problems that residents or society cannot solve on their own.

A strong government protects freedom, justice and security, but at the same time gives space for initiative, entrepreneurship and personal choices. Because people often know better than the government what is good for them. We stand for freedom, responsibility and a small but effective government. The VVD-Maasdriel combines this with a warm social heart and a strong belief in community spirit (). Vital villages, strong associations and committed residents and entrepreneurs who work together: that is what Maasdriel is all about.

The municipality encourages and supports where necessary, but leaves residents and businesses free to make a difference and shape their living environment. The VVD-Maasdriel is a local party with a strong provincial, national and European network. With our strong contacts, we ensure that Maasdriel is heard in Arnhem (province), The Hague (national government) and, if necessary, even in Brussels (EU).

This programme does not contain vague promises, but concrete actions. We do not want to promise more than we can deliver. Just doing what is good for Maasdriel. For you!

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Attractive Centres: *affordable housing and local identity*



The housing shortage affects us all. Young people from Maasdriel cannot find a home in their own village and are forced to move away. Older people who want to downsize cannot find suitable flats, which means that family homes remain occupied. This affects the liveability and 'soul' of our communities. The VVD-Maasdriel has made a clear choice here: we build primarily for our own residents, not for the region. We are speeding up slow procedures and embracing creative solutions to get the flow going.

Housing crisis in Maasdriel

Maasdriel is facing a major housing challenge. More and more residents, from young first-time buyers to older seniors, are finding it increasingly difficult to find suitable housing in their own municipality. First-time buyers who want to stay in their home village often miss out on new-build projects. Seniors who want to move to a smaller or lifetime home also find it difficult to find suitable options. This housing shortage is affecting social cohesion in our villages: families are moving away, young people are not returning and villages are ageing.

Slow decision-making as a stumbling block

A major cause of this situation is slow decision-making and bureaucratic procedures that can delay housing projects for years. While initiators and builders are willing to invest, the process often gets bogged down in permit procedures and red tape. This not only delays the availability of new homes, but also discourages local entrepreneurs and private individuals from contributing to the development of their environment. We want a municipal acceleration team that focuses on speeding up and efficiently and effectively organising procedures.

Lack of mobility in the housing market

Mobility in the housing market is stalling because there are too few suitable types of housing. The shortage of lifetime homes means that senior citizens continue to live in houses that are too large for them, leaving fewer homes available for young families. At the same time, there is an acute shortage of affordable starter homes, making it almost impossible for young people to continue living in their own village.

Our residents first

The VVD-Maasdriel wants a housing policy that works for our residents. We believe that people with social or economic ties to Maasdriel should be given priority when allocating new-build homes and building plots. For us, 'our residents first' is not just an empty slogan, but a concrete principle that strengthens the quality of life and social cohesion within our villages.

Building according to need

The VVD-Maasdriel wants to build according to what the community really needs. That means affordable owner-occupied homes for first-time buyers and suitable, lifetime homes for senior citizens. In this way, we stimulate mobility and keep our villages vibrant and future-proof.

Vibrant villages and customisation per neighbourhood

In order to preserve the identity of all our communities, the VVD-Maasdriel opts for customisation. With regular housing needs surveys per community, we identify which homes are needed where, for first-time buyers, families and senior citizens. Village councils (or similar initiatives such as residents' collectives) will play a clear role in this: they know the local situation and actively contribute ideas about building locations, quality of life and facilities. In this way, we will not only build more, but also in a way that suits the scale and character of each village.

Clear and accessible rules

Residents should be able to easily see what is possible with their homes. The VVD-Maasdriel therefore wants zoning plans to be available digitally and up to date, and for there to be a user-friendly online map where residents can immediately see what expansion options and rules apply to their plot.

Creativity over bureaucracy

In order to move forward more quickly, the VVD-Maasdriel opts for creativity over bureaucracy. Where rules slow things down, we must dare to simplify. For example, by making it easier to split homes or allow alternative forms of housing, we can create additional living space in the short term without affecting the valuable landscape. We strive for a practical, future-oriented approach in which residents, entrepreneurs and the municipality take joint responsibility for a liveable and growing Maasdriel.

Concrete actions

- We want to conduct regular, representative housing needs surveys for each neighbourhood and create clarity through digital zoning plans and online maps for residents.
- We are speeding up the granting of permits by digitising processes. In principle, visual quality plans should offer sufficient protection.
- We are expanding the possibilities for double occupancy in, for example, farmhouses and large detached houses, so that parents and children can live together (kangaroo living).
- We are allowing more flexibility for the placement of informal care homes and 'tiny houses' on private land, including preventively before intensive care is needed.
- We are making permanent residence in recreational homes possible in specific parks where this contributes to the housing stock and does not cause any nuisance, within the legal possibilities and in close consultation with the province and local residents.
- We will introduce an owner-occupancy requirement for new-build projects to prevent speculation and increase opportunities for first-time buyers.
- We will provide clarity and legal certainty for residents of houseboats and floating homes; this form of housing is part of the diversity of our water-rich municipality.
- We will maintain and promote the Starter Loan, specifically for young people with an economic or social connection to Maasdriel.
- We are in favour of 'clustered' forms of housing for senior citizens where people look out for each other.
- We oppose rigid national building quotas (such as a mandatory percentage of social housing per project); we focus on what is needed locally.
- We embrace 'Good Idea, Do Something with It!'. Residents or associations who believe they can perform a municipal task (such as care and welfare tasks, green space maintenance or facility management) better or more efficiently are given the opportunity and the budget to do so. Our guiding principle is: comply or justify any deviation.

