



Okkar Kópavogur 2021-2023 – information in English

Purpose and objectives

Okkar Kópavogur is a project that is meant to improve and beautify Kópavogur, with direct input from its inhabitants. A total of ISK 200 million will be divided between the five districts of Kópavogur. The money is for projects proposed by the inhabitants in September and October 2021 and voted on in early 2022. The projects will be implemented in 2022 and 2023. The purpose of the project is to improve relations between Kópavogur town authorities and its residents, to give residents more responsibility and to engage them in the decision-making process in relation to the town's development. Also, to improve residents' sense of well-being and their experience of their local community, and to make the neighbourhoods more pleasant and enjoyable.

The objective of the town authorities is to:

- distribute power with participatory budgeting,
- engage all social and age groups,
- encourage the community to work together towards making better neighbourhoods.

The objective of the project is to:

- encourage all residents to take an interest in their local community and to have an opinion about it,
- encourage residents to present their ideas,
- encourage residents to take part in allocating the town's funds.

Division into neighbourhoods

For this project, Kópavogur is divided into five neighbourhoods, based upon the municipality master plan:

- Kársnes
- Digranes
- Smárahverfið
- Lindir og Salir (Fífuhvammur)
- Vatnsendi

Who can participate?

Everyone, regardless of age or whether s/he is a resident of Kópavogur, can submit ideas for projects. Only residents with legal domicile in Kópavogur who are born in 2008 or earlier can vote on projects.

The process

The process consists of a gathering of ideas in September and October of 2021. A vote will then be held on selected ideas in the beginning of 2022. The elected projects will be erected in 2022 and 2023.



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Collection of ideas – through the internet and community meetings

Residents can submit ideas at community meetings and through the internet on the project's website from September 15 to October 13, 2021. Ideas can be submitted and studied at this link: <https://okkar-kopavogur-2021-2023.betraisland.is>. People register their name and email address and can then submit an idea for a project. Residents are also encouraged to familiarise themselves with other ideas that have been submitted and discuss them.

Five community meetings will be held during the period of September 21 to October 5 2021, from 17:00-18:30. The meetings will be held **between 17 and 18:30** on the following days and in the following locations:

- For residents of **Kársnes** on Tuesday 21 September in Salurinn.
- For residents of **Digranes** on Thursday 23 September in Digraneskirkja church assembly hall.
- For residents of **Fífuhvammur (Lindir and Salir)** on Monday 27 September in Lindakirkja church assembly hall.
- For residents of **Smárahverfi** on Thursday 30 September in Breiðablik's festivity hall (stúka) in Smárinn.
- For residents of **Vatnsenda** on Tuesday 5 October in Hörðuvallaskóli, Baugakór 38.

At the meetings residents will sit at tables and discuss their ideas for projects they would like to see realized in their neighbourhoods. Computers will be accessible during the meetings for residents to submit more ideas for projects. Up to 100 ideas will be presented for a public vote, up to 20 in each of the five boroughs, up to seven from each public meeting and 13 or more from the web.

We draw attention to the fact that a special button will be placed on the tablets of primary school children in Kópavogur during the idea collection and that this winter all residents of Kópavogur born in 2008 or older will be able to vote on the projects that continue in the idea collection.

The ideas

The ideas submitted must be in Kópavogur public land and within urban areas, and can involve play areas, residents' recreational areas, environmentally friendly transportation, improved public health or the environment in general. For an idea to be considered and submitted for a public vote, the project must meet the following criteria:

- Be an investment, not an operation.
- Cost of individual projects may neither be lower than 1 million ISK nor exceed 25 million ISK.
- The lifetime of the investment shall be for five years minimum.
- Projects shall tie in with the zoning plans and policies of the municipality of Kópavogur.
- Projects must be under the full control of the municipality of Kópavogur.

The idea must be realizable, clear and descriptive so others can easily grasp what the project involves. The project must be described, and exact location given. A clear description facilitates assessment and helps grab the attention of other residents if it goes through to the election. Furthermore, the idea must be in line with the municipality's policy and cannot depend on consultation or negotiations with other institutions or municipalities. Kópavogur employees can request further explanations about each idea.



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The election

A web-based election process will be held in January/February 2022, and the elected ideas will be finalized in 2022 or 2023. Every residents with legal domicile in Kópavogur, born in 2008 or earlier and who has an electronic identification (audkenni.is) can vote on projects.

The election is not in accordance to article 107 of law 138/2011, but rather a consultation with residents about the priorities within the town of Kópavogur.