



The Mt. Tron Mail

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Mt. Tron seen from Tynset, with Glåma in the foreground, 18th June 2007. Photo: BP.

The University of Peace on the municipality's land use map

As we reported in the previous edition of The Mt. Tron Mail, the University of Peace has now been at last definitively included in the land use map of Alvdal municipality, which is part of the Municipal Plan for Alvdal 2007-2020. The Mt. Tron University of Peace Foundation received this plan for comments in March this year. As promised in the previous edition, The Mt. Tron Mail now presents the Foundation's consultative statements dated 14th April this year, in full on the next page.

In the Municipal Plan for Alvdal 2007-2020 the main goal has been put forward as three subsidiary goals: 1. More people than before shall find "the good life" in Alvdal, 2. Alvdal shall increase considerably its targeting of travel business and tourism, and 3. Alvdal shall manage and use its natural resources sustainably.

On the 25th January this year the municipality of Alvdal invited its inhabitants to an information cum participation meeting

regarding the municipal plan. The results from this meeting showed that most of the people present wanted that Alvdal Vestfjell (the western mountain area of Alvdal) to be protected while development should be in the Mt. Tron / Østkjølen (the eastern hill ridge) area - actually in complete accord with the Foundation's view.

In the Municipal Plan's superior strategy of development, parts of the main strategy are inter alia described thus:

- Strong priority to nature conserve considerations and common outdoor considerations inside and on the border areas to Alvdal Vestfjell.
- Strong priority to development considerations in the area of Mt. Tron / Østkjølen, in the form of a high standard, central development area for holiday houses and tourism of a relatively large proportion.

CONSULTATIVE STATEMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL PLAN FOR ALVDAL 2007-2020

The Foundation has, as a body entitled to comment, received parts of The Municipal Plan for Alvdal 2007-2020, including a sketch map covering proposed area use in Alvdal, together with a complete copy of The Municipal Plan Report.

The Foundation considers that the Plan documents bear witness to a solid piece of work so far, and we have noticed that our views from the previous consultative round (September 2005) mainly accord with those views the municipality now advances in the present Plan documents. We therefore support the principal line of the municipality's main strategy regarding development and conservation in Alvdal for the coming years until 2020.

However, we want to clarify that "increased organizing for the practising of common outdoor life" must follow a superior, overall plan which has to be worked out on the wild-life's - first of all the wild reindeer's - terms. By good forward planning lots can be done not only for the improved protection of wild-life, but also for good economy for the land-owners and for the municipality in general. For this activity has to be directed, or else conservation has no meaning.

Otherwise we are asking for more flexibility and foresight in the stressing of traditional farming where the municipality should encourage local new thinking. In all probability the future for farming in the Norwegian countryside lies in ecological production of various kinds, but the word 'ecology', so far as we can see, is not mentioned anywhere in the planning material. In this matter the municipality should take the lead in stimulating such production by arranging the foundation of appropriate planning for such activity. This will contribute to the preservation and improvement of the cultivated area's quality and production potential, and at the same time contribute to the enhancement of people's health over time. Norway is far behind other European countries regarding ecological food production and has as yet not realised all the advantages, including the economic ones inherent in such a more environmentally friendly relation to agriculture and food. With Alvdal's pure nature-, soil- and water resources ecological food production should be well in place. "Produced in Alvdal" could become a trademark for good food quality. Hence the municipality should focus on being one step ahead in this area.

The municipality should also consider the conclusions of the UN's last climate report and prepare itself for meeting the consequences of them. A possible positive effect of the forecast increase in temperature is increased agricultural potential in farming, while the overall negative effect is anticipated to bring about a dramatic reduction of species and biodiversity. Here, Alvdal should demonstrate foresight and not wait for national action, but show the will to planetary responsibility by already now advancing an intention to conserve of the municipality's total biodiversity.

We have the following few other comments and suggestions for change/additions regarding a couple of points in the planning documents:

The text part

2.9 Holiday houses

In the last sentence "Local building tradition" should be removed and replaced with "Local material- and colour use", so that the sentence becomes: "Local material- and colour use, high quality and environmentally adapted solutions should be the foundation for development of holiday houses."

The reason for this is: It is evident from the planning material that there will be hardly any large extensive development of holiday houses, allegedly because there are already a sufficient number of more attractive building sites in the surrounding municipalities. A request for local building traditions for new holiday houses will probably come in addition to other negative factors which go against the acquisition of building sites in Alvdal municipality, compared to the conditions in alternative holiday house areas in other municipalities. A greater freedom in building design will on the other hand be a positive factor which will stimulate creativity and innovation. A request for follow-up of local traditional material use and traditional colours will, together with the requests for high quality and environmental adaptation (understood as landscape adaptation), to a sufficient degree take care of the wish that visually the holiday houses should fit the landscape in an aesthetically beneficial way.

Another factor is that if "environmental adaption" also means contribution to sustainable use of resources, as f. inst. contribution to own heat- and el-production (an interpretation that absolutely should be encouraged), the necessary technical installations will easily come into conflict with the request for local building tradition. One should therefore allow that energy-saving, visible, external measures are integrated into the building in a way that the form becomes the best possible from an aesthetic point of view, even if it deviates from the local building forms. This is because a sustainable use of resources is extraordinary important and because the building form is not nearly as important for the building's integration in the landscape as is the material- and especially the use of colours. A small number of permitted colours on painted wooden surfaces could straightforwardly be desirable and contribute to a high degree to the visual harmony in the mountains. Most people will agree that, f. inst. light blue or orange buildings do not belong in nature. Examples of such awkward use of colours exist in Alvdal.