Economic Growth:

*business parks, entrepreneurship,
agricultural sector and tourism*



Entrepreneurs are the driving force behind Maasdriel. They provide jobs, sponsor our associations and keep our communities vibrant. Yet they often encounter obstacles that threaten their growth and continuity. The VVD-Maasdriel does not see entrepreneurs as cash cows, but as partners. They deserve the space to grow. The VVD-Maasdriel is committed to the local economy. We do not want anonymous distribution boxes that clog our roads and create few jobs. We want space for Maasdriel's manufacturing industry, crafts, (innovative) services and farmers. We also cherish our recreational gems on the Meuse.

Lack of space hinders growth of local businesses

One of the biggest bottlenecks for entrepreneurs in Maasdriel is the increasing lack of space. Companies that want to expand often cannot find suitable plots or development locations within the municipal boundaries. This forces them to look to surrounding municipalities, which weakens the local economy and leads to the loss of valuable jobs. The VVD-Maasdriel opts for clear, local choices. Business parks should be primarily intended for Maasdriel entrepreneurs: companies that are rooted in our community and want to continue to grow. In this way, the available space continues to benefit our local economy rather than large, external parties with no connection to the region.

The VVD-Maasdriel consciously chooses quality over quantity. No large-scale 'block boxes' that spoil the landscape and create few jobs, but labour-intensive, innovative and sustainable companies that fit the scale and identity of our municipality. In this way, we strengthen both the economic and spatial quality of Maasdriel. The VVD-Maasdriel believes in a municipality that offers its entrepreneurs space, trust and opportunities. Strong and free entrepreneurship is the key to prosperity, employment and quality of life in our villages.

Increasing traffic pressure and logistical nuisance

The growth of large-scale logistics activities is causing increasing traffic pressure. Large distribution centres put strain on the road network, cause nuisance and accelerate wear and tear, while their contribution to the local labour market remains limited. This puts pressure on the liveability and accessibility of our villages, while the social benefits are minimal.

Less regulatory pressure, more entrepreneurship

Many local entrepreneurs experience high regulatory pressure. They spend too much time on permits, paperwork and complicated procedures. These administrative burdens hamper their effectiveness and inhibit their ability to innovate. The VVD-Maasdriel believes that entrepreneurship should once again take centre stage, not regulations.

Confidence in the strength of the agricultural sector

Maasdriel is and will remain an agricultural municipality. The VVD-Maasdriel is fully committed to the future of our farmers and horticulturalists, with a particular focus on innovative, sustainable businesses in agriculture and horticulture. Sectors such as mushroom cultivation and greenhouse horticulture still require a tailored approach, including on and around the Veilingweg, so that existing businesses can continue to grow responsibly. In doing so, we will pay particular attention to the environment, integration into the landscape and road safety. The VVD-Maasdriel also wants to strengthen the connection between agricultural entrepreneurs and recreation: think of farm shops, rural campsites and small-scale catering at businesses. In this way, we simultaneously strengthen the local economy, short supply chains and the experience of our rural areas.

Concrete actions

- We are setting up a Business Desk with a single point of contact (account manager) who will guide entrepreneurs through the administrative organisation. The municipality is learning from the best practices of leading organisations in the field of customer-oriented functioning.
- We will maintain and revitalise small-scale business parks near town centres so that people can continue to work close to home. We want a favourable view to be taken of broadening environmental categories (including category 3) where necessary and appropriate.
- We want Sunday shopping to remain permitted. Entrepreneurs themselves decide when to open their doors.
- We will give existing entrepreneurs in rural areas more scope for secondary activities, among other things.
- We are developing the Poort van Maasdriel business park specifically for local businesses and high-quality services, not for large-scale logistics.
- We will cluster new large-scale greenhouse horticulture and mushroom companies as much as possible on Veilingweg, so as to prevent nuisance in the town centres and keep logistics efficient.
- We want local space for experimentation with circular agriculture in the municipality.
- We award municipal contracts and tenders to local entrepreneurs as much as possible within the legal framework. Municipal contracts and tenders for companies outside the municipality should, in principle, also benefit employment in the municipality.
- We encourage tourism by developing recreational areas such as the Zandmeren and Strandbad Well, with space for high-quality catering establishments throughout the municipality.
- We do not impose patronising bans on entrepreneurs, such as a ban on patio heating; entrepreneurs decide for themselves how they welcome their guests.

Safety and quality of life:

living for residents



In Maasdriel, you should be able to walk the streets safely, day and night. We do not tolerate crime, subversion and drug-related nuisance. The VVD-Maasdriel stands for a tough approach to criminals who disrupt our society. We are also concerned about the housing of migrant workers. They are necessary for our economy, but housing them in residential areas puts pressure on the quality of life and displaces first-time buyers. The VVD-Maasdriel opts for regulation: good housing where people work, not in the village centres.

Safety and quality of life in Maasdriel

The VVD-Maasdriel is very concerned about safety, quality of life and public confidence in the municipality. Our villages must be places where residents feel safe, where rules are obeyed and where there is room for families, first-time buyers and entrepreneurs to grow. Unfortunately, we face serious challenges that require decisive and targeted policy.

Subversion and crime

Subversion is a growing problem in the outskirts of Maasdriel. It involves the dangerous mixing of the underworld and the upper world, with drug waste, money laundering and illegal activities affecting the countryside. This not only undermines safety, but also trust in the government and puts pressure on our local economy. The VVD-Maasdriel wants these practices to be combated, if necessary in collaboration with higher authorities such as the province and the state. A tit-for-tat policy is the starting point: those who break the rules will feel the consequences immediately. The municipality must work more closely with the police, the judiciary and neighbouring municipalities to prevent criminals from settling here.

