Empower people to make the city
How mental ownership can lead to a sustainable development

Problem statement
The Almere principles are used in the development of future expansions. Besides these new future expansions, also older parts of Almere will be redeveloped. Although these older parts were not designed with the principles as starting point, the principles should be a guideline during this redevelopment. There is an important difference between the old and the new city, in the old city there are already people living, who play an important role in the redevelopment. Therefore it is important to see if and in what way the Almere Principles can be used to redevelop these districts in a sustainable way and how the interests of new and existing inhabitants can be protected and used to strengthen the sustainable development with the principles.

Objective
The objectives are to research if the Almere Principles can lead to a sustainable urban area redevelopment and what kind of development if Principle 7 is central, empower people to make the city. The second objective is to research if inhabitants of social weaker neighbourhoods can be involved in such a development and in which way. This makes the research interesting for housing corporations and municipalities. The results of this research, a critical appraisal of the use of the Almere Principles in urban area redevelopment. This will result in recommendations about how to use the principles in urban area redevelopment and what the principles can add to existing knowledge of the inhabitants of the area.

Results
In urban renewal the aim should be at social sustainability, creating a neighbourhood in which people want to live, with or without money. This can be done through the creation of mental ownership. Mental ownership exists out of vertical cohesion, participation and creating of a place. Vertical cohesion exists out of a combination of leadership, continuity, communication and a focus at problems and is used to gain trust. Participation should be focused at active participation and the creation of a place starts with comfort, use, activities, linkage and sociability.

- The public space as field for mental ownership
- Focus at social sustainability
- Mental ownership as base for a social sustainable development
- Mental ownership exists out of vertical cohesion, participation and the creation of a place

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