The area part

5.2 New theme map

The risk- and vulnerability analysis should also indicate whether there is permafrost in Mt. Tron, and if so, where it is located and what will be the consequences of a highly actualized down melting.

Finally we have a proposition for a vision for Alvdal:

**Alvdal will be the place
where you can realize your dreams about a
good and meaningful life,
in tranquil and undisturbed nature full of rich experiences
close to a unique wildlife,
and where the wisdom mountain Tron draws attention and
people from all parts of the world who seek
realization, peace and harmony.**



Byggeområde etter / annet

- Fredsuniversitet
- Havglideranlegg
- Telekommunikasjonsanlegg (regulert)
- Turisme / opplevelse

Cut from sketch map from the draft to the municipal plan's area part of 21.02.07 which shows the area where the University of Peace will be located.

The Satavisha-centre in India

A welfare centre for troubled women



Over: The buildings are for now simple and modest in the Satavisha centre, but the hospitality is great!

Right: The centre is headed by Chaitali Das (middle) with good assistance from Sova Mandal (left) and Chaina Maitra (right). They are all three young and idealistic, with great working capacity and enormous go-ahead spirit. Photos: BP.

In January, February and March this year **Aminabazar Satavisha Social Welfare Society** in the Murshidabad district of West Bengal, India, was visited at regular intervals by the editor of The Mt.Tron Mail. This is a welfare centre for the area's troubled women, started by Swami Paramananda in 1993. The area has many poor Muslims and tribal people, and the intention is that orphan girls, widows, separated, outcast, sick and other lone women who cannot manage on their own, should find a refuge in Satavisha where, by the sales of own produced handicraft, they should become independent and thereby regain their social dignity. The centre provides for food, lodging, schooling, education in different techniques of handicraft, and for exhibitions and sales of the products. All expenses are covered by donations and collected means, and all administration at the centre is being performed by volunteers. There are plans for developing the centre considerably, but so far the means for doing this are insufficient.

Chaitali Das is the centre's general manager, and together with

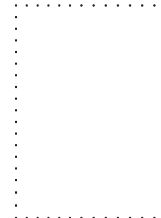
Sova Mandal and Chaina Maitra, they perform a huge task under extremely difficult conditions. These young women are doing nothing less than a very impressive piece of pioneering work out in the Bengal countryside, where daily they have to face inherited female prejudices and oppression, strong patriarchal patterns of society, a total lack of democratic thinking or understanding, bottomless bureaucracy, endless corruption and a terrible communications infrastructure. Chaitali continuously has to undertake long, tiresome journeys on her old moped, or travel for hours by train, often all night, just to be able to keep the office part of her work in order.

It is with deep admiration for these unafraid, brave and thoroughly idealistic young women, that the editor of The Mt.Tron Mail calls upon readers to support their work. Send a donation to **IBAN: NO98 1895 1116 323, BIC-address: SHEDNO22** (Swami Paramananda's Friends, Sparebanken Hedmark, Norway). The full amount contributed with no deductions will go forward to the Satavisha centre.



Over left: Four orphan girls in the centre: Tumpa, Suja, Lima and Sandhya. Monica in the middle is Chaitali's niece, who lives just next to the centre.

Over right: Chaitali on her way to the nearest larger town on her well-used moped. Suja (in front) and Sandhya (in the background) bid farewell to their dear foster mother. Both photos: BP. **Far left:** Two samples of jute handicrafts made at the centre: A vest and a shopping bag, designed by a professional designer (private photos). **Front:** Often there are hours of late night office work for Chaitali, with the simplest facilities under extremely basic conditions. Photo: BP.



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The logo of www.verdensfred.no has been taken from *Ildsjelen*, nr. 3 - 2007, which contains an article about the Mt. Tron University of Peace.

www.verdensfred.no

The Norwegian magazine 'Ildsjelen' ('The Enthusiast') - a magazine for Life Force, Consciousness and Spirituality, has established the web site www.verdensfred.no where money is collected for peace projects with a spiritual approach to the problem of world peace. The magazine has decided that The Mt. Tron University of Peace Foundation will receive all the money www.verdensfred.no can manage to attract up to 1st January 2008. On their home page one can read who has donated so far and how much other organizations have received: "We receive with delight new donations, big and small, to account no.: 28011460803." The Mt. Tron Mail thanks *Ildsjelen* heartily for this initiative and joins in *Ildsjelen*'s request for support!

Registration of the Foundation

On 1st January 2005 the new "Law for Foundations" came into force, at the same time as the 'The Foundation Supervisory' (Stiftelsestilsynet) was established. The Foundation Supervisory is under the Department of Justice and shall perform supervision and control that the administration of foundations happens in accordance with the foundation's statutes and the Law for Foundations. The Foundation Supervisory shall also keep a foundation register where all foundations shall be registered. The Mt. Tron University of Peace Foundation is by The Foundation Supervisory's decision of 15.08.2006 registered in The Foundation Register (Stiftelsesregisteret) with **organization number 990 106 118**. The Foundation is also registered at The Unity Register (Enhetsregisteret) in Brønnøysund from 22.08.2006, with the same organization number, as an ideal foundation.