Nuisance caused by housing for migrant workers

In various neighbourhoods, residents are experiencing nuisance due to the large-scale housing of migrant workers in regular residential areas. The VVD-Maasdriel believes that residential areas are primarily for families, first-time buyers and the elderly, not for large-scale guesthouses or temporary housing complexes. Migrant workers are important to our economy, but their housing must be well organised, appropriate and decent, in suitable locations, and with clear rules. Nuisance, parking pressure and the deterioration of residential streets will not be tolerated.

Lack of enforcement and supervision

There are many rules in Maasdriel, but enforcement is lacking. Without visible supervision, rules lose their meaning and frustration among residents increases. The VVD-Maasdriel therefore advocates for more capacity in enforcement and policing. There must be more 'blue on the streets': police officers and municipal special investigating officers (BOAs) who are visibly present in the neighbourhoods, approachable and actively intervene in the event of violations. We encourage active neighbourhood prevention, prevention groups of entrepreneurs and digital neighbourhood prevention groups. Together with neighbourhood police officers and BOAs, this should ensure a safe living environment. In addition, the VVD-Maasdriel wants the municipality to use modern technology, such as cameras and smart reporting systems, where necessary, appropriate and proportionate, to detect and prevent crime more quickly (to the extent permitted by law).

Clear boundaries and responsible policy

The VVD-Maasdriel believes that the municipality should take its responsibility in the area of reception, but also set boundaries. Maasdriel already contributes sufficiently to the reception of refugees. We do not want a permanent asylum seekers' centre (AZC) in our municipality. This position is not based on rejection, but on fairness: reception must be distributed evenly across the country and must be in line with the scale and capacity of our villages.

Concrete actions

- We want to critically assess our General Local Regulation (APV), which contains local rules on, among other things, order, safety and quality of life: unnecessary rules must be scrapped and rules must be tightened if necessary.
- Where possible, the proceeds from municipal fines will be returned to a Safety Fund for prevention and safety in the neighbourhood.
- We want a 'BIBOB test' to be carried out on licence applications, especially in high-risk sectors, in cases of increased risk or where there is substantial financial interest. This is to combat subversion, with guarantees of proportionality, subsidiarity, legal certainty and equality before the law.
- We want smart cameras at hotspots and on access and exit roads to deter burglars and criminals and speed up detection, to the extent appropriate under the law.
- We will increase the number of municipal BOAs (Special Investigating Officers) and ensure that they are also visible in the evenings and at weekends. We want these BOAs to devote their time and resources to tasks that actually contribute to a safe and liveable society. Unnecessary paternalism does not belong there.
- We encourage active neighbourhood prevention and digital neighbourhood watches (WhatsApp groups) in direct collaboration with neighbourhood police officers.
- We strictly enforce illegal room rentals and overcrowding in residential areas to protect the quality of life.
- We immediately close down drug dens and recover the costs of cleaning up drug dumps from the perpetrators.
- We allow the accommodation of migrant workers on the employer's premises, provided it is small-scale, safe, appropriate and only for their own employees.
- We strictly enforce safe sailing speeds and swimming safety in our recreational areas such as the Zandmeren and Strandbad Well; recreation should not cause nuisance to local residents and nature.
- We are committed to maintaining our local fire stations and are working on regional agreements to guarantee ambulance response times.
- Maasdriel contributes sufficiently to the reception of refugees. We do not want a permanent asylum seekers' centre in Maasdriel and will do everything within the law to prevent this.

Social:

*education, health, welfare and
associations*



We build a strong society together. Associations are the glue that holds our villages together. The VVD-Maasdriel supports volunteers who roll up their sleeves and get stuck in. In the social domain, we see costs skyrocketing. We opt for a system that helps people who really need it, but also demands personal responsibility. Nobody benefits from standing on the sidelines. Work is the best social provision. A village is more than just living and working: we are proud of our history and cherish our heritage. We set high standards in education: talent development is the basis for the future.

Healthcare: rising costs and the need for efficiency

The VVD-Maasdriel sees that expenditure on the Social Support Act (Wmo) and Youth Care is consuming a growing proportion of the municipal budget. This increase in costs is putting pressure on other important services, such as sport, culture and infrastructure. We therefore advocate a healthcare system that does not lose sight of its original purpose: to provide assistance to those who really need it.

The VVD-Maasdriel emphasises that quality and affordability must go hand in hand. Efficient care does not mean less care, but smarter organisation of care. Cooperation between providers, prevention of expensive processes and combating unnecessary bureaucracy are essential steps. By offering support at an early stage, more intensive and expensive forms of care can be avoided. We also want a help desk for those seeking assistance; residents must receive appropriate support. Neighbourhood care and informal carers must also be relieved of as much of the administrative burden as possible. Maasdriel wants to learn from best practices in other municipalities.

The VVD-Maasdriel is committed to prevention: tackling obesity in children in collaboration with schools and sports clubs, and exercise programmes for the elderly in the villages. This is good for health and saves on expensive healthcare costs in the future.

Work and participation: participation is the norm

For the VVD-Maasdriel, social participation is an important principle. Everyone who is able to participate is encouraged to do so. Benefits are intended as a temporary safety net, not as a permanent solution. For residents on low incomes, remission of municipal taxes remains possible. Poverty policy is there to help people through difficult times and offer them prospects for work and independence again.

We expect residents who call on support to give something back to society where possible, for example through voluntary work, training or light work. By actively involving people in their living environment, they not only maintain their self-esteem, but also contribute to the community. We want the municipal council to support residents in finding suitable opportunities, but we set limits on long-term dependence on benefits.

Accessibility and full participation for everyone

Everyone in Maasdriel should be able to participate. Self-reliance is the starting point for this. The VVD-Maasdriel believes that good accessibility is important for all residents. For people with disabilities, facilities, events and information must be designed in such a way that they can participate in social and cultural life without barriers.

Volunteers, associations and young people: fewer rules, more action

According to the VVD-Maasdriel, local associations and volunteers are the glue that holds society together. They ensure connection, quality of life and a sense of community. Yet many volunteers today are drowning in a forest of rules, permit requirements and administrative obligations. The VVD-Maasdriel wants the municipality to encourage volunteering by simplifying rules and speeding up processes. This means less paperwork, shorter lines of communication and more trust in people themselves. Local initiatives should not be held back by bureaucratic barriers, but should be encouraged because they contribute to a vibrant society.

We want to listen to the voices of young people and children. Every year, we want to sit down with representatives of young people to discuss their concerns and proposed solutions. We would also welcome an annual children's council, where schoolchildren can learn about politics and governance.

Events and village festivals are important for the sense of community in our villages. The VVD-Maasdriel wants the municipality to provide generous support: an accessible, digital events desk, clarity about rules and no stricter noise standards than necessary. Safety must be ensured, but the municipality should contribute to solutions rather than obstruct them.

Culture and heritage

Culture and heritage strengthen the identity, liveability and cohesion of our villages. Culture in Maasdriel mainly arises from the bottom up: from residents, associations and local initiatives.

Education: focus on basic skills and future opportunities

Good education forms the basis for personal growth, economic independence and equal opportunities. The VVD-Maasdriel believes it is important that basic skills such as reading, writing and arithmetic receive sufficient attention in education. However, pupils should not only acquire theoretical knowledge, but also develop practical skills. Education should inspire and prepare them for a future in which every talent can flourish.

Concrete actions

- We cut red tape around Wmo applications and, where possible, award care contracts to local providers who know residents.
- We abolish the dog tax; a pet should not be a cash cow for the municipality.
- We ensure good and safe school buildings, in line with the scale and needs of each village.
- We give extra attention to basic skills as well as spoken English, technology and ICT, preparing young people for further education and work.
- We introduce a community contribution for people on social assistance; anyone receiving support from the community gives something back where possible (volunteering or training).
- We let the income threshold for poverty support rise with inflation, so working people on low incomes are not left behind.
- We retain library facilities in smaller villages and oppose centralisation; libraries help reduce low literacy.
- We invest in modern sports facilities, preferably in every village, and in a swimming facility within the municipality, with tight control over construction costs, operating costs and funding.
- We subsidise school swimming to improve children's water safety.
- We explore whether sports clubs can receive compensation for social tasks (Wmo), such as exercise programmes for older residents.
- We focus subsidies and financial support primarily on associations with a social function (sport, culture, youth).
- We safeguard equal treatment and support for community centres (dorpshuizen) in all villages.
- We make accessibility a guiding principle for municipal buildings, cultural facilities and events, so people with disabilities can participate fully.
- We invite people with disabilities and representative organisations to at least an annual consultation on accessibility and bottlenecks, followed by concrete feedback within an agreed timeframe.
- We do not cut funding for (preventive) youth work; investing in young people prevents more expensive care later. Every year, we speak with young people about bottlenecks and solutions. We support an annual children's council.
- We support culture and heritage where it contributes to meeting, liveability and a vibrant community life, with the municipality playing a restrained role.
- We preserve local heritage and village history with volunteers and partners, and make it visible and tangible through activities, routes and education.
- We enable cultural activities and events that fit Maasdriel, have broad local support, and encourage interaction between different groups of residents.
- We protect and cherish listed buildings and monuments, so heritage is preserved for future generations.

Living environment: *water, land, energy and sustainability*



The VVD-Maasdriel wants a green and sustainable Maasdriel, but with the preservation of our beautiful river landscape. We do not believe in symbolic politics or unachievable goals. The energy transition must remain affordable and realistic. We are opposed to the arrival of new large wind turbines that further pollute our horizon and cause nuisance. The sun and innovation offer better opportunities. We cherish our green space and ensure that our dykes and waterways remain safe and clean.

Protection of the landscape

An important point of attention for the VVD-Maasdriel is the deterioration of the open and characteristic landscape of the Bommelerwaard. The arrival of new mega wind turbines will lead to further landscape pollution and a loss of the unique, village character that characterises Maasdriel. The VVD-Maasdriel believes that large-scale wind energy does not fit in with the scale and perception of the Maasdriel landscape. Therefore: no new large wind turbines in our landscape. Maasdriel is too small and too densely populated to accommodate such projects without damaging the quality of life, the experience of nature and the tourist appeal.

Sustainable energy with common sense

Although the VVD-Maasdriel is critical of onshore wind energy, sustainability is necessary. However, it must remain realistic, affordable and feasible. Sustainability should never lead to unaffordable housing costs for residents or restrictions for entrepreneurs who want to invest. The VVD-Maasdriel therefore advocates a practical and realistic sustainability strategy, in which innovation and energy saving go hand in hand with financial responsibility. This means first utilising what we already have before sacrificing new nature or agricultural land.

Solar panels on roofs as the first choice

Instead of filling fields with solar panels, the VVD-Maasdriel wants all available roofs of businesses, stables and municipal buildings to be used optimally. This prevents the loss of fertile agricultural land and keeps the landscape open and green. Only when the potential of 'sun on the roof' has been fully exploited can we consider whether additional measures are necessary. We believe this is careful spatial planning: efficient use of space, preservation of quality of life and protection of the countryside.

Problems with the electricity grid

The existing electricity grid is at maximum capacity in many places, which means that businesses, new construction projects and sometimes even private homes cannot be connected or can only be connected to a limited extent. This so-called grid congestion is a growing problem in the Netherlands and also in Maasdriel. The VVD-Maasdriel sees this as a direct brake on economic growth and sustainability in the region. We want the municipality, together with network operators and the province, to actively seek solutions, such as accelerating the construction of infrastructure and stimulating local energy storage. Only through targeted investments can the energy transition truly succeed.

Affordability and accessibility of waste processing

Another bottleneck identified by the VVD-Maasdriel is the high cost pressure surrounding waste processing. Many residents find the current system expensive and cumbersome, with barriers to disposing of waste. This not only leads to dissatisfaction, but also increases the likelihood of litter and improper use of containers. The VVD-Maasdriel advocates lower waste costs, a simpler system and greater ease of use for residents. By encouraging waste separation with logical and affordable rules, environmental gains can be achieved without placing an unnecessary burden on residents.

Public green spaces

The municipality of Maasdriel currently applies maintenance level B (basic level) for public green spaces. This means that some weeds, leaves and litter may be visible, as long as the overall appearance is still perceived as well maintained. We believe that the current maintenance level is too low; there is too much residual waste and too much litter in the villages.

We believe that a higher maintenance level is desirable within the built-up areas of the centres. This means that public green spaces are well maintained and that only minor imperfections are visible. A higher maintenance level ensures a neat, attractive environment, which contributes to the quality of life, the image of the municipality and often also to higher property values. A clean and well maintained public space reduces the feeling of insecurity and can prevent vandalism and litter; a messy environment, on the other hand, encourages a decline in standards.

Concrete actions

- We are investigating the possibility of allowing residents to dispose of their bulky waste at the recycling centre at a lower rate than at present, with an annual maximum to prevent dumping. Within a cost covering waste budget, it should be possible to collect bulky waste from residents up to a certain maximum without additional costs.
- Illegal dumping in public spaces, such as unauthorised placement of waste near waste containers, will be prosecuted and severely punished wherever possible. CCTV surveillance should be considered at locations where illegal dumping occurs frequently. The use of the BuitenBeter app will be actively encouraged so that residents can easily report issues in public spaces and problems can be resolved more quickly.
- We want a higher level of maintenance for public green spaces.
- We will facilitate the installation of charging stations for electric cars in public spaces, without increasing parking pressure.
- We encourage the greening of gardens and the disconnection of rainwater, such as rain barrels, to prevent flooding.
- We encourage solar energy on the roofs of commercial buildings, stables and municipal property. We allow small-scale solar fields on agricultural land, provided they fit in well with the landscape and there is local support, for example through energy cooperatives.
- We permit small wind turbines on private land, for example on agricultural holdings, as a supplement to solar energy, provided they fit in with the landscape.
- In consultation with the grid operator, and in combination with other measures, we want to reduce grid congestion by building a new subdistribution station.
- We will retain the gas network where possible; we do not want to be forced to get rid of gas.
- We cherish personal freedom behind closed doors; the use of wood-burning stoves and open fires will remain permitted, unless unacceptable for public health.
- We will ban new large wind turbines from our landscape and refer to offshore wind energy via national policy.
- We protect the unique natural values and tranquillity of areas such as the Hurnse Kil and Fort Sint Andries; these will remain designated for extensive recreation and nature experience.

Accessibility:

road safety and mobility



Maasdriel is centrally located in the country, but is becoming congested. The widening of the A2 motorway is necessary, but should not lead to rat-running through our villages. The VVD-Maasdriel opts for traffic flow and safety. We want to get rid of heavy goods traffic through the centres. Cyclists, especially schoolchildren, deserve safe, separate cycle paths. Mobility means freedom: in our rural municipality, the car is not a luxury, but a necessity.

Traffic pressure and traffic flow on the A2

Maasdriel is increasingly struggling with traffic jams on and around the A2 motorway. This motorway, the most important north-south connection in the region, regularly becomes congested. As a result, traffic seeks alternative routes via local roads. This results in increasing rat-running in village centres such as Heden, Ammerzoden, Kerkdriel and Velddriel, leading to nuisance, unsafe conditions and damage to roads.

The VVD-Maasdriel wants motorists to be well facilitated. We see the car as an essential means of transport for work, family and leisure. Instead of 'bullying' motorists, the municipality should invest in good infrastructure, sufficient parking facilities and smart traffic solutions. Improving traffic flow on the A2 motorway and discouraging rat-running through villages are therefore important priorities for the VVD-Maasdriel.

Safety on school routes

Another important issue is road safety around schools. Many children have to cycle on roads with heavy agricultural and freight traffic. This leads to unsafe situations, especially on busy routes between villages and schools. Parents are rightly concerned about the safety of their children on the way to school.

The VVD-Maasdriel believes that bicycle safety should be given absolute priority in the design and maintenance of roads. This means clear cycle routes, better visibility at intersections, separate cycle paths where possible and extra attention to safe crossings. We advocate a coherent cycle network that takes children to school in a safe and clear manner, without them having to share the road with heavy traffic.

Heavy traffic through village centres

Heavy goods traffic through village streets not only creates dangerous situations, but also causes noise pollution, vibrations and damage to homes and roads. This is particularly inappropriate in historic village centres, where it detracts from the character and liveability of the environment. Through traffic uses village routes as shortcuts, with all the negative consequences that entails.

The VVD-Maasdriel wants freight traffic to be banned from village centres. Through traffic belongs on provincial roads and motorways, where it has less impact on the living environment. There will of course still be room for local freight traffic, but the VVD-Maasdriel wants this to be properly regulated, for example through clear signage and improved routes outside the villages.

Future-oriented traffic and mobility

Road safety is also about accessibility. The VVD-Maasdriel wants wheelchair users, people with walking difficulties, people with walkers and parents with prams to be able to move around safely in our villages. This means sufficient and obstacle-free pavements, safe crossings and well-maintained cycle paths and footpaths.

The VVD-Maasdriel looks beyond solutions for today. The municipality must continue to invest in accessible, safe and well-maintained roads so that residents can move around easily by car, bicycle or on foot. New residential areas and business parks must be designed from the outset with accessibility and safety in mind. Public transport must be adequate and regularly available.

Concrete actions

- We enforce a maximum speed limit of 50 km/h on through roads in built-up areas; we only apply 30 km/h in residential areas and near schools.
- We will tackle the traffic situation near schools with safe 'kiss & ride' zones and crossings. We will implement specific safety improvements at known bottlenecks such as De Berm and Hoorzik.
- We demand an integrated solution for the A2 motorway widening project that limits noise pollution and maintains the capacity of the slip roads.
- We will ensure that the sand companies and heavy industry around the Zandmeren lakes are gradually phased out at this location, in close consultation and with appropriate tailor-made solutions, with possible relocation to locations along the motorway or the water. This will mean that freight traffic will no longer have to drive through the centre.
- We want a safe and future-proof traffic structure in Kerkdriel, Velddriel, Ammerzoden and Hedel, among other places. In doing so, we will strictly monitor affordability to ensure that the solution remains feasible and responsible.
- We are constructing separate cycle paths along busy provincial and through roads, with priority given to school routes. We would like to draw attention to the situation on Bernseweg.
- We will ensure that accessibility for people with disabilities is a prerequisite when redesigning streets.
- We will connect our cycling infrastructure to the fast cycle route (F2) between Zaltbommel and Den Bosch.
- We encourage the use of adequate and regularly available public transport.
- We believe it is important that the regular Maas and Waal ferries continue to operate in our municipality and are committed to this.

Administration:

*transparency, efficiency and
independence*



The municipality of Maasdriel must be financially sound and demonstrate administrative strength. Recent research shows that our organisation is ‘creaking at the seams’. Too many projects have been started that are not being completed. The VVD-Maasdriel has decided to take a step back: we will stop implementing unworkable plans and finish what we have started. We want an independent Maasdriel, not a merger. But independence must be maintained by keeping your affairs in order.

Cooperation in the region

According to the VVD-Maasdriel, cooperation in the region, including within the Bommelerwaard Operational Management Unit (BVEB), is not always effective and transparent. The current forms of cooperation offer insufficient oversight and sometimes too little control over decision-making and costs. The VVD-Maasdriel wants cooperation to always serve the residents of Maasdriel. Regional cooperation must be efficient, transparent and verifiable. The municipality must always maintain an overview of its roles, contributions and results. We therefore advocate a rethinking of the way in which partnerships are organised and managed.

Independence of Maasdriel

The VVD-Maasdriel is emphatically in favour of an independent Maasdriel. We are opposed to municipal mergers or reorganisations and strongly believe in the power of local proximity. Maintaining an independent municipality is the best guarantee of committed and recognisable governance for residents and entrepreneurs. Local issues require local solutions, not bureaucratic economies of scale. An independent Maasdriel can respond more quickly to the wishes of residents and entrepreneurs and prevents decision-making from becoming too distant from society.

Transparent governance for residents

Transparency is a core value in the administrative philosophy of the VVD-Maasdriel. The municipality is there for and by the residents, and that must always be visible. The VVD-Maasdriel believes that decisions must be clearly explainable and that information must be shared in an accessible manner. Residents must be able to easily follow how policy is made and what choices the municipal council makes. We consult regularly with village councils and other local stakeholders. We are investigating how village councils can be given a right to advise, similar to the right to advise granted to works councils under the Works Councils Act (WOR). This right to advise gives village councils a formal position in the preparation of important decisions that affect their village.

An open and honest administrative culture strengthens residents' confidence in local politics. That is why the VVD-Maasdriel advocates more transparent decision-making, clearer communication and more accessible municipal information provision. We strive for an efficiently functioning municipality that continuously seeks to improve itself in the areas of administration, citizen and business satisfaction.

Administration and organisation

We strive for a municipality that adheres to clear rules in word and deed, honours agreements and is thus a reliable government. The organisation must be geared towards efficient and effective governance and a customer-oriented attitude towards residents and entrepreneurs. Sufficient knowledge and expertise in all important policy areas is essential, but there must also be sufficient capacity for implementation. Lessons can be learned from best practices at leading organisations in the areas of agile working, project management, and customer and employee satisfaction. Technology must be used where it is useful and where it is possible, with adequate safeguards for information security, privacy and physical security.

The 2026–2029 programme budget states that external hiring at Maasdriel accounts for 29% of the total wage bill plus hiring costs (2024). This is far too high. We want this to be reduced to no more than the national average, around 18%. Furthermore, we want only those studies to be conducted that are truly necessary. Where quick scans suffice, this is preferable.

Concrete actions

- We are implementing an investment freeze on new large projects until the current projects have been completed and the administrative capacity is in order.
- We will subject the cooperation in the BVEB (Bommelerwaard Operational Unit; the cooperation with the municipality of Zaltbommel) to a critical efficiency test. We will withdraw tasks that we can perform better or more cheaply ourselves. We will review the tasks and costs of joint arrangements such as the ODR and AVRI; where the market or the municipality can do better, we will withdraw tasks.
- We want the municipality to invest in its own expertise. We want the municipality to stop using external consultancies, except when there is no other option. The aim is to make substantial savings on the hiring of third parties. We only want to conduct research that is really necessary.
- We are transforming the organisation into a chain-oriented working method in which departments work together instead of alongside each other ('islands'), with innovative technological support where useful and possible.
- We will not increase property tax (OZB) above the inflation adjustment; the municipality must first cut into its own flesh before residents and businesses are asked to foot the bill.
- We apply realistic, cost-covering rates for fees and permits: no higher than necessary, but fair and transparent. The municipality must first work efficiently before residents and businesses pay more.
- We will improve our services: longer opening hours, including evenings, understandable language in letters and digital accessibility.
- Every two years, a representative resident and entrepreneur satisfaction survey is conducted.
- We stand for a decisive municipal council that takes responsibility and dares to make decisions.
- We want the Audit Office to expertly and rigorously assess the efficiency and effectiveness of municipal spending. The Audit Office is expected to respond to the biennial representative citizen and business satisfaction survey.
- Our municipality has a wealth of knowledge and experience among its residents, entrepreneurs and organisations. We want to start a trial with a municipal think tank in which they can contribute ideas on important issues together with the municipality.
- We want to investigate how village councils can be given a right to advise, similar to the right to advise of a works council in the Works Councils Act.
- We proactively publish all Woo requests (Open Government Act) and research reports online.

Finance: *realism for the future*



The VVD-Maasdriel stands for sound financial policy. The household budget must be in order. A recent budget scan shows that Maasdriel has been relying on incidental windfalls in recent years, while structural costs have risen. Almost €50 million in investments are planned, while our organisation can only process €5 to €7 million per year. This needs to improve.

Our financial choices:

- Balancing costs and benefits: We are critical of proposed investments that have not yet started. With every new expenditure, we ask what concrete benefits this will bring to the residents of Maasdriel. No hobby projects, but investments in construction, safety, quality of life and accessibility.
- Keeping costs as low as possible: we do not want to solve budgetary problems by significantly increasing property tax. Efficiency within the organisation takes precedence over increasing costs.
- Monitoring reserves: We only use our general reserves for incidental setbacks, not to cover structural deficits. Structural expenditure should be covered by structural income. Windfalls and reserves are there for incidental setbacks, not to mask ongoing deficits.
- We periodically provide a clear and comprehensible overview of the most important expenditures and what they specifically yield for residents, a 'Maasdriel Dashboard'.
- We actively make use of provincial, national and European subsidies and investment schemes, so that Maasdriel benefits as much as possible without unnecessarily increasing local taxes.

What are the benefits?

By opting for realism and focus, we want to strengthen the administrative power of Maasdriel. We want to prevent the municipality from being placed under administration or forced into a merger. We will ensure that Maasdriel remains a municipality where it is pleasant to live, work and do business, with a government that is reliable and performs its core tasks.

Appendix: income, expenditure and key figures

Appendix:

income, expenditure and key figures

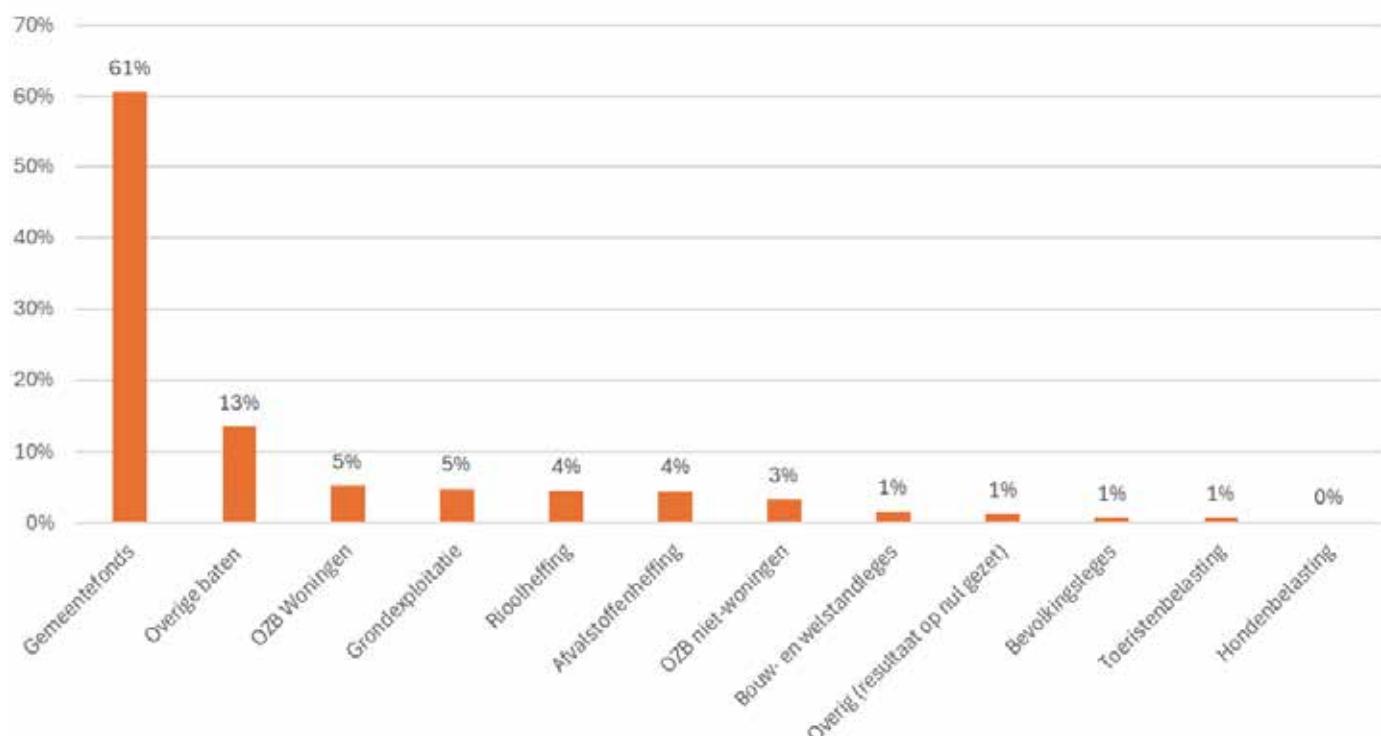


Income

The main income comes from The Hague (the Municipal Fund) and covers more than 60% of all costs. A lot of money also comes in as government subsidies for specific tasks such as the Social Support Act (Wmo). Local taxes cover approximately 20% of the budget for residents and businesses combined. Property tax is the most important 'free' source of income within this. Sewerage and waste collection charges are a 'robbing Peter to pay Paul' situation: what is paid goes directly to the costs of those services (cost-covering). Although Maasdriel has a relatively high level of recreation, the direct financial contribution of tourists, via tourist tax, is relatively small in relation to the total budget (approximately 2%). The province contributes to specific projects on an incidental basis, but is not a structural main financier.

Inkomsten	Begroting 2026
Gemeentefonds	€ 50.939.000
Overige baten (o.a. rijksuitkeringen specifieke taken, doorbelastingen, verhuur vastgoed)	€ 11.271.000
OZB Woningen	€ 4.278.000
Grondexploitatie	€ 3.959.000
Rioolheffing	€ 3.772.000
Afvalstoffenheffing	€ 3.670.000
OZB niet-woningen	€ 2.762.000
Bouw- en welstandleges	€ 1.254.000
Overig (resultaat op nul gezet)	€ 964.000
Bevolkingsleges	€ 607.000
Toeristenbelasting	€ 541.000
Hondenbelasting	€ 107.000
Totaal	€ 84.124.000

Inkomsten in % gemeente Maasdriel (budget 2026)



Expenditure

The municipality spends most of its money on overheads, minimum income policy, social support, housing, welfare, facilities and youth. Much of this expenditure is required by law, such as youth care and social assistance, over which the municipality has little influence.

Uitgaven	Begroting 2026	
Begroting Maasdriel: Bestuur & Dienstverlening		€ 7.522.000
Openbare orde, veiligheid & handhaving	€ 3.403.000	
Bestuur	€ 3.031.000	
Burgerzaken	€ 1.088.000	
Begroting Maasdriel: Samenleven		€ 34.980.000
Minimabeleid/ werk & inkomen	€ 10.092.000	
Wmo	€ 9.958.000	
Jeugd	€ 8.448.000	
Onderwijs	€ 2.041.000	
Publieke- en volksgezondheid	€ 1.631.000	
Sociale basis	€ 1.241.000	
Overkoepelend Samenleven	€ 598.000	
Sport en bewegen	€ 488.000	
Kunst en cultuur	€ 214.000	
Mantelzorgbeleid	€ 147.000	
Aanpak schulden	€ 84.000	
Inburgering	€ 21.000	
Sociale activering	€ 14.000	
Afronding	€ 3.000	
Begroting Maasdriel: Leefomgeving		€ 28.604.000
Wonen, welzijn & voorzieningen	€ 9.210.000	
Openbare ruimte en speelruimte	€ 7.864.000	
Duurzaamheid	€ 4.716.000	
Klimaat, water en riolering	€ 3.774.000	
Omgevingskwaliteit	€ 1.750.000	
Milieu, gezonde leefomgeving en externe veiligheid	€ 643.000	
Landbouw, economie & toerisme	€ 437.000	
Overkoepelend Leefomgeving	€ 168.000	
Verkeer en mobiliteit	€ 42.000	
Begroting Maasdriel: Algemene Baten & Lasten		€ 13.018.000
Overhead (o.a. kosten managers, huisvesting, facilitaire zaken en bijdrage BVEB)	€ 12.570.000	
Algemene dekkingsmiddelen	€ 448.000	
TOTAAL BEGROTING 2026 (Lasten)		€ 84.124.000



Kengetallen gemeente Maasdriel

Aantal inwoners (per 1-1-2026)	26.229
Gemeentelijke uitgaven per inwoner (op basis budget 2026)	EUR 3.207
Percentage aantal inwoners onder 18 jaar in Maasdriel (schatting)	24%
Percentage aantal inwoners tussen 18 en 65 jaar in Maasdriel (schatting)	55%
Percentage aantal inwoners 65 jaar en ouder in Maasdriel (schatting)	21%



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This election programme was drawn up by the Election Programme Committee on behalf of the board and the General Members' Meeting. We thank everyone who contributed to its creation, including input from various interest groups within the municipality of Maasdriel.

The 2026–2030 programme was adopted at the General Members' Meeting of VVD Maasdriel on 21 January 2026. A summary outlining the main points of this election programme is also